

FEEDBACK

LIBRARY TECHNICIANS SECTION NATIONAL

An invitation

The Library Technicians Section extend a warm invitation to attend their 5th National Conference. The theme: 'Library technicians today and tomorrow' will be addressed by distinguished academics and colleagues. Particular attention has been given to the social program which will take advantage of the Gold Coast's subtropical climate.

Papers are invited from academics and colleagues on the following themes: technical services, public services and industrial issues. Synopses should be forwarded to the Conference Secretariat, PO Box 177, Red Hill, Qld 4059, by the 15 February 1989.

Michele Wathen
Convener

SPECIAL LIBRARIES SECTION VIC GROUP

A 'special' year in Victoria

1988 saw the Group organise many and varied meetings. There was something for everyone.

General meetings at two very different special libraries - National Gallery of Victoria Library and Ansett Airlines of Australia Technical Library - were well attended; as were the one-day user pays seminar, the evening discussion of job sharing issues, and the Australian business information evening. The following reports highlight three of these events.

Ansett's Technical Library tour

Around 30 people attended a recent visit to the Ansett Airlines of Australia Technical Library, located at Melbourne Airport. Some 30 people attended the talk and visit.

Alicia Bliszczyk, Librarian, made a brief introductory talk on the establishment and function of the library. Then followed the much anticipated visit of the aircraft maintenance facilities.

Alicia and staff were only too happy to show visitors around the library. Every time Ansett buys a new model of aircraft, the library receives technical manuals on all aspects of that aircraft.

The technical library was established in 1957 with the amalgamation of Ansett-ANA for the specific purpose of meeting the need for controlled maintenance information. There are six other sub-libraries, one of which is located in Perth. The main library has a staff of three librarians and four library clerks who carry out literature searches, interlibrary loans, periodical circulation, as well as the usual compilation of bibliographies and daily library tasks.

The Technical Library's main objectives are to:

- (i) support the technical information needs of the engineering and operational functions of Ansett Airlines, its divisions and subsidiaries;
- (ii) to co-ordinate the centralised acquisition of all published documents.

After being introduced to one of Ansett's chief engineers the group was taken to the aircraft maintenance area. The visiting party inspected some of the huge hangers and the cockpit of a 727. We learnt that the 'black box' of an aircraft was in fact not black but orange, and not a box but a round canister in which vital information from the plane's instruments and pilot are stored on a tape.

The evening was terrific, the tour impressive. A dramatic finish nearly

occurred when some of us almost unsuccessful in finding our way back from the pitch black of outback Tullamarine.

Peter Ring

Job sharing issues

A panel of four speakers addressed the October general meeting of the Group on issues related to job sharing. The meeting was held on 25 October at Arthur Andersen and Co, National Training Centre in Melbourne.

Speakers were Louise Lansley, LAA Education and Industrial Services Manager who put the LAA perspective; Carmen Hannaker, Manager, Moonee Valley Regional Library Service presented an employer's viewpoint; Sibylle Noras, Chief Librarian, *The Age*, gave the employees viewpoint; and John Glover, Education Industrial Officer, Victorian Public Service Association (VPSA) elaborated on the union position on job sharing.

The major issues addressed by the speakers were concepts and definition of job sharing, advantages and disadvantages for both employer and employee, employer attitudes, career paths, training and promotion opportunities, employer and peer group status, costs and management issues related to communication and administration costs and the approach taken by the VPSA which does not support job sharing, but strongly supports permanent part-time employment on the grounds that part-time employment should not be at the expense of a full-time position.

A lively debate followed, especially in relation to the differing attitudes of the library profession, which favours job sharing and the VPSA which prefers permanent part-time employment.

An important outcome of the meeting was the identification of the need for the LAA to develop a policy on job sharing in libraries. An article containing the issues raised by the speakers will be published in *InCite* early next year. The *LAA Draft Policy Statement on Job Sharing*, originally issued for comment in 1986, will be circulated for further comment and ratification in 1989.

Jan Wright

National Gallery of Victoria Library?

What for, you may ask, when we have the State Library of Victoria's collection on art?

Thirty interested participants from special libraries found out just what the National Gallery of Victoria (NGV) Library was all about when the Section held its first general meeting there early this year.

Michael Watson, the librarian and only full-time staff member, opened his doors (amid strict security after the *Weeping woman* incident) and gave an enthusiastic account of the library's users, policies and methods of acquiring material.

The library was established in 1968. Its main function is to assist the NGV curatorial staff with collection research. The NGV art collection policies are, to a degree, a reflection of the Gallery Director's interests. It seems that a wait-and-see attitude must be adopted in relation to the new Director's policies, given his doctorates in 17th and 19th century Dutch painting!

The library's collection policy is determined by the NGV's art collection policy. To fulfill its function the library must be able to provide detailed information to NGV staff. The heaviest users are the hundred voluntary guides, who obviously, have to know as much as possible about the various exhibits. The library is available, by

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appointment, to students on two afternoons per week, and to the Friends of the Library three afternoons per week.

As in most government institutions funding is limited, so there are several other means by which the library acquires books: the Friends buy material which they think the library will never buy; bequests; exchanges with other galleries; and bookplate donations. To have a name recorded on a bookplate, a donation of at least \$100 must be made to enable a book to be purchased.

The evening closed with Michael showing some of the more unusual books and telling rather amusing stories relating to their acquisition.

Alicia Bliszczyk

resource-sharing is going on in SA, mainly at informal levels, making the future not so bleak as it sometimes seems when faced with the inevitable round of serials cancellations.

Jennifer Redding
President

VICTORIAN BRANCH

Libraries Bill

The revised Libraries Bill has been through one reading in this session of Parliament but there are some doubts that it will pass all readings before the end of the session. The Government hopes to proclaim the bill by February 1989.

The revisions are fairly minor, however the Treasurer can still demand a dividend from the State Library of Victoria and the clause describing the position of Director of the State Library in administrative rather than in professional terms has been tightened. The Victorian Branch Council decided to send a deputation to the Minister for the Arts, Mr Fordham, and to the Shadow Minister, Mr Storey to lobby on these two matters.

Investment and business research

The October meeting saw the tabling of a circular letter suggesting that business libraries could be replaced by the services provided by the Investment and Business Research company. Investigations by the Victorian Branch have shown that the company is not in a position to provide basic library services although it may be able to provide limited added value services. The letter went to a number of chief executives and is of obvious concern to the profession as a whole.

The LAA President, Alan Bundy, has written to the company and Branch members are asked to watch and report similar advertising ploys in the future.

Renaming

Plans for moving the Victorian State Museum seem to be going forward and the Victorian Branch is to support moves to have the 'Museum' railway station renamed 'Library'.

Divisional funding

The Victorian Branch is still concerned at the way in which Divisions and Sections are funded. Sections are the life blood of the

Association yet only 30 percent of the funds provided to head office for joining each Section are returned to that Section at state level. The Victorian Branch reaffirmed its previous opinion that there is no incentive for State and Sectional Groups to get members to join more than one Section.

A paper on funding, tabled at the October meeting, was strongly criticised because it does not meet this basic problem.

Ray Price

HEALTH LIBRARIES SECTION NATIONAL

Health information: new directions

Health librarians are particularly conscious that information is continually in flux. Information management solutions to information needs generate new needs — the technological imperative. This topic will be addressed during the joint conference of the Health Libraries Sections of the LAA and NZLA to be held in Auckland on 12-17 November 1989 (see Happenings for details).

The conference will also be concerned with possible flux patterns and low cost, traditional, human scale ways of achieving 'health for all'. The conference logo is an 18th century design for a knot garden, where clipped box hedges or paths separate beds of decorative or medicinal herbs and flowers. The pattern of this conference is structured around integrating information, networking and resource control, with room in the flowerbeds for special topics and sharing of ideas and experience.

Papers offered so far encourage the Joint Conference Committee's desire to have a varied program. The papers include various applications of new technology, its effects (some not obvious), computer literacy skills for nurses and medical students, patient information, consumer health information, management information as well as information management. Other topics will be traditional users, copyright, management of systems and collections, library skills programs, and resource networks.

Reservations have been made at the Travelodge (room rate approximately NZ\$130 ie \$65 apiece for two, \$50 for three as \$15 is surcharged) and at the nearby Gateway Motel (room rate approximately \$80 a night). Participants are not advised to

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ACQUISITIONS SECTION SA GROUP

Preservation of serials collection

'Serials: collection development and resource sharing in SA' was the theme of a seminar held on 28 October. Alex Byrne, the keynote speaker, focused on the protection of the national serials collection. He proposed that a proportion of each library's titles should be guaranteed to be held for a reasonable period and that titles so guaranteed should be annotated on ABN. He also pointed out that some large libraries do not contribute to ABN and if libraries want holdings information from ABN, should there be reciprocal provision of information to ABN?

Jim Anderson, Annette Masters and Judy Booth gave details of a survey carried out for the South Australian Libraries Advisory Committee (SALAC). Of the 126 responses to the survey, 52 percent of libraries reported their holdings to an outside agency; 87 per cent made their holdings available to visitors or on interlibrary loan (ILL); and most kept manual records and did not catalogue to AACR2 standard.

Juli Pullman from the South Australian Institute of Technology (SAIT) reported on a resource sharing scheme for titles costing over \$200 between SAIT and the University of Adelaide. Some other libraries are also becoming involved.

Serials cancellations did not seem to be creating any major impact on interlibrary loans. Kay Baudinette had surveyed academic libraries in South Australia, and it was interesting to note that two libraries had a large increase of outgoing requests in 1987, the year where cancellations were carried out, but they had then had a decrease in outgoing requests in 1988.

Elizabeth Gatehouse explained the origins and development of GRATISSA. This seems to be an effective means of resource sharing, and the development of similar schemes in other states and for other subject areas is perhaps a model for future sharing.

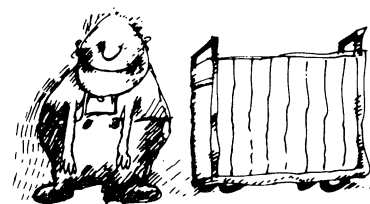
The last speaker was Jan Gaebler who spoke on the 'underground network'. Many small libraries do not use vouchers but still need interlibrary loans. It was pointed out that if a title wasn't listed on ABN it does not necessarily mean that a title isn't held in Australia and that it is important to think laterally when trying to locate material or information.

Many useful ideas and pieces of information were picked up from the speeches and answers given at question times. It seems that an unexpected amount of

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Feedback cont'd from page 7.
Health Libraries Section -
Health Information: new directions cont'd

book into central Auckland motels, as public transport out to the Travelodge is expensive, and it might not be possible to deliver delegates home after evening functions. Please address queries to Mrs Margaret Gibson Smith, Philson Library, University of Auckland, Private Bag, Auckland, New Zealand.

Coral Tillet
 President

SCHOOL LIBRARIES SECTION
SA GROUP

On Monday, 12 September, representatives of the LAA SA Branch and the Chief Librarians Association of SA met with Dr Ken Boston, Director General of Education in SA.

Members of the deputation were Alan Bundy, LAA President; Trish Bickley, President, School Libraries Section (SA Group); Val Gould, former Executive Officer, School Community Libraries Committee; Janice Nitschke, President, Chief Librarians Association; Sue Perkins, Committee Member, Chief Librarians Association.

The issues raised with Dr Boston were the staffing of school community libraries, the funding of school libraries and the cost, to schools, of the Dynix automated library management system software.

ASLA/RCTA/LAA co-operation

The School Libraries Section (SA Group) has met with the Resource Centre Teachers' Association and the SA School Libraries Association committees as a combined group since May 1987.

This group meets for one hour every month, before individual association meetings. Business includes issues which relate across the three groups and reports from other associated activities. The benefits of the joint meetings include: a broader base from which to gather information and ideas and share; greater knowledge and understanding of the aims, objectives and activities of each group; the development of common goals; participation of more people in decision making processes and the ability to speak with one voice.

Trish Bickley

GEELONG REGIONAL GROUP

Library walk

'There ought to be a Library Week every week', said David Henshaw, MLC, when opening a library walk to celebrate the Australian Library Week.

The Geelong Regional Group organised a walking tour of five inner city libraries chosen to reflect the diversity of information agencies. The 'Library Walk' began at 10.00 am at Geelong Regional Library and included Matthew Flinders Girls' High School, Gordon Technical College, the State Government Offices Library and the Geelong Historical Records Centre.

Some 30 members of the public enthusiastically participated in the event.

Sue Bone

Library Technicians ...
a brighter future

The Fifth National Library Technicians Conference will be held on the Gold Coast, Queensland from 26 - 29 July, 1989.

Our theme 'Library Technicians Today and Tomorrow' will be developed over the three days of the Conference, utilising complementary daily themes:

- Day 1 Technical Services**
- Day 2 Public Services**
- Day 3 Industrial Issues**

Delegates are assured of interesting and thought provoking sessions which will assist them in their professional progress.

The Conference will feature a poster competition and delegates are invited to submit posters relevant to each day's theme. The winner will receive a complementary Conference registration.

A call for Papers has been sent to all Sections and will expire by 15 February 1989.

For further information please contact:
 Conference Secretariat, 5th National Library Technician Conference, Special Events, PO Box 177, Red Hill, Qld 4059.
 Tel: (07) 368 2644.

Organising an insert in *InCite*? Need to place an event in the Happenings column? Contact: Genevieve Flore or Tanya Vojsk at LAA HQ on (02) 692 9233; (008) 22 1481 or fax (02) 692 0689.

Semi-retired librarian, experienced in most aspects of librarianship, desires temporary or part-time work. MEDLINE, some ABN, good typist, courses in word processing and indexing. Available approximately mid-January. Miss Joyce Kelley, 6/1 Kurragein Avenue, Rushcutters Bay 2011, (02) 332 3769 (ah).

Librarians Please Note

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Kevin Kitch, Business Manager,
National Information Technology Council,
21 Barry Drive, Turner ACT 2601.

Don't forget that *Local Studies Collections: guidelines and subject headings for organising and indexing resources* by John Flint and Anne Berry is back in stock. Available from LAA Head Office for \$15 members; \$18 non-members (plus \$2 postage).

Anne Harrison Award

Applications for the Anne Harrison Award will be called for in February 1989 (more details will be provided on application conditions then).

The Award will be announced at the Annual General Meeting of the LAA Health Libraries Section to be held in New Zealand in November 1989.

The Award, inaugurated in 1987, is made from the Anne Harrison Trust Fund established by the LAA Health Libraries Section to support health librarianship in Australia. The first Award went to Linda Mulheron, Chief Librarian, Westmead Centre, AMA Library, NSW in support of her thesis on user education in health science libraries.

Incite Deadline Dates — 1989

Issue	Deadline dates	Mailing dates	Cover dates
1	30 Jan	15 Feb	20 Feb
2	13 Feb	1 Mar	6 Mar
3	27 Feb	15 Mar	20 Mar
4	13 Mar	29 Mar	3 Apr
5	3 Apr	19 Apr	24 Apr
6	17 Apr	3 May	8 May
7	1 May	17 May	22 May
8	15 May	31 May	5 Jun
9	29 May	14 Jun	19 Jun
10	19 Jun	5 Jul	10 Jul
11	3 July	19 Jul	24 Jul
12	17 Jul	2 Aug	7 Aug
13	7 Aug	23 Aug	28 Aug
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16	25 Sep	11 Oct	16 Oct
17	9 Oct	25 Oct	30 Oct
18	23 Oct	8 Nov	13 Nov
19	6 Nov	22 Nov	27 Nov
20	20 Nov	6 Dec	11 Dec