

# Interlending — views around Australia

## Victoria

The Working Party on Inter-loans convened by Michael Hill from Baillieu Library, has prepared a manual of procedures on inter-loans for Australian libraries. The Group surveyed about 50 libraries for comments and criticism on the manual in its draft form, and those comments are currently being incorporated into a final publication.

The Municipal Inter-library Committee (Vic) — Minter Lib — has also established a working party to review the existing Minter Lib *Guidelines: inter-library loans*. More information may be available from the convenor, Charles Emerton, at the Goulburn Valley Regional Library at Shepparton.

The Monash and Deakin University Libraries operate a cooperative scheme with Deakin employing a part-time library clerk at Monash to handle Deakin inter-library loan requests that can be fulfilled by the Monash collection. Requests are generally sent through a commercial courier service. Deakin has benefitted by an improved turnaround for their requests. Almost 40 per cent of their total inter-library loans are fulfilled in this way. Some staff time is saved through the simplified procedures and Monash staff are released from involvement in filling inter-library loan requests from Deakin. Deakin University Library opposes the introduction of charges for handling inter-library loans.

The Library Council of Victoria also endorses the broad principle that there should be no charges to other libraries for inter-library loans, believing that the right to information in a democratic society depends upon the availability of a full range of information material in libraries, and that it is inevitable that charges on inter-library loans would be passed on to at least some members of the public.

The Council also feels that charging for inter-library loans would accelerate the strong moves towards a 'user pays' principle that exists in some public library systems.



**Michael Hill, convenor of the Working Party. *Ausloan*, the book resulting from the efforts of the Working Party will be published shortly by the LAA.**

## South Australia

The State Library of South Australia sees the Inter-lending system as a vital one, and supports the formation of this monitoring group. State Library makes no charge for material borrowed within Australia but does impose a token charge of \$5 for items borrowed from overseas, payable when the request is made.

The Barr Smith Library at the University of Adelaide has instituted a schedule of fees for other libraries granted permission to access their collection.

## Western Australia

WAIT have established a reciprocal agreement with the two WA Universities and the four CAEs in Perth. They also belong to the Cooperative Inter-library Loans Service, established about seven years ago in Perth, which consists of the two University Libraries WAIT and nine special libraries, mainly in the health field.

This service employs a full-time courier to visit each of the cooperating libraries daily, who transports inter-library loan material,

but also collects books and journals from the shelves, charging books to the borrowing libraries and arranging for photocopying of journal articles. Because the courier's time is entirely devoted to the Cooperative Inter-library Loans Service, he is familiar with the layout, holdings and routines of each of the libraries and this, together with the personal service he is able to give, greatly facilitates the inter-library loan process between the cooperating libraries.

WAIT is not considering charging other libraries for handling inter-library loans at this stage. They have been discouraging phone inter-library loan requests for some time and will continue to do this, in an effort to reduce the pressure on staff time.

The Library Board of WA opposes the introduction of charging for inter-library loans. Such a charge would be against the cooperating agreement existing between the Board, the 200 public libraries in WA and over 100 cooperating libraries in the state.

## Tasmania

Tasmania Committee for Library Cooperation, comprising the University of Tasmania Library, the Tasmania CAE Library and the State Library of Tasmania, has asked the State Minister for Education to suggest to the Federal Minister for Home Affairs that net lenders should be subsidised. Within the State, no charges are imposed at present.

## Queensland

The Brisbane CAEs and QIT have established a joint courier system to collect inter-library loans from the University of Queensland Libraries.

## General

The TEC/CAUL/ALCAE funded study currently under way by Professor Weinstock and Miss Wilson from the University of New South Wales, is progressing according to timetable.

A second questionnaire distributed in April contains very specific questions about inter-library loan practices. This was sent to all University and CAE libraries and to a sampling of other libraries.

Whereas the study will involve some costing models, it will not discuss the philosophy of charging for inter-library loan transactions nor the actual cost of a system of charging as opposed to non-charging system. The costing models will however involve details of how much an inter-library loan transaction costs and how traffic may be directed to be most cost-effective.

Some members have expressed the hope that this study will analyse the accounting and economic costs of the inter-library loan system, with resulting recommendations that will ease the burden on net lenders without restricting access by other libraries.

Most librarians are now aware of the University of New South Wales Library's proposal to introduce a unilateral fee of \$5 per inter-library loan, starting in July. It is our understanding that the introduction of these charges are supported only by the University of Queensland Library, though with a January 1983 start to allow libraries to include this in their budget planning.

The inter-lending group is interested in information that members may have, observations or comments. These can be directed to the Convenor of the group, Christine Crocker, C/- Thatcher Library, University of Queensland, St Lucia 4067.

## Records to be deposited at National Library

MEMBERS OF THE Australian Record Industry Association (ARIA) have decided to deposit a copy of every record they produce in the National Library of Australia. This practice has been a legal requirement for all book publishers, but no such legislation exists to cover recordings.

The decision was announced by Mr Harrison Bryan, Director-General of the Library, in his opening address at the third annual conference of the Australian branch of the International Association of Sound Archives in Canberra.

Since 1912 Australian book publishers have been required to deposit a copy of each book they publish with the National Library and Mr Bryan said that the fact that no legal deposit was required for non-book materials had been a handicap.

All major recording companies of Australia, which together produce about 90 per cent of the industry's output, belong to ARIA.

The Library's sound recordings collection had its beginnings in 1968, since when it has become the largest sound archive in the southern hemisphere with more than 500,000 recordings.

## Book reviews

Are you interested in writing book reviews?

Reviewers are wanted for *InCite* and *Australian Library Journal*.

If you are interested, please send your name, address, brief biographical details and interests to the Editor, *InCite*, PO Box M371, Strawberry Hills, NSW 2012.

**We can't afford to pay you — but you do get to keep the book!**

## LAA Handbook

There has been a delay in fulfilling orders for the 1982 *Handbook*.

When the copies arrived from the printer, the binding was found to be faulty and they have been returned.

By the time this copy of *InCite* reaches you, more copies of the *Handbook* should reach us and we can start sending them out.