

In some areas innovative approaches have been taken in job design to address apparent problems and have succeeded.

The review team did not identify any specific instances where it was evident that significant resources were clearly being mis-applied. That is not to say that the review team did not have reservations about a number of aspects.'

These reservations might be expected from a review that has produced a document of some 257 pages and 133 recommendations covering a wide variety of issues, which will be of interest to many libraries and librarians.

The 133 recommendations are grouped as follows:

Collection Development	13
Automation	2
Use of Collections	2
NLA's Role in the ACT	3
External Use of NLA Printed Collections	1
Australian Bibliographic Network	26
Interlibrary Resource Sharing	4
Public Programs	28
National Co-ordination	2
Financial Management	5
Personnel Management	1
Asset Protection and Management	12
Staff Development and Training	6
Registry	2
Management Information Systems	1
Performance Indicators	2
Planning and Evaluation	10
Accommodation Planning	2
Transcar Book Conveyor System	3
Ministerial Security of Library's Finances	2
Value-Added Services	2
Revenue Targets	4

Many of the recommendations reflect action that was already in progress within the National Library.

On the question of funding for acquisitions, the recommendation was that this budget be maintained at its present level until the wider issue of Commonwealth Government funding to libraries is fully investigated. The Review Committee agreed that the Library has experienced a substantial reduction in the real value of the acquisition budget over recent years. The Committee considered performance measures, cooperation in collection development and document delivery, and the Library's role in the Australian library community. An interesting comment was:

There are economically sound arguments for providing additional Commonwealth Government resources to a large central library which is geared to provide efficient document delivery services to the Australian Library community, although this may involve a slight reduction in outlays to other libraries funded by the Government.'

INFORMATION RESEARCH

CIRCIT (Centre for International Research on Communication and Information Technologies) began operating on 1 July and has been founded by the University of Melbourne, Monash University and the Victorian Government. Its Director is Prof. William Moody (formerly of the UK Program on Information and Communication Technologies), the Deputy Director is Prof. Donald Lamberton (formerly of the University of Queensland), and the Executive Manager is Susan Kemp (a former executive director of LAA).

CIRCIT will be engaged in the interdisciplinary study of the changing role of information and communication in the major economic, social, political and cultural institutions in society.

Basic and applied interdisciplinary research will be taken in the following related areas:

- the information economy
- the telecommunication infrastructure
- content and communication
- organisational structure
- employment and training
- policy analysis and assessment.

At present there are seven researchers together with a number of visiting scholars.

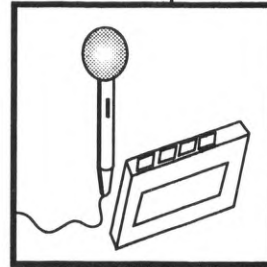
NATIONAL

MEDIA

LIAISON

SERVICE

This has been seen as a public relations unit for the Federal Government and further information on this was tabled in the Senate on 15 August. The service is to provide information on Government policies and programs to the media throughout Australia, as well as information on policies to interest groups within electorates. The cost was estimated to be \$1 258 000 in 1988-89. As well as being sent to all Federal Members of Parliament, Ministers' offices and State and Territory offices of the NMLS, the information is sent to thirty organisations and individuals who have requested it; of these, it appears that only six are libraries.



SURVEYS

Those who follow surveys closely may be interested in the list of public opinion/market surveys done for the Federal Department of Arts, Sport, the Environment, Tourism and Territories since 1982, which was tabled in the Senate on 6 October.

These include Public Attitudes to the Arts 1987 (\$11 605), 1988 (\$12 270), 1989 (\$24 200); and book reading in Australia (\$33 333 to date). Some thirty-four surveys are listed.

REVIEWS OF

NATIONAL

COLLECTING

INSTITUTE

The National Film and Sound Archive and the National Science and Technology Centre are to be reviewed in 1991 as part of the ongoing series of reviews of these institutions.

RESEARCH

INFRASTRUCTURE

The Department of Employment, Education and Training has announced that \$25 million will be allocated in 1990, on the basis of advice from the Australian Research Council, for a program of direct assistance to higher education institutions to support their research infrastructure — i.e. equipment and facilities such as libraries, computing centres etc.

It will be interesting to see how much is allocated to libraries.

ASIAN LANGUAGES AND STUDIES

The Department of Employment, Education and Training will continue to support Asian Studies by allocating \$946 500 in 1989-90 to provide a continuing program for the professional development of teachers of Asian languages, and \$500 000 to fund the establishment of a national coordinated program for the training of teachers of Asian languages and studies.

MULTICULTURALISM

Under the Multicultural and Cross-Cultural Supplementation Program of the Federal Government, tertiary education institutions and registration/certification bodies receive funding for proposals aimed at integrating cross-cultural elements into the curricula of professional and paraprofessional courses. Of a total of \$1 500 000 for 1988-89, \$600 000 was provided as a contribution to the establishment of the Languages Institute of Australia.

LIBRARY STATISTICS

The Statistical Advisory Group of the Cultural Ministers Council was established to improve the definition, range and quality of statistics available to the culture-leisure industry. At a workshop in Canberra on 20 October, the third of a series of three, draft papers entitled 'The National Culture-Leisure Industry Statistical Framework (March 1989)' and 'The National Culture-Leisure Industry Statistical Framework:

Available Data and Sources (March 1989)' were presented, as well as a document that was



to provide a statistical basis for the whole of the library industry. Suggestions on these were invited so that a report on available industry data could be presented to the Cultural Ministers Council in May 1990. A further document will be circulated for comment before the end of the year, and any comments will need to be sent in by February.

There were significant problems in the presentation of data that had been prepared by a consultant, without, it seems, any library input and with limited time for consultation. The eventual result should be a

library-wide set of statistics and commentaries from all sectors, which should, hopefully, be very useful.

Included in this program are national and State libraries, public libraries, special libraries, school libraries and libraries in higher education establishments.

ABN INCOME

The Federal Government has agreed that ABN should be allowed to operate on a commercial basis with retention of revenue and freedom from resource constraints. Such a step — one of the recommendations of the National Library Review — provided that ABN had a better planning framework incorporating a rolling 3-year strategic (business) plan and annual operational plans.

COPYRIGHT

The Copyright Amendment Bill, which passed through Parliament in the middle of the year, was reviewed by Derek Fielding in *InCite* 10(10), 10 July.

The Copyright Law Review Committee in its 1988 report saw the main issue as balancing:

'... two principal public interests, one in the community having access, as cheaply as possible, to the whole range of copyright material and the other in ensuring that copyright owners are not deprived of adequate protection.'

PRICE OF BOOKS

The Prices Surveillance Authority Inquiry into the Price of Books has been well publicised in the media. The Authority recommends an open market; specifically it recommends that the importation provisions of the Copyright Act for books be removed, except for pirated books and those by resident authors published in Australia.

The Inquiry found that most of the benefits of the closed market accrued to foreign publishers, and that the virtual ban on import competition conferred more protection on publishers than Australia's most tariff-protected industries received. It found that publishers have used the Copyright Act to charge higher prices for books in Australia than would have been possible in an open market, and referred to the Canadian experience with competition. It also found that Australian publishing and Australian authors had not benefited to any significant degree from the importation provisions presently in place.

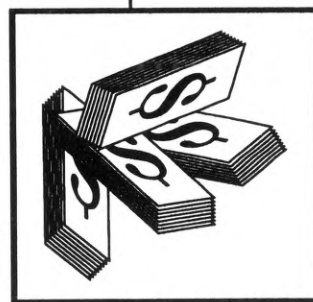
The next step appears to be the submission of a paper to Federal Cabinet.

BIBLIOMETRICS

In August the Australian Science and Technology Council released its 'Profile of Australian Science', a 463-page study of the current state and potential of basic scientific research.

Chapter 9 deals with the 'Bibliometric Analysis of Australian Basic Research' and chapter 10 with 'Bibliometric Indicators of Research Priorities', where data in the Computer Horizons Inc. journal set for 1973, 1980, and 1984 were manipulated. In appendix 1 is a summary of the methodology of literature-based measures of research output, which may be of

interest to many librarians and others at a time when performance indicators are in vogue.



LIBRARY PROVISION IN HIGHER EDUCATION

The planned review mentioned in the previous issue is still under discussion within the Department of Employment, Education and Training. It is understood that the review will be set up soon and that it is intended to complete stage 1 in the first half of next year.