

## 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 Marilyn 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.

*continued on page 2*

## Education Board —

continued from page 1

In view of the responsibilities of the General Secretary for admission of members, Associates and Fellows, the Board has agreed that the General Secretary should have access to agenda papers and minutes of the Board.

### 3 Review of Course Recognition Procedures

The Association's course recognition procedures are reviewed regularly in the light of the Board's increasing experience in assessment of courses, and to ensure that procedures keep pace with developments in education for librarianship. Panels now remain on site for an additional day to prepare their report, and some further modifications are under consideration. These relate to the role of Board members in giving advice to schools, the timing of first recognition visits, and giving schools the option to withdraw requests for recognition before a final decision is made on courses.

### 4 Library technician courses by external study

The Board has discussed a paper by Ian Miller which considers some of the issues involved in teaching library technician courses externally. At this time only the Victorian Certificate of Applied Social Science (Library Technician) is taught partially by external study.

The Board does not believe that there is presently a need for criteria for assessment of these courses taught externally.

### 5 Review of By-laws and Regulations

Under the revised By-laws which came into effect in 1982, the Board of Examiners consists of only those three professional members of the Board of Education who are elected by the Professional Committee of General Council. The functions of the Board of Examiners are to make recommendations to Council on the admission of Associates and Fellows.

The Board of Education has now had an opportunity to consider the new arrangements, and believes that the membership

of the Board of Examiners is now too limited for the important role it performs. The Board has recommended to Council that all professional members of the Board of Education should be members of the Board of Examiners.

It has also proposed a rewording of Regulation B7, which relates to admission of Associates, to place emphasis on recognised professional qualifications, rather than on the Registration Examination. Further information about this item will be published in *InCite*.

### 6 Items for future consideration

Board members are considering a number of items for discussion at future meetings. These include the report of the Committee of Inquiry into Management Education in Australia (the Ralph Committee), the relationship between (tertiary) qualifications and the licence to practise, and methods of evaluating the teaching/learning environment in education for librarianship.

### 7 Continuing Education

The national program for *Managing People at Work* was launched most successfully in Hobart in June, and will continue in Canberra, Rockhampton, Sydney and Ballarat in September–November. *Libraries and Industrial Relations* has been held in Sydney and Melbourne, and further sessions are planned for Adelaide and Canberra.

Development of 1983 programs is well underway. Topics include time management, financial management, micro-computer applications in libraries, marketing and libraries, pressure groups and access to information. A series of technical briefings on topical items such as digital data networks, AV copyright and computer security are also planned.

The four principal overseas speakers for LAA22 are undertaking a number of continuing education activities with LAA divisions, affiliated groups and libraries while in Australia. See Happenings for details.

Sue Phillips

Assistant Executive Director

## C.E. Charivari\*

THIS CONFERENCE number of *InCite* marks the first appearance of what is intended to be a regular column of news (and views) on continuing education.

**Charivari** will aim to alert you to the Association's plans and programs, noteworthy c.e. developments at home and overseas, and thought-provoking and informative publications.

Though the Board of Education's report elsewhere in this issue summarises continuing education developments, two items likely to be of particular interest to members are discussed more fully below.

### 1982 Programs — Managing People at Work

Librarians who are responsible for directing or supervising the work of others will have a chance to hone their skills in this area of management by attending 'Managing People at Work,' the Association's second national program for 1982. This is a short but *intensive* course which examines the responsibilities of supervisors in libraries, considers problems arising in day-to-day management, and explores techniques for handling them.

After a successful launching in Hobart in June, the program will be going on circuit to Canberra (17–18 September), Rockhampton (4–5 October), Sydney (22–23 October), and Melbourne (4–5 November).

Workshops dealing with other aspects of management are included in plans for 1983.

*Program Planning* is a matter that the Board of Education's CE Committee and I have been pondering for some time. At present we have no substantial profile of members' needs and interests since our information is obtained intermittently from a variety of courses.

With the Board's approval, we now propose to solicit members' opinions on various aspects of continuing education by means of an insert in *InCite*. We are well aware of the methodological and other pitfalls in such an approach, but it is one that we are prepared to try in order to broaden our planning base.

Members will be asked to indicate their preferences concerning the subject matter, length, mode of offering, level, timing, location and cost of our c.e. programs.

The insert will appear in *InCite* no17, but Conference goers may obtain advance copies from the LAA stand. Why not invest an hour in *this* planning process?

Merilyn Bryce

Continuing Education Officer

\*Often defined as 'din or hurly-burly' but take heart *Punch* was subtitled the London Charivari.

## KURING-GAI COLLEGE OF ADVANCED EDUCATION SCHOOL OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION STUDIES

### ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM

#### *The Planning Process*

Friday 10 September 1982

1.30pm–8.30pm

Guest speakers: Dr W. Boyd Rayward (Dean, The Graduate Library School, University of Chicago, USA)

Mr Charles Robinson (Director, Baltimore County Public Library, Maryland, USA)

Ms Susan Edwards (Lecturer, Department of Information Studies, Kuring-gai CAE, Lindfield)

Cost: \$10.00 Graduates of KCAE  
\$15.00 Others

Everyone welcome

For application form and further information phone:  
Alison Burkhardt (02)467 9336.

Applications close: 6 September 1982

## Want something eye-catching for Adelaide?

The LAA's 'limited edition' of T-shirts and Sloppy Joes cannot be bettered.

A must for joggers during those early morning peregrinations through Adelaide (see page 11).

Available from the LAA office, or the LAA stand at LAA22.