

INDUSTRIAL NEWS

Industrial Forum 88

One hundred and one participants attended the LAA's very successful Industrial Forum 88 which was held at Queens College, Melbourne University, on November 17-18 1988. Those attending represented all sectors and came from every state except Western Australia. It was particularly pleasing to have a large number of union officials present at the seminar.

The opening address, given by Jenny Doran, ACTU Industrial Officer, established the context in which industrial activity is currently taking place in Australia. This includes an emphasis on award restructuring, taking into account provision for multiskilling, re-training and the broadbanding of occupational groups. Jenny's address was followed by a session in which speakers from a variety of unions spoke of the major industrial issues facing the library staff they represent.

As the LAA's Educational and Industrial Services Manager, my paper outlined the results of the industrial survey conducted by the Association earlier in the year. Some 1,378 responses were received from library staff represented by 68 different unions. The major concerns revealed were the level of salaries for library staff, difficulties in coping with forced cutbacks and shortages, the fragmentation of union representation and the status of the profession. These issues were addressed by subsequent speakers.

Deborah McCulloch, an EEO consultant from South Australia, spoke on the status of the profession. She saw a need for training library workers to develop a sense of unity and common purpose within the profession. Sue Phillips, Assistant Executive Director of the LAA drew attention to the Information for the Nation campaign being run by the LAA which hopes to achieve this purpose.

Jane Stutchberry, an Associate of Cullin Egan Dell, Management Consultants, outlined some of the factors contributing to salary and work level structures.

The second day of the Forum began with a panel discussion on coping with cutbacks and shortages in libraries. Speakers from an academic library, a special library and a State library discussed the strategies they had employed when faced with this situation.

Mark Dawes, Director, Resource Management at the National Library of Australia, explained the concept of broadbanding, particularly as it has been applied to administrative services officers in the Australian Public Service. Anne Doherty from the State Library of NSW spoke of the industrial issues affecting library technicians.

The Forum ended with a number of parallel workshop sessions, in which library staff from particular sectors were asked to discuss their industrial concerns with union representatives. These workshops produced a number of valuable resolutions which the Association and the unions involved will work towards implementing. An action plan resulting from these resolutions will be drawn up and publicised in *InCite* early in the new year.

There was a general agreement that the LAA should continue to hold major industrial forums on a biennial basis and that smaller state-based or divisional forums would also be useful. In the meantime, the Association hopes to produce the proceedings of Industrial Forum 88



Above left: Sally Edsall, Librarians Special Interest Group, NSW Teachers Federation; Above right: Kerry Lewis, Secretary, Victorian Colleges and Universities Staff Association; Above: Brian Sullivan, Assistant Federal Secretary, Municipal Officers Association.

in the near future and to make these widely available to interested parties.

Study Grant Award Report

Anatolij Lisov has provided the Board of Education with a copy of his LAA Study Grant Award Report, *ESL collection development and management practices in Victorian TAFE colleges: a systems approach*.

Copies of this report are available from Louise Lansley at LAA Head Office. Price: \$2 within Australia; \$5 for overseas to cover postage and photocopying expenses.

Local Government Labour Markets

The National Review of Local Government Labour Markets has released discussion paper no. 7: *The Impact of Change upon the Local Government Workforce in the Medium Term*. Copies of this paper have been circulated to the Secretaries of the LAA Public Libraries Section and Groups.

Additional copies are available at a cost of \$4 each (including postage) from Louise Wilson at the National Review of Local Government Labour Markets, GPO Box 241E, Melbourne, Victoria 3001

Louise Lansley
Educational and Industrial Services Manager

Software for Libraries: an ACT Directory

Thinking of automating your library? You will find this Directory useful. Information is provided on library software available in Australia, together with identification of those ACT libraries currently using the software.

Software for libraries: an ACT directory.
Canberra: Canberra College of Advanced Education, Centre for Library and Information Studies, 1988.

Produced by students enrolled in Information Retrieval III at the Centre for Library and Information Studies, Canberra CAE.

Available from: University Co-operative Bookshop, Canberra College of Advanced Education, PO Box 1, Belconnen, ACT 2616.

Cost: \$8.00 (Postage and packing, \$1.50)

Overseas Staff Exchanges

Marilyn Sullivan, chief librarian of the Health Services Library at the University of Missouri, Kansas City, USA, would like to exchange positions with an Australian librarian for six months to one year.

Marilyn's library is part of a campus-wide system which includes a separate dental library, a law library and a general library. It has a staff of seven professional librarians, seven support staff as well as an active clinical librarian program. Her duties include managing the library, helping staff at the reference desk and running occasional MEDLINE searches.

She would like a position in Australian public services that includes administration. For further information contact Louise Lansley, LAA, (02) 692 9233 or (008) 221 481.

Librarian on west coast of US (Seattle) wishes to exchange with teacher-librarian on west coast of Australia (Perth). If interested contact: Lo Anne Jex Larson, 140 North 155 Street, Seattle, Washington 98133.

Name of library: Grays Public Library, Essex.

Position available: Librarian (young people/education).

Position required: Children's librarian (public library) in exchange.

Location desired: Australia.

Duration: 6-12 months.

Name of library: British Library Document Supply Centre, West Yorkshire.

Position available: Store Supervisor.

Position required: Will consider anything other than school or public library.

Location desired: Australia.

Duration: One to two years.

Name of library: University of Nigeria, College of Medicine, Enugu Campus.

Position available: Medical Librarian.

Position required: Medical Librarian in exchange.

Location desired: Australia.

Duration: Open.

Library: King's College School of Medicine and Dentistry Library, London.

Position available: Deputy Librarian.

Position required in exchange: Professional Post in Medical or Academic Library.

Duration: Six months.

Library: Hmeroteca Nacional, Centro Cultural Universitario, Mexico.

Position available: Head of Public Service.

Position required in exchange: Serials Control Post in University or Public Library.

Duration: Six months to one year.

Name of Library: Brighton Reference Library.

Position available: Team Librarian, Reference.

Position required in exchange: Similar in public library, but would consider academic library. Would prefer position in eastern Australia.

Duration: 1 year.

Name of Library: Birmingham Reference Library, Language and Literature Dept.

Position available: Library Assistant (full or part time). Require position in Sydney or Brisbane areas

Position required in exchange: Anything considered (full or part time)

Duration: 3-6 months.

Further information available from: LIBEX, College of Librarianship Wales, Llanbadarn Fawr, Aberystwyth, Dyfed SY23 3AS, Wales.