

FEEDBACK

SPECIAL LIBRARIES SECTION — NSW GROUP

The Maria Gemenis Award

Maria Gemenis encouraged librarians, particularly special librarians, to be active LAA members and to be involved in the professional issues of the times. The Maria Gemenis Award for Outstanding Contributions to Special Librarianship has been established to encourage the members of the Special Libraries Section NSW Group to contribute to Section activities and to continue the work which Maria so actively carried out.

Nominations are now being called and perhaps you know of a special librarian who has made a significant contribution in the areas outlined in the award criteria in the Call for Nominations notice included in this issue of *InCite*.

Sharing — do you know of someone who deserves recognition for their willingness to share professional expertise? Maria Gemenis encouraged special librarians to communicate formally and especially informally with each other to share ideas and solutions to problems.

Eve Ahearn, the first recipient of the award in 1983, had the experience of a long career in librarianship which she willingly shared with colleagues when called upon. In comparison, Mary Baker, last year's recipient, is a relative new-comer to the profession, but was recognised for her proven interest in helping colleagues and in promoting the sharing of expertise amongst colleagues. Elizabeth Swan is another recipient whose willingness to

share expertise is known and appreciated by many of us.

Isolation — perhaps you know a special librarian who deserves recognition for their work in breaking down the barriers of librarians in isolation. Maria Gemenis was particularly concerned about librarians in isolation and raised these concerns with the numerous committees on which she served, including the Special Libraries Section, the NSW Branch Council of the LAA, AACOBS, ACCESS and TAFE. Maria brought the particular needs of Special Libraries to the attention of all of these bodies.

Kaye Cox received the award in 1984 mainly in recognition of her successful efforts to overcome the barriers of isolation as a regional librarian for the NSW Department of Agriculture. Kaye implemented a library network in the Hunter, New England and Metropolitan regions which became the model for a state-wide network. Similarly Eve Ahearn's many years as publisher of the *Australian Special Libraries News* was a major contribution to breaking down the barriers of librarians in isolation. Mary Baker knows the isolation of special librarians working in the suburbs. Mary overcame this by encouraging visits to her library at Arnotts, by encouraging other special librarians in the suburbs to become involved in activities and by becoming involved herself even if it required travelling all over Sydney.

Promotion — maybe you know a special librarian who has successfully promoted the library/information service, achieving outstanding recognition from their parent organisation? Maria began work in 1967 as Librarian for the NSW Department of Works, later becoming Data Services Manager and then Information Services Manager in charge of the Library, Trade Information and Plan Records Section.

Elizabeth Swan is noted for advocating a marketing approach to promoting and selling library services within the parent organisation, an approach she has utilised successfully, and through difficult times, for her own ACI Information Services. The outstanding recognition that Kaye Cox achieved from her parent organisation was evident in the fact that a Regional Director of the NSW Department of Agriculture nominated her for the Award and another Director accompanied her to the presentation dinner. Mary Baker's work as NSW Co-ordinator of the Library

Promotional Task Force benefited all special libraries concerned with the development of the profession, and she practised what she promoted, by making the library the focal point of activity within Arnott's Research Centre. Annette Murphy when she received the award was particularly commended for her successful promotion of the profession to her clients in business which, in terms of broadening the profession's base, and promoting the image of librarians has been invaluable.

The award recipients to date have all contributed significantly in all areas of the award criteria. Please consider the 'Call for Nominations' notice, and the special librarians you know who exhibit the professional characteristics the Maria Gemenis award seeks to recognise and encourage. Obtain a nomination form now. Nominations close on 31 May 1988.

Wendy Bartlett

LIBRARY TECHNICIANS SECTION — WA GROUP

Survey

During January/February 1988 the group circulated survey forms to around 120 known library technicians. Although the response was a little disappointing, only 31 responses were received, the survey was a valuable exercise. It confirmed the industrial situation we knew existed. It also gave us an idea of what prospective members of the Section were looking for in a group such as ours. The area covering technicians' expectations of the LAA may also prove interesting to the Association, for the same reason.

Only six respondents were in positions designated as 'library technician'. Others were in positions designated as 'library clerk', 'library officer', 'library aide', 'library attendant', 'library assistant' etc., yet these people were performing library technician duties (as per LAA statement on duties of librarians/library technicians).

Respondents were fairly evenly spread over the different types of libraries. Twenty-three respondents worked in the public sector, only 8 in the private sector. Only one respondent was paid in the Level 2 range. Twenty-nine were paid in the Level 1 range (\$16,000-\$20,000), and one was paid less than \$16,000.

Thirteen of the respondents were members of the LAA, most of whom were members of the Section. Of the 18 respondents who were not members, two had been members and had let their membership lapse (mainly because they could not afford the membership fee or because they felt they were not getting value for money).

Reasons for not joining the Association included (in order of most responses): too expensive; powerless/not beneficial for technicians; not relevant to WA; never felt the need to join; never got around to joining; didn't know it existed.

Respondents' major expectations of the LAA were: help with industrial matters, specifically the development of a career path and pay scale for technicians; and promotion of library technicians to the profession. They also felt that promotion of the profession as a whole, information exchange, and the chance to make professional and social contacts were important.

Other issues of importance were the clarification of the roles of librarians and library technicians to a greater extent, or more publicly the monitoring of educational stan-

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dards; and provision of continuing education for technicians; and more encouragement for students of library science. Some also felt Sections should be receiving a greater proportion of the membership fee.

Shelley Peggs
Secretary

Meeting the President

On 15 March, 10 library technicians and two librarians gathered at the new Perth TAFE building to meet Alan Bundy. This meeting was arranged so that issues affecting library technicians in Western Australia could be discussed in an informal setting. The results of the technicians survey in WA were presented to Alan to give him an idea of why technicians are not joining the LAA. He was then invited to address the group.

Alan spoke on many issues that affect library technicians both in WA and throughout Australia. He made pertinent comments on how problems might be overcome. He painted a realistic picture of the situation as he sees it and this was very close to the situation here in WA.

It was a very enjoyable and informative evening for all parties. Some members came away with renewed hope and vigour to enable them to rise to the challenges that face Western Australian library technicians in 1988.

Volunteers needed

The Section's committee will be setting up a recruitment strategy and budget for 1988. We will also be looking for volunteers to handle industrial relations and continuing education portfolios. Volunteers are needed as these areas need urgent attention and the committee does not have sufficient time to devote to them fully.

Evette House
President

CATALOGUERS SECTION VICTORIAN GROUP

Automated Cataloguing CE Program

The LAA Cataloguers Section, Victorian Group and the Department of Information Services, RMIT are jointly offering a program of eight two-hour sessions entitled 'Automated Cataloguing: an introductory overview' from 4 May - 22 June, 1988. The course is aimed at librarians who have not had the opportunity to become familiar with automated cataloguing applications in libraries. Areas to be covered are standards and tools such as AACR2 and AUSMARC, automation concepts, and hands-on experience of turnkey systems, microcomputer packages and ABN or ASCIS. For details concerning the venue and registrations see Happenings. Enquiries should be addressed to Sue Clarke (03) 660 2070 or Cheryl Schauder (03) 660 2900.

NEW ENGLAND REGIONAL GROUP

Planning for the New England Regional Group's workshop 'Marketing and Promoting your Library' is reaching its final stages. The workshop will be held on 4 May 1988 commencing at 9.00 am in the Function Room, Civic Administration Building, Rusden St, Armidale. Speakers include: Michael Rakusin, Consultant, Edaman PR, Sydney; Claire Campbell, Lecturer in Communication at Armidale CAE; Aileen Stevenson, Head, Information Resources Centre, Hawkesbury Agricultural College.

The group hosted a visit by the President to Armidale on 15 February. Alan Bundy fulfilled a busy schedule, visiting Dixon Library, UNE, the Memorial Library, meeting with CAE librarians from NSW (who were also visiting Armidale CAE on the same day) and talking to the local media. Alan's visit and the proposed 'Information for the Nation' campaign received front page coverage in the Armidale Express, received airtime on the local radio and was picked up by TV stations. In the evening Alan spoke at the group's dinner/meeting.

Vicki Williamson

Asian-Pacific SIG Proposed

In recent months a number of voices have been raised in support of the formation of an Asian-Pacific Special Interest Group. A meeting of 18 interested librarians was held at the National Library of Australia on 10 March to investigate this possibility and to discuss the nature and role of such a group.

The meeting felt that the need existed for a widely-based group of all those librarians concerned with libraries and librarianship in the Asia-Pacific region. It would include those who have worked with visiting colleagues from the region and those who have visited libraries in Asian and Pacific countries, as well as those actually working with Asian collections in Australian libraries.

To this end a steering committee was appointed to investigate the procedure for establishing a group. The committee would like to receive expressions of interest or support from colleagues around the country. If you are interested please inform: George Miller, The Library, The Australian National University, GPO Box 4, Canberra ACT 2601, phone (062) 49 4448 as soon as possible. The committee may need your signature to support the formal application to the LAA General Council.

At a time when an increasing number of librarians from the Asia-Pacific region are visiting our shores and more Australian librarians are going in the reverse direction as consultants, conference attendees and as private and official visitors, it does seem an appropriate time to establish a Special Interest Group to communicate and publicise these developments.

Andrew Gosling

Please note

John Shipp was incorrectly listed as the Regional Group Councillor for the Hunter District in the *Guide to the NSW Branch 1988* circulated to NSW members in the last issue of *InCite*. Please note that Gary Jones, c/- Auchmuty Library, University of Newcastle 2308, (049) 68 5454 is the correct contact.

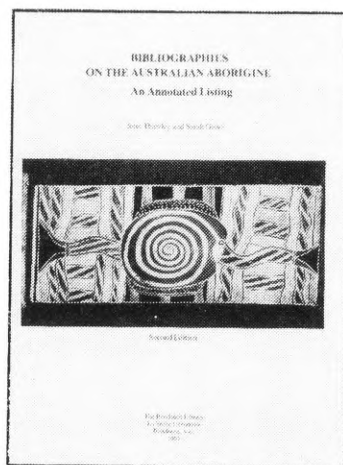
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Libraries and institutions with vax hardware looking for proven sophisticated circulation and OPAC systems at moderate cost should contact: John Lambert, Director, Computing Centre, (049) 68 5305; or, Ted Flowers, University Librarian, University of Newcastle, NSW 2308, (049) 68 5397.

JOINT ACTIVITY IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF FURTHER MODULES WILL BE CONSIDERED.

La Trobe University

Library Publications Series



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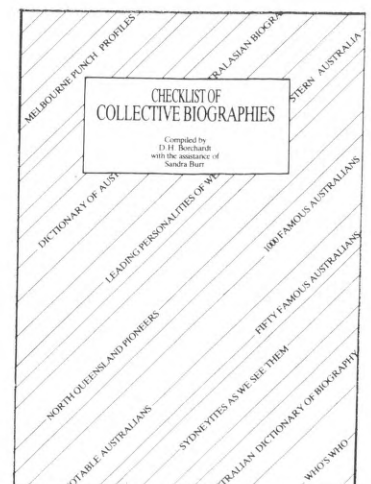
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