

who has some time available to contribute to its inception. One never knows. Something positive might come of it.

*Ian Delaney*  
Graduate

## Young people and public libraries

### Dear Editor,

It was with interest that our committee received a copy of the report commissioned by the State Library, 'Student Usage of Public Libraries in New South Wales'.

The report showed that of the visitors to public libraries in the survey period, approximately 25 per cent were primary and secondary school age students. This correlates with census data showing the same figure as a percentage of the Australian population.

As professional teacher-librarians, we endeavour to establish life-long learning habits in our students and emphasise the need for them to connect to information networks within their communities. We were heartened to see that the survey showed school students were extending their 'captive' library habits out into the wider world.

In many areas, public and school librarians meet to discuss information services for the young people in their communities. We would like to see such communication maintained and extended.

*Alison Glasscock*

on behalf of the (NSW) School Libraries  
Section Committee

## Where is the information SERVICE?

### Dear Editor,

As a librarian of a small public library, on an island, I take great pride in telling my borrowers that I will endeavour to obtain the information that they require from anywhere in Australia. Although such requests are few, our success rate is quite high, which has made living on an island less isolated for those tertiary students returning to families for holidays and professionals wishing to further themselves.

Feeling that such requests were actually part of what being a 'librarian' was about, I assumed that my colleagues also shared by ideals — but this seems not to be the case.

My sister, living in the Adelaide metropolitan area, is studying for a Graduate Diploma while working full-time. In her endeavour to write her final

thesis she required several journal articles. Equipped with her references she went to her tertiary library only to be told that the journals which she required were 'over there' and 'look it up in the catalogue'. Of course, time is precious and after 4 hours of searching databases with which she is unfamiliar, she was informed, 'Oh, we don't have that title'.

In the end she did obtain the selected journal articles. How? Her sister requested the articles through the little country public library. The photocopies were sent to Kangaroo Island and then forwarded to Adelaide.

*Beth Hall*

## Any pen-pals out there?

### Dear Editor,

I am a library assistant working in the library of a teachers' institute and interested in writing with library personnel. I would like to exchange working experiences and get to know how libraries function in your country. Could you please publish my letter in your newsletter? Thank you very much.

*Balbindar K Dhaliwal*

(If you would like to write to Ms Dhaliwal, her address is 35 Marsiling Drive, # 07-401, SE 2573 — Singapore)

# In Brief

## Co-op Bookshop Library Services

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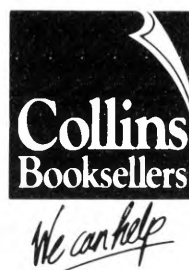
Greg Bain will be responsible for this new initiative. He will provide details of services available to libraries, including database access, serials consolidation and an urgent order service.

Greg has had over 7 years experience in library supply with John Menzies and Coutts Library Services and will be known to many of you. He can be contacted on: telephone (008) 22 2762 or fax (02) 212 3372.

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