

# TAFE IN VICTORIA

## The growth of library services

PAST ISSUES of *Incite* have raised the question of TAFE involvement with UCLS and the LAA (see *Incite*, 19 September 1980, and 7 February 1981).

Much of this uncertainty has arisen from the very different patterns of TAFE development within each state and an understanding of these differences may assist all TAFE librarians in determining their role within the LAA. To this end, Victorian TAFE librarians have prepared a brief account of the TAFE scene in that state.

Technical education in Victoria has a long history. It began in 1869 with the establishment of the Technological Commission and underwent many changes before emerging, in the 1970s, as TAFE.

A further and major reorganisation faces TAFE today as early in 1980 the Victorian Government announced the formation of the TAFE Board which was to be serviced initially by the Victorian Post Secondary Education Commission.

### Administration

The TAFE Board has reviewed TAFE operations in Victoria and has made recommendations to the relevant ministers which have resulted in significant changes.

State-wide administration of TAFE has now been separated from the Education Department, with joint responsibility for TAFE to Cabinet by the Minister for Employment and Training and the Minister for Education. Regional TAFE Boards will administer TAFE in country areas. TAFE colleges, now administered by the Education Department, will, in due course, relate to the TAFE Board, either directly or through a regional structure.

The TAFE providers in Victoria are:

- Colleges of advanced education with TAFE components;
- Council of Adult Education;
- Department of Agriculture;
- Education Department (technical schools and some high schools);
- Voluntary learning groups;
- Industrial training centres, and
- TAFE colleges.

Victorian TAFE programs fall within the six streams of study defined in *TAFE in Australia*.<sup>1</sup> All streams are offered but stream 1 – Professional Training forms only a minor part of Victorian TAFE.

### VATCL

Victorian TAFE libraries have emerged from CAE libraries, secondary technical school libraries and our somewhat unique mono-disciplined colleges. VATCL (Victorian Association of Technical College Librarians) has been a major influence in the development of these libraries and the services they provide.

In August 1972, representatives of seven technical college libraries met and decided to form an association of librarians in charge of those libraries. Attendance has steadily increased from the original seven to an average attendance of 25 out of the 32 colleges. Pat Stewart, who initiated the first

meeting served as chairman until 1976. Her successors have been, Judith Doig, (RMIT), Marion Taylor, (Caulfield Institute of Technology), Evelyn Deane-Freeman (Whitehorse Technical College) and Bev Kirby, (Dandenong College of TAFE).

VATCL is a self-help organisation which has given members the opportunity to exchange information on policies and procedures. With ACOTAFE<sup>1</sup> in 1974, VATCL members agreed to use common interim standards, based on Bryan and Hean's report<sup>2</sup> which, although superseded by the Brown and Flowers<sup>3</sup> figures, at least provided a consistent picture of Victorian TAFE needs.

The publication, *TAFE in Australia* led to VATCL members becoming heavily involved in Education Department Committees examining the recommendations of the report. The Education Department also asked VATCL to report on the recommendations of the Trier Report<sup>4</sup> for a TAFE Bibliographic Centre.

VATCL holds its monthly meetings at various TAFE colleges and aims to hold at least two meetings a year in the country. Meetings may follow a particular topic such as problems of the disabled, business services of the State Library, literacy and numeracy, shared cataloguing, and library funding. Working parties have been established to consider library buildings, statistics, copyright, reference and reader education.

A VATCL working party has completed a work value study which aims to provide the basis for future negotiations regarding TAFE library staff salaries. In 1981 VATCL will be conducting a series of staff development seminars in developments in automation, copyright and information retrieval in TAFE libraries.

TAFE librarians are represented by Marion Taylor on the Victorian Branch committee of UCLS and VATCL is very concerned with TAFE involvement in UCLS and the LAA generally.

Our librarians would be pleased to hear of TAFE developments in other states. We believe that this would be a useful step towards interstate understanding and cooperation and should lead to a clear definition and national acceptance of the role of TAFE librarians within the Australian library scene.

Bev Kirby

Chairman of the Victorian Association of Technical College Librarians

### References

- 1 ACOTAFE was the Australian Committee on Technical and Further Education, the people responsible for the report *TAFE in Australia, 1974*. That body changed its name to the Technical and Further Education Commission.
- 2 H. Bryan and E.L. Hean, *The function of a library in a college of advanced education*. Report of a research program conducted for the Commonwealth Department of Education and Science on the recommendation of the Commonwealth Advisory Committee on Advanced Education. (Sydney, 1970).
- 3 A.J. Brown and E. Flowers, 'Interim guidelines for developing library resource centre' in *TAFE in Australia*: Report on needs in Technical and Further Education, Vol2 (Canberra: Australian Committee on Technical and Further Education, 1975).
- 4 P.R. Trier, *Report on the establishment of a TAFE Bibliographic Centre in Victoria*. (Melbourne: Melbourne Technical Schools Division, Education Department of Victoria, 1976).

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