

Feedback

Promoting Queensland Special Libraries

during Australian Library Week

THIS year to promote Australian Library Week and the role of special libraries in all sectors of the community the Queensland Specials Branch organised a series of lunchtime tours through a number of Special Libraries in Brisbane. These tours were open to Librarians and to Library students from the Queensland University of Technology.

A total of nine special Libraries participated including the Australian Government Solicitors Library, Department of Housing, Community Services and Health, Queensland Art Gallery Library, Department of the Premier, Economic and Trade Development, Department of Primary Industries Library, Gladys Montcrieff Library of the Performing Arts, Australian Securities Commission Library, Blake Dawson Waldron Library and the Department of Tourism, Sport and Racing Library.

This diverse collection of Libraries was selected to provide the opportunity for those attending to visit a variety of special libraries with

different subject areas, clientele, and staffing numbers. Although most of the Libraries were brand new and the Department of Housing, Community Services and Health was in the middle of a Library move providing a wonderful opportunity to witness a Library move in action.

The tours were well attended by both fellow professionals and students. The feedback from the tours has been positive. A number of those attending were impressed by the broad range of tasks performed by special Librarians and everyone agreed that the tours provided an excellent forum to network with colleagues and see first hand what is happening in other Libraries. So successful were these tours that it is hoped that they become a regular feature of all future Australian Library Weeks.

Susan Heath

*Publicity and Recruitment Officer,
Queensland Specials Branch*

*Jean Wilkie conducts a tour at the Australian
Government Solicitors Library.*



Special Libraries Section Survey

IN SEPTEMBER 1991 a sub-committee of the Special Libraries Section (WA Group) of ALIA conducted a survey designed to give the committee a better understanding of the needs of its



Diane Cooper (on left) is the Librarian at Mallesons Stephen Jaques, Perth, WA. Ini Campbell-Fraser is the Librarian at the Australian Society of Certified Practising Accountants, Perth, WA.

members and non-members, to help provide an improved service for members.

Ini Campbell-Fraser and Diane Cooper (special librarians with a strong business and management studies background) took on the task of developing a suitable questionnaire to collect information on what WA members and non-members wanted from the Special Libraries Section (WA Group) of ALIA. They aimed at a comprehensive survey, collecting information which could then be analysed to produce conclusions. They developed a closed questionnaire with one open question. They felt that this format was most likely to meet the objectives of the study when used to survey a relatively small group of people all strongly motivated towards the object of the survey.

The total sample was 334 library personnel: members of the Special Libraries Section (WA Group), of the Australian Law Librarians Group (WA Branch) and of the Health Libraries of

WA. The Special Libraries Directory and the Government Libraries Network Directory were also consulted. This resulted in some duplication, but it was necessary to reach as many special libraries as could be found.

153 returns were received, 122 ALIA members and 31 non-members. Respondents used the questionnaire to express both their approval and their disapproval of ALIA's perceived services. Sources of information and contact networks were considered to be the most important of the services offered by Specials. Professional Development was by far the most frequent topic raised in the open concluding question.

The responses have given the Specials Committee a lot of feedback. Ideas for professional development and other activities will be included in the committee's program for 1992.

*Diane Cooper and Ini Campbell-Fraser
Special Libraries Section (WA Group)
Committee* □