

Copyright and AV

COMMITTEE ON AUDIO AND VIDEO REPRODUCTION AND COPYRIGHT. REPORT.

Milson's Point, NSW: Australian Copyright Council. 1980. \$7.00. (No ISBN).

In April 1978 the Australian Copyright Council convened a meeting of persons interested in the problems of copyright in audiovisual materials. An outcome of the meeting was the establishment of a committee and several sub-committees to investigate the many aspects of the matter including the needs of education, libraries, producers and private persons. The results of the work of the committee are included in its *Report*.

The *Report* is a significant document which will stimulate widespread discussion on a matter which has received considerable recent attention. The existing Australian Copyright Act restricts to a very large extent the copying or recording of audiovisual materials and radio and television broadcasts by libraries and educational institutions.

Technological advances in audiovisual equipment have resulted in relatively inexpensive, highly reliable and easily operated audio and video recorders being widely available in schools, libraries and private residences. Developments in teaching methods have emphasised the importance of selecting resources appropriate to the needs, abilities and interests of learning. These and other advances have highlighted the inadequacies of the present legislation. Amendments made to the Act in 1980 and due for implementation on 1 August 1981, have not altered the situation in relation to audiovisual materials.

The Report of the Committee on audio and video reproduction and copyright has identified the difficulties inherent in the present Act and includes suggestions for change. Several alternatives are offered for consideration which will provide a fair return to copyright owners, thus encouraging the creation of new materials and broadcasts, and which will allow reasonable access to information, thus meeting the requirements of teachers, students and library users.

The Committee reviewed current or proposed arrangements for copyright in audiovisual materials in several countries including West Germany, United States, United Kingdom, Canada and Austria and a number of possible solutions proposed by the Committee clearly emanate from this review.

Major proposals made in the *Report* include: a royalty on software (blank tapes and cassettes) and/or on hardware (recorders) to provide remuneration to copyright owners from general public use of recorders to copy or record materials and broadcasts. This proposal has been influenced by the arrangements that apply in West Germany and which have been proposed by the Whitford Committee in the United Kingdom. The universal application of such a royalty unfairly penalises those persons and institutions who acquire software and/or hardware with no intention whatsoever of

copying copyright materials or recording broadcasts. It uses a sledgehammer to crack a walnut.

— fairdealing provisions similar to those now included in the amended Copyright Act should apply to all forms of audiovisual materials. Two sub-committees rejected this proposal in the mistaken belief that this would be inappropriate as users normally wish to copy a whole film or item. Clearly those sub-committees are quite unaware of current practices which involve the use of short extracts from films and similar materials for purposes of study and criticism. — establishment of some form of blanket licensing scheme. A scheme which involves recording details of copying, maintenance of records and payment of copyright fees when requested by the copyright owner, is a burden on schools and libraries, is difficult for copyright owners to police and favours copyright owners with the necessary resources to monitor records extensively.

The Library Needs sub-committee's proposed blanket licensing scheme based on an annual fee paid by the institution seems the most workable system. Under this scheme the licence would confer upon a library or educational institution the right to make one recording of a radio or television broadcast without prior negotiation and the right to transfer an audiovisual item from one format to a more suitable one when the item is not commercially available in the required format. It is intended that the proceeds received from implementation of a blanket licensing scheme be distributed to

copyright owners through collecting agencies of which they are members.

Whatever system might be adopted to regulate copying of audiovisual materials and recording of broadcasts, it must not involve users in activities which are so complex and time consuming that they are encouraged to attempt to flout the law. It must provide reasonable remuneration to copyright owners and it must be relatively easy to police. These are minimum criteria which must be met in evaluating proposed systems. When measured against these criteria alone, the present system which involves permission being sought from individual copyright owners on each occasion copying or recording is to be done, is assessed as unsatisfactory.

This *Report* identifies the inadequacies in the existing copyright legislation relating to audiovisual materials and offers several alternative solutions. Librarians will find it worth reading. Hopefully it will encourage informed discussion amongst librarians, teachers, producers and others interested in meeting the information needs of users resulting in a review of the existing legislation and the development of new legislation reflecting contemporary conditions and needs.

Copies of the *Report* are available from Mrs Kate Shaw, Print'n Run, 8 Glen Street, Milson's Point, NSW 2061, priced at \$7.00 per copy, in advance, plus postage.

Paul McNally, Convener,
LAA Audiovisual Services Committee

Education for library management

LIBRARY MANAGEMENT / Robert D. Stuart and John T. Eastlick. Littleton, Colo: Libraries Unlimited, Inc. 1981. 2nd ed. \$25.00 ISBN 0 87287 241 6.

The problem of education for library management continues to exercise educators in Australia where it is exacerbated by the fact that no single school specialises in the field (although most teach it) and the majority teach towards a base professional level.

In the latter case, it is sometimes difficult to justify the 'top-down' study of administration to students who properly claim that for most of them the opportunity to function as a manager lies in the distant future; in addition, 'administration' whilst not quite a dirty word has a number of adverse connotations which lead to its open rejection by many students.

This leaves, as a possible audience for such a book, the practitioners, who are either operating as administrators or working towards a managerial position; there is the further complication that few of those managing large Australian libraries are qualified (except by experience) to do so, which leads to a certain sensitivity regarding the theoretical aspects of management.

The writer of this review justifies the inclusion of management studies in a first award course principally on the ground that all students who find employment in libraries, or library organisations, will function more effectively, whatever their level of appointment, if they know the nature of the beast to whose bosom they are clutched.

So this book is useful to both levels of appointment. To the neophyte it provides a useful if fragmentary overview of the processes of management (which as victims, they should certainly understand); to the practitioner, experienced or aspirant, it

provides a rational crystallisation of what most library managers learn over a period of years by osmosis.

Library management is necessarily an amalgam in which the general principles of (American) management theory are related (with varying degrees of success) to the running of libraries. This new addition has extended the range of examples drawn from actual libraries and which comprise, by way of appendices, roughly one-third of the book; it also foreshadows the publication of a companion volume of case studies.

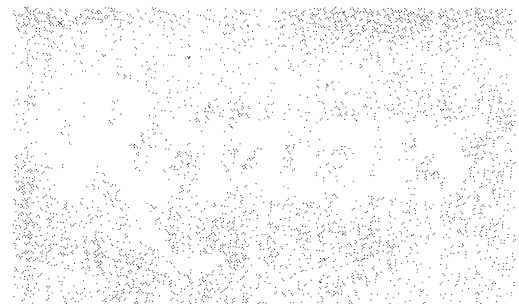
The current reviewer is prompted to ponder whether or not there is a need for an Australian volume either as a basic management text or of the case study kind. It may be objected that management is a universal science and that local texts would therefore be superfluous.

Nevertheless, the excellent and illuminating review of Australian university libraries' administrative structures, published by Derek Feilding in 1971, suggests that an up-to-date volume embracing the spectrum of Australian library management would be a useful addition to the literature. Perhaps the LAA's Publications Board could consider this.

This reviewer believes that the pattern of Australian library management is sufficiently diverse and rich to justify the experiment of putting together texts at the theoretical and case study levels.

However, until this eventuates, Australian students and managers will have to content themselves with the judicious use of imported texts such as that in hand, which despite its American bias and occasionally condensed treatment is a useful and effective introduction.

John Levett
University of Tasmania



Arbuthnot lectures

THE ARBUTHNOT LECTURES 1970-1979 / Zena Sutherland comp. Chicago: American Library Association. 1980. 203pp. ISBN 08389 3240 1.

When the May Hill Arbuthnot lecture series was announced in 1969, that warm and gracious lady herself predicted that the lectures would bring new voices, new insights and new emphases to the field of children's literature. They have done just that.

Each lecture is a chapter, a progression, a complement in an amazingly unified and harmonious statement. Each is a development of the theme stated, in ringing tones, by Mollie Hunter: 'There *must* be a person behind the book'.

The personality of each lecturer in this series slips out to embrace us – the crisp precision of Margery Fisher, the polished ease of John Rowe Townsend, the idealism of Mary Ørvig, the elegance of Bettina Hürlimann, the intensity of Ivan Southall, the gentleness of Shigeo Watanabe, the shrewd practicality of Sheila Egoff.

Appropriately the first and last lectures by Margery Fisher and Sheila Egoff survey the state of children's literature as it appeared to them respectively at the beginning and the end of a decade. Both reflect on the growth of realism and the problem novel, for example, in a social, historical and literary context, in a way that makes manifest the critical standards which Townsend demands of us. Other speakers bring their insight to bear on the same issue, or they raise new ones.

Mollie Hunter sees the handling of the problem as all important – that it be done in a manner that raises the level of the reader's understanding. Jean Fritz and Ivan Southall,

in speaking of their own odysseys, bear out the claim that 'no book can tell anything worth saying unless life itself has first said it to the person who conceived that book.'

From the lectures here gathered emerges a book about life, language and literature. Inherent is the tenet that literature is life – the life of an individual in society – hammered into shape by language.

The Hebrew writer, Uriel Ofek, reminds us, too, that the response to literature will be equally governed by the totality of the reader's life experiences and Mary Ørvig warns us that there will be barriers of ideology, of personal and national circumstance.

But each speaker, with individual voice, helps open up with remarkable energy and enthusiasm the many varied and dynamic worlds of children's books.

Maurice Saxby

Kuring-gai College of Advanced Education

Periodicals for schools

PERIODICALS FOR SCHOOL LIBRARIES: A SELECT ANNOTATED LIST / comp Sheena Coupe. Sydney: Library Association of Australia, School Libraries Section NSW Group. 1981. 98pp. \$10.00 (\$6.00 to LAA members). ISBN 0 909915 77 6.

As the compiler of this useful list points out in her brief introduction, the 'selection of periodicals for use in school libraries is becoming more difficult with a proliferation of new titles, increases in subscription prices and limited budgets'. It is therefore, important that teacher-librarians receive up-to-date, reliable information such as that provided here, to assist them with this selection.

This list is an updated version of the 1974 publication of the same name, also produced by the School Libraries Section (NSW Group) of the Library Association of Australia.

For each of the 350 Australian and overseas periodicals listed, the following facts are given: title, address, frequency, price (at October 1980), intended age level and where it is indexed. The accompanying annotation includes a brief description and evaluation of the periodical's contents. Arrangement of the list is alphabetical and access is through a broad subject index.

While the layout is practical and facilitates ready access, for the price, production could be described as adequate rather than attractive. As one would expect, the list is a 'recommended' one as well as 'selective'. It is, of course, possible to cavil about some inclusions and exclusions eg *Cleo* and *Honey* are included, the *Australian Women's Weekly* is not, in spite of a comparison between the two in the *Cleo* annotation; and some New South Wales bias is evident especially in the area of sport which lists two rugby periodicals and nothing on soccer or Australian Rules. Similarly *New South Wales Golf* is mentioned but other state publications are excluded. Also to be expected, is the heavy concentration on secondary periodicals.

Nonetheless, this timely publication is a basic reference tool for schools and public libraries wishing to establish or maintain periodical collections for children and teenagers. It is to be hoped that regular updating will take place. Anne M. Hazell
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Kuring-gai College of Advanced Education offers a wide range of courses in the areas of financial and administrative studies, library and information studies, teacher education, practical legal training and recreation and community studies. The College employs approximately 200 academic and 150 administrative staff and has a student enrolment of approximately 3,200.

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The Department of Library and Information Studies teaches units in Information Methods, Information Resources and Information Users within programmes offered by the School of Library and Information Studies. The present programmes are a Bachelor of Arts (Library Science), a Graduate Diploma in Library Science and a Graduate Diploma in Teacher Librarianship. There are currently vacancies in the Department in the areas of information users and services and in information resources.

Applicants should have strong disciplinary backgrounds evidenced by higher degree qualifications or research and publications; relevant work experience in a range of library or other information sources; an interest in educational innovation and research, and preferably teaching experience at the tertiary level.

Appointment to these positions may be made initially on a contract basis and will be made within the above salary range depending on qualifications and experience.

Enquiries may be directed to Mrs. Dagmar Schmidmaier, the Chairman of the Department of Library and Information Studies. Applications in writing giving personal details, details of qualifications and experience and the names and addresses of two referees should be forwarded to the Secretary, Kuring-gai College of Advanced Education, P.O. Box 222, Lindfield, N.S.W. 2070 by 30th September, 1981.

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