

About copyright

COPYRIGHT WORKSHOP PROCEEDINGS: Proceedings of a Copyright Workshop held at the National Library of Australia on 1 June, 1981, edited by M.W. Borchardt and P. Clayton. Canberra, Library Association of Australia (ACT Branch), 1981. 166p. Price \$7.70 (\$6.00 LAA members). ISBN 0-909915-92-x.

The papers in this compact volume were presented at a workshop in Canberra held two months before the Copyright Amendment Act 1980 came into force. The Branch President's introduction, the question and answer sessions, and a select bibliography on copyright have been included. The authors of the papers are listed on the contents page together with their designation but the title of each paper has been omitted. Beth Stone's paper is the only one credited with a title in the text, so that the intent of the other authors has to be gleaned from their introduction.

The first of the six papers was given by Derek Fielding. This introduces and defines copyright, giving an historical outline of copyright in common law – a very succinct lead-up to the new legislation.

Peter Banki, of the Australian Copyright Council, spoke from the copyright owner's point of view on the provisions in the new act which catered for them. His paper touches on the question of fees, forecasting their collection by copyright agencies on behalf of their members, and explains the differing roles of the Australian Copyright Council and the Copyright Agency Ltd.

Beth Stone, in her paper 'The Copyright Act Amendment, 1980: provisions affecting libraries', suggests guidelines for the day-to-day problems confronting librarians, such as the copying of more than one article on the same subject matter from one issue of a journal. These interpretations are taken up and enlarged upon by Robin Bell, who, with Bob Eagers, both of the Attorney General's Department, were involved in a lively question and answer session following a paper which explains the intention of the Act and the difficulties faced by those drafting the legislation.

Colin Clark's paper presents an educator's point of view, particularly in relation to accessibility to audio-visual material for teaching programs. He points out anomalies in this area and stresses the need for further urgent revision in the copyright law to cater for the reproduction of A-V material for teaching purposes. His arguments are clear and logical, pointing out particular frustrations felt by teachers and the need for a mechanism whereby it is possible to obtain copies of audio-visual material by paying for it at a reasonable rate.

In the concluding paper, Professor Dennis Pearce attempts to predict future development in copyright. He draws our attention to the problems inherent in the new amending act, such as the uneconomic record-keeping by librarians which does not result in recompense to the copyright owners, and the fact

that the copyright owners cannot relieve librarians of their obligations. He urges librarians and educators to 'get their act together' to ensure that the Attorney General's Dept is aware of our problems.

The ACT Branch is to be commended on the timeliness of this workshop and the promptness with which they published the proceedings. Minor typographical and pagination errors occur, which might have been avoided had not early publication been a first priority.

Since this copyright workshop took place the Attorney-General's Department has conducted meetings with interested parties, including librarians, to discuss some of the issues raised. Although changes are being mooted, there is still value in this work which expresses widely differing points of view on copyright problems, especially the approach of the non-librarian to the subject.

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On prison libraries

PRISON LIBRARIES London: Library Association (Library Association Guidelines). 1981. 63pp. 2.00. ISBN 0 85365 614 2.

JAIL LIBRARY SERVICE – A GUIDE FOR LIBRARIANS AND JAIL ADMINISTRATORS/ Linda Bayley, Leni Greenfield and Flynn Nogueira. Chicago: American Library Association. 1981. 126pp. US\$16. ISBN 0 8389 3258 4.

WORKSHOPS FOR JAIL LIBRARY SERVICE: A PLANNING MANUAL/Linda Schexnaydre and Kaylyn Robbins. Chicago: American Library Association. 1981. 128pp. US\$17. ISBN 0 8389 3259 2.

As E.M. Broome, the Chairman of the British Working Party which prepared the guidelines, points out, the Library Association's record in the field of prison library service has not been a distinguished one. This situation is not peculiar to Britain; the companion volumes from the United States are the first attempt by the American Library Association at a national level to establish a working guide.

There are basic differences in approach and style. The US Guide is both more prescriptive and descriptive than the British document. However, both emphasise that consultation and cooperation are critical factors in establishing and maintaining a viable library service within a custodial setting.

The British group states that, despite requests for a detailed manual of current practice, they did not feel that differing prescriptions for each type of prison department would be the best way to approach the problem. They sensibly suggest that each situation needs analysis and assessment by professional staff at the local level to ensure the most suitable service. While the ALA agrees that a local profile is necessary to identify the scope and nature of the requirements it gives examples of how to recognise and deal with particular problems.

The Workshop Planning Manual provides step-by-step instructions on how to design, plan and conduct workshops and conferences both to establish and improve prison library service. There are many options and the authors constantly remind the reader that such plans are meant to be modified and altered to suit the particular situation.

Library service to prisons is unique, therefore it is inappropriate to apply existing standards from other institutions. Similarly, it is inappropriate to take other national or international standards as a basis; both

library services and penal systems encompass a wide range of philosophical viewpoints and organisational structures and strictures. In Britain legislation obliges the Prison Department to provide a library in each establishment and this is provided by the local public library authority. The US has a more complicated penal system and the work under review is written for county jails although it can be adopted for state or federal penitentiaries.

However, this does not mean that neither of these guides will be useful when transferred to the Australian setting which differs again. There are many excellent suggestions not only for areas covering selection of materials, accommodation, staffing and management but also, especially in the US Guide, some indications of problems which are likely to arise and realistic ways of dealing with such situations. The British work concentrates more on the material aspects of a prison library service while the US volumes adopt a people-oriented approach and assert that a small start with the right people can lead to an adequate service.

Both guides keep in mind the necessity for realising and accepting that security is foremost and that cooperation with prison authorities is essential. They also contain select bibliographies and guides to resources which would be useful reading, along with these three works, for anyone involved in the establishment or improvement of prison library service.

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Guide to shelving

STACK MANAGEMENT: A PRACTICAL GUIDE TO SHELVING AND MAINTAINING LIBRARY COLLECTIONS/ William J. Hubbard. Chicago: American Library Association. 1981. 102pp. ISBN 0 8389 0319 3.

This work is a revision of William Jesse's 1952 publication *Shelf Work in Libraries*, and is a useful, if sometimes too brief, collection of principles, suggestions, and handy hints. The purpose is to facilitate the arrangement and organisation of bookstacks in the interests of improved access to the collections.

The book's audience is not stated, but is presumably the librarian of a small library or the department head responsible for the collections in a large library.

The library building planner would not do wrong by paying heed to the many practical details provided about shelf lay-out, compact storage, and the like.

The library manager will find a wealth of useful, if sometimes severely practical and simply stated, information on moving collections, protection and care of books, weeding, stocktaking, and staff training.

Citations to further reading on various matters are plentiful, and there is a good index. An appendix provides a simplified but useful overview of the the procedure for sampling book collections statistically in order to estimate such characteristics as book availability, loss rates, and so on.

Stack Management is not an exciting book, but it is not meant to be. Its subtitle is accurate, and the emphasis is on 'practical'.

It says nothing that is really new, but it is a useful compilation of the conventional wisdom on a subject which, while perhaps pedestrian to some who prefer the stimulation of more theoretical considerations in librarianship, is nevertheless the basis of our ability to deliver the goods.

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Words on numbers

BOOK NUMBERS: A HISTORICAL STUDY AND PRACTICAL GUIDE TO THEIR USE / John P. Comaromi. Littleton: Libraries Unlimited, Inc. 1981. 145pp. US\$28.00. ISBN 0 87287 251 3. Copy supplied by The James Bennett Group.

Remembering the formula 'classification number + book number = call number', you may be wondering how a whole book could come to be written about such a small subject.

The answer lies in the author's wide-ranging (or -straying) approach. This may be seen at once from the contents list. There are nine chapters: Principles and Purposes of Shelf-listing, Classification: Nature and Practice, Accession Catalogs and Shelflists, Early Book Numbers, Cutter and Author Numbers *vs.* Author Letters, Cutter-Sanborn Numbers as Applied to the DDC, Barden's Special Schemes and (the longest chapter) Library of Congress Shelf-listing Practice. There follow five Appendixes, mainly facsimiles of the instructions for Cutter and Cutter-Sanborn tables.

All the classic questions are discussed by the way: mixed notation, fixed *vs.* relative location, facets, 'classed catalogs' (described as 'no longer with us') and so on. As Comaromi says: 'Certain topics cannot be prevented from intruding upon the discussion of shelf-listing. Whatever these topics may be — whether classification, weeding, or machine developments — they will be treated briefly'. The result is chaotic and beyond the control of the neat table of contents and too small index — which has nothing, incidentally, under either weeding or machine developments.

Before opening the book I'd decided on three connected questions to put to it. The first was whether standardised formats for catalogue entries have any bearing on selection of particular book numbering methods. I was encouraged to pursue this question by the reference to 'machine developments' but was disappointed not to be able to find anything about them. If they're discussed at all it must be briefly indeed.

My next pre-question was: how justly are the options presented? Libraries are now trying to keep with the crowd because of standardisation and the sharing bait but book numbers, as distinct from cataloguing and classification, might represent a residual fastness of self-determination. This could be true in practice, as indicated by the 25 different call numbers listed on page 83, for a book on the poetry of Alexander Pope, that would be assigned according to the systems of 'some' of the large public libraries and processing centres using the DDC.

The author doesn't care for this evidence of independence, specially as several of the large libraries were found to bestow no book numbers at all and some used only the initial of the author's surname. Comaromi's own recommendation (pp.81-2) are for Cutter-Sanborn numbers with the full range of work letters, edition numbers, translation numbers, etc, but he would probably grant that the libraries already using something else are unlikely to change, being in his view victims of bad decisions that can't be undone.

My last question was how the book would deal with the system to which I'm accustomed in the State Library of New South Wales: simple running numbers allocated in the order in which the books are shelf-listed, used in conjunction with unelaborated Cutter-Sanborn numbers in some classes.

The answer is, in a word: unfairly. One

Library Roundabout

TAKING PART IN a pilot scheme, the Normanhurst Boys' High School library has been indexed on microfilm, the first State School in NSW to do so.

The students participated in the process, both in fundraising and in assisting librarian Mrs B. McLaren, who coded the material for the computer.

A resource-sharing network has been established by school and public libraries in the Liverpool region. It is known as the Library Liaison Project, and does not have a centralised shared collection, but operates on a formal inter-library loan system.

Its efficiency depends on following the methods for operation which are clearly outlined in the scheme's comprehensive policy booklet. At present the system is being tried out in a number of high schools in the region, and it is hoped that in time it may be adopted throughout the region.

Minto Public Library was officially opened on 16 April 1982, by the Hon R. Mullock. This ceremony was the culmination of more than ten years of planning. The library building is on several different levels, with areas set aside for storytelling, reading and

group discussion. It is staffed by four full-time librarians, one part-time librarian and three full-time library assistants.

Until recently library users in Hurstville had to negotiate several flights of stairs to reach the library, then accommodated in the old Civic Centre building. Access was impossible for disabled people, and daunting to many elderly people.

The Civic Centre has now been extended with an ambitious new complex in which library facilities have been a major consideration. Access is by covered pedestrian ramps, and the library area is far greater than in the old building.

As well as extensive reading and research facilities, a large area is devoted to the children's library, including a storytelling area large enough to accommodate an entire class and which can be closed off. It is expected that the number of visits made to the library in the coming year will be far in excess of the usual figure of just over 200,000.

Contributions to this column are welcome and should be addressed to the Editor, InCite, PO Box M371, Strawberry Hills, NSW 2012.



Part of the Area Studies reading room at the National Library in Canberra, which includes the Thai unit and caters for people seeking information about or doing research on South East Asian Countries.

National Library photograph by Loui Seselja.

doesn't find 'running numbers' in the index, but guesses rightly that 'Accession number method' might be it — a misnomer, of course, and a disservice to true accession numbers, but one that would come naturally to a writer who has only a few condescending words on the subject. (And the method appears to have been invented by Dewey himself!)

Comaromi admits (p.36) that it 'seemed to have worked well enough' but blames it for not achieving chronological order and 'failing to gather either an author's works or editions of or copies of the same edition of a work'. In fact the method can be adjusted to do some of these things; and, anyway, what has chronological order on the shelf to do with quick retrieval of a particular version? Is there a bias here in favour of the leisurely humanities?

Comaromi is clearly a man who likes elaboration for its own sake, and he also believes book numbers are a continuation of classification by other means: 'shelflisting is often used to introduce further classification'. No doubt he can be forgiven his obsession: he is, after all, closely identified with DDC. But it's

a pity he doesn't take into account the virtues of simplicity and brevity in a notation. He is persuasive enough in his care for having book numbers rather than not but he assumes too readily that users will necessarily want all versions of a work shelved together and he sometimes even seems to be pretending the catalogue entries aren't there already making the distinctions and collocations he wants book numbers to repeat.

This book delivers both more and less than it promises. It is generously illustrated with diagrams, tables, figures and facsimiles. A few libraries making a new start with AACR2, say, or new catalogues or classification sequences, might in some circumstances feel free to change the basis of part of their notation and could well be disposed to study what is presented here. (It could also turn a queuing library away from changing to the Library of Congress Classification.) But it is more likely to interest students and librarians wishing to understand how so many respectable libraries have come to be saddled with fussy book numbers. It isn't a must for every practising shelflister.

Janet D. Hine