FEEDBACK

Acquisitions Section

COMMITTEE MEMBERS WANTED
The Victorian Group of the Acquisitions Section is interested in hearing from any Victorians who are interested in becoming committee members. The Section is involved in all matters affecting acquisitions and serial work, and liaises closely with the Australian Serials SIG (ASSIG). Expressions of interest are welcome from librarians in all types of libraries and from individuals working in any area of the book trade or library supply industry. The Committee meets approximately every 6 weeks, usually at CSIRO in East Melbourne.

Please contact John Thawley (Secretary) on (03) 418 7274 or Derek Whitehead (President) on (03) 669 9989 for further details.

Library Technicians' Section

WRITING SEMINAR
Remember the seminars earlier in the year on writing procedures? The two we held were booked out, and we promised a re-run later in the year in the western suburbs. Alison Johnson has kindly agreed to conduct another seminar, to be held on 15 November at the University of Western Sydney, Nepean (Westmead Campus).

Check Events in this issue of *InCite* for details, and book early to reserve your place.

Jan Harris

Queensland Branch

The Queensland Branch reports that Brenda Simpson has taken over from Judy Goddard as Secretary. All correspondence should now be addressed to Brenda at 95 Illuta Avenue, Ferny Hills, Qld 4055; telephone (07) 351 3857 (h), (07) 354 1400 (w).

Cataloguers' Section

CREATING STANDARDS
The Cataloguers' Section (Queensland Group) was privileged to have the keynote speaker from the Cataloguers' Conference, held in September in Adelaide, address our meeting at the Queensland University of Technology (QUT) on 25 September.
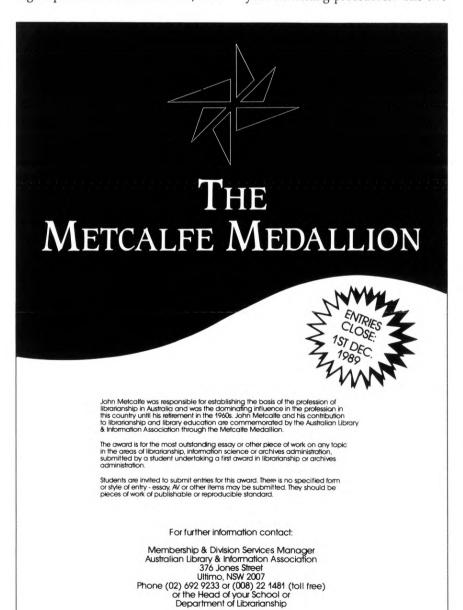
Rare Books LIbrarian
John B. Thomas III is the Rare Books Librarian at the University of Texas, USA, which has a huge cataloguing section within the Rare Books Department of the Library. In speaking on 'Cataloguing quality in the age of automation', he strongly emphasised the importance of cataloguing standards, now needed more than ever as a guide to producing quality records for online databases.

Clear identification necessary
Clear identification of an item is necessary to make it accessible, not only to the users of one library, but also to other potential users through interlibrary loans, union lists and shared cataloguing schemes. The best documental record identifies the item and distinguishes it from similar ones in a shared cataloguing database, and is of more value to users than a poorly produced record.

Cataloguing concern
John was concerned about the minimum levels of cataloguing being used in some databases, especially in retroconversion cataloguing. He mentioned the recognised standards, such as ISBD, AACR2, National Authority files,

THE METCALFE MEDALLION

ENTRIES CLOSE: 1ST DEC. 1989

John Metcalfe was responsible for establishing the basis of the profession of librarianship in Australia and was the dominating influence in the profession in this country until his retirement in the 1960s. John Metcalfe and his contribution to librarianship and library education are commemorated by the Australian Library & Information Association through the Metcalfe Medallion.

The award is for the most outstanding essay or other piece of work on any topic in the areas of librarianship, information science or archives administration, submitted by a student undertaking a first award in librarianship or archives administration.

Students are invited to submit entries for this award. There is no specified form or style of entry - essay, AV or other items may be submitted. They should be pieces of work of publishable or reproducible standard.

For further information contact:

Membership & Division Services Manager
Australian Library & Information Association
376 Jones Street
Ultimo, NSW 2007
Phone (02) 692 9233 or (008) 22 1481 (toll free)
or the Head of your School or
Department of Librarianship

LCSH, Dewey, UDC, Bliss, Marc, L/C Marc etc. He also explained how standards are created. In-house database standards are often created, and then developed and exchanged on the national/international scene and in groups within library associations.

John urged us to look at standards, become involved in such groups, do surveys and studies, make recommendations to the national body, and organise and lobby for changes.

He also questioned the purpose of cataloguing — we can no longer just replicate the card catalogue as the format, and the nature of access has changed with automation. There are many 'channels of access' into an on-line catalogue, which no longer solely 'belongs' to cataloguers. Cataloguers need to rethink the relevancy of some data and keep in mind the information needs of the audience, while remembering the record is a 'gateway to the book' or other item, and a well-catalogued record is more easily identified and more useful to everyone.

Carol-Ann McVinish
Committee member

2.'Technical studies' in research and quantitative methods provide the students with a high level of expertise in evaluating the quality of information on which various information products and services are based. This strand also develops skills necessary for applied research in information and information provision — for example, performance measurement and other measures of the quality of service used by managers.

The units cover enquiry methods, identification of unresolved problems and questions in information practice, and basic statistics.

3.'Integrating studies' are of two kinds, project-based and elective. The first project-based unit, information consolidation, draws together theory and professional skills aspects of the course. The project documents the design, production, management and evaluation of an information product or service of the student's choice, such as a newsletter, a state-of-the-art review, a storytelling program, a fee-based enquiry service, or an informational video.

The second unit, a minor or major research project, provides an opportunity for students to research a problem or question in information work in considerable depth. It focuses on the development of the student's conceptual and general intellectual skills.

An elective unit is taken by students who choose to complete the minor research project. Electives offered by the School of Library and Information Studies include information policy and planning, learning process and curriculum and information systems development. Students may also elect a unit offered in other Schools in the University of Technology — for example, in the areas of organisational studies, media and marketing.

Enquiries about this course may be directed to Helen Gilkes, telephone: (02) 413 8200.