

LIBS 100 links RMIT and MSC

AT A CEREMONY at Melbourne State College on 26 February 1982, William Pye, Principal of the College, charged out the first book in what is believed to be the first operational shared fully on-line automated system among tertiary institutions in Australia. The system, which is owned and located at RMIT, is shared with MSC.

The network links the two largest college library collections in Victoria with a database which currently includes 268,643 titles and 377,379 items serving 32,000 users.

The system is the LIBS 100 automated loans system developed by CLSI which has almost 500 successful installations in North America. LIBS 100 is marketed in Australia, Papua New Guinea, and New Zealand by Libramatics Systems Pty. Limited, under licence to CLSI. Maintenance and operating support is provided by Libramatics Systems Pty Limited, the most experienced library bureau in Australia.

The extension of the system to MSC followed more than two years of planning and discussions with RMIT and conversion of MSC holdings and users data to machine readable form, as well as bar-coding the collections.

Discussions commenced in 1978 between Denis Richardson, University Librarian at the University of Melbourne, Jack Ward, Chief Librarian at RMIT, and David Pownall, Chief Librarian at MSC as to the costs and benefits of a shared turnkey circulation system.

Due to delays occasioned by a reassessment of overall university computer needs, the University was unable to proceed at the time. RMIT subsequently placed a contract for a LIBS 100 system with the potential of upgrading, which came into operation at RMIT in August 1979. A contract was negotiated for MSC to join the RMIT installation, which required that MSC add significant storage capacity to the central configuration.

Since then, the University of Melbourne has opted for a stand-alone LIBS 100 system, now operational. This will allow the possibility of on-line linking of holdings and status (on or off shelf, date of return, items on order at participating institutions, etc) by three neighbouring institutions, which will provide a very powerful resource sharing mechanism. This had been one of the objectives of the original discussions between the three libraries.

Join the bargain hunters at the Conference booksale!



The SA Public Libraries Division will be holding its half yearly booksale in the warehouse in Edward Street, Norwood on Saturday 21 August from 9 am - 1 pm. Thousands of eager bargain hunters are expected - at the last sale the police had to be called to break up fights in the queue which at one stage stretched along three city blocks. 40,000 volumes are expected to be on sale, and the proceeds will be returned to the book fund.

Implementation of the system at MSC was the responsibility of Bill Cations, Deputy Chief Librarian, Helen Hayes, Reader Services Librarian and Barbara McAndrew, Deputy Reader Services Librarian. The highly professional and co-operative attitude of RMIT staff, particularly Andrew Jephcott, Senior Librarian and Norma Edwards, Lending Services Librarian contributed greatly to the successful implementation of the project, as did the technical advice and support from Libramatics staff. The co-operative venture was endorsed by CAVAL.

Within the network certain features are system-wide, but a considerable degree of flexibility in loans periods and other options is available to each library.

The sharing, in addition to major improvements in service and management information, is providing economies in operation. It has the advantage, as well, of avoiding the high costs and risks of internal systems development, and the advantage of a proven and reliable system with fully experienced software and hardware maintenance facilities close at hand, plus the ability to achieve enhancements to the system as they become available to all LIBS 100 customers. In a very real way, the RMIT-MSc venture is consistent with contemporary international thinking on how high-volume, complex automated library systems should be provided.

David E. Pownall
Chief Librarian

Report from LAA Board of Education

THE SECOND MEETING of the Board of Education for 1982 was held on 23 and 24 July at the University of Sydney. The following report sets out the main items considered by the Board.

1 Election of Chairman, Deputy Chairman and Committee members

Mr John Brudenall has been elected Chairman and Mrs Margaret Trask Deputy Chairman of the Board of Education for the period to 30 April 1984.

Members of Committee are:

Course Recognition Committee: Mr Ian Miller (Convener), Mrs Margaret Trask, Miss Jeanette Knox, Mr John Levett and Ms Moira MacKinnon.

Continuing Education Committee: Miss Merylyn Bryce, Continuing Education Officer ex officio (Convener), Mrs Christine Crocker, Mr John Levett, Mr Edward Parr, Mr John Brudenall (to end 1982).

2 Access to Board of Education papers

In 1979 General Council agreed that access to Board papers should normally be limited to members of the Board, but that other requests for access should be determined by the Chairman of the Board.

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