

Letters

Standards for library shelving

Referring to Mr David Jones's letter in *inCite* 9, p30, we would like to offer the following comments.

Lacking a local standard for library shelving, New Zealand manufacturers and specifiers have based their calculations on Australian Standard AS 2273-1979. This Standard was based on specific shelf depths and applications. It now appears that some shelf sizes which fall within the Standard do not always meet the users' expectations (as in the case described by Mr Jones). This is also evident in shelves of greater depths, which are not covered by the Standard.

Although we as manufacturers did not have any legal obligation to replace or repair these shelves, we are currently in the process of strengthening them for the client, without charge, in line with our customer satisfaction philosophy. In addition we have taken immediate steps to strengthen shelves which form part of our library product range, providing increased loading capacity.

Furthermore, we have developed a new type of shelf offering improved performance and a slimmer profile which is available to both Australian and New Zealand purchasers.

Given the changing end user expectations, we would suggest that it is an appropriate time to review the standard. In any review, consideration should also be given to the inclusion of appropriate seismic protection, in line with the relevant building codes. This is an appropriate issue, as recent experiences at Newcastle will no doubt encourage early upgrade of standards making the inclusion of seismic

protection mandatory in some, if not all, future installations.

*Gary R Dormer FIMH
Hydestor Manufacturing Ltd*

New curricula impact on libraries

I would like to comment on the article in *inCite* vol 13, Issue 11, 16 November 1992 by Dr Nancy Lane. This article looked at the impact of the new National Science Curriculum on school and public libraries. There is another type of library that equally feels the impact of such development, and this is the curriculum resource library catering for preservice teachers in tertiary institutions.

The collection that I manage caters for early childhood, primary and secondary teachers. In NSW we have already had to cope with the sweeping changes brought in with the introduction of 'Excellence and Equity', in the concept of key learning areas covering the whole K-12 span, and the development of many new and exciting syllabuses.

NSW has recently introduced its K-6 Science and Technology syllabus, signalling a new emphasis on technology. Dr Lane points out that the national curriculum the Australian Academy of Science is developing will also emphasise physical and biological sciences.

NSW has been gradually issuing new syllabuses in all the key learning areas and new national curricula are being developed as well. This has led to an unprecedented demand for material in all subject areas, both for classroom work and for students to gain background knowledge.

It is refreshing to see that those developing new curricula acknowledge their impact on libraries and it is helpful to know in advance where the emphasis will lie.

*Margaret Stewart
University of Newcastle Libraries*

Library History Forums

I don't often take issue with the fine print in *inCite*, but I must challenge my colleague Professor Rayward in relation to the note regarding the forthcoming Forum 'The Metcalfe Years, 1920-1970'. The notice as it is published in *inCite* gives the impression that all of the library history forums have taken place at the University of New South Wales. In fact only two of the five so far have done so; one was held at Canberra and two, including the foundation forum were held at Monash University. If you think it worthwhile, I would be grateful if you would publish this minor correction.

*Professor John Levett
Head, Graduate Dept of Librarianship,
Archives and Records,
Monash University ■*

ALIA Executive Director

Prue Cancian, on behalf of the Libraries of the Social Sciences Committee, has written a letter to *inCite* raising questions about the appointment of the ALIA Executive Director. As usual, we asked the Chair of the Search Committee, John Levett, to respond. Prue's letter and John's response overlap with the content of Hans Lofgren's letter and the response, published last July in *inCite* 7.

Since time has moved on, and an announcement on the appointment is expected at any moment, we are holding Prue's letter over. To date, *inCite* has had no other comments on this appointment. ■

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