

CSIRO's future

I was troubled to read Jerelynn E. Brown's concern about the changes believed to be occurring in CSIRO. If the changes described in 'CSIRO — End of an Era' were true, they would indeed be a cause for anxiety. However, as the anonymity in which the author chose to conceal [himself] suggests, the article was in fact an irresponsible account of the facts.

It is true that CSIRO is reviewing its whole library network. The management consultant's study referred to in the article has been one part of the process. An earlier Library and Information Services Task Force, representing CSIRO librarians, staff associations and others, was another. The third was recommended by the Task Force, and is currently commencing. This is a study of CSIRO site libraries, which also involves librarians and a staff association representative.

Given that the process of review is still in train, it would have been inappropriate to engage in public debate over the detail of the changes being canvassed. However, since my appointment I have made considerable efforts to open dialogue with the library community on broad matters of principle, and to seek their views on the kinds of issues raised by J. E. Brown.

As far as the facts are concerned, J. E. Brown has been misled. CSIRO is not planning the 'destruction of scientific information resources'. There have been no cuts in support to AUSTRALIS and CSIRO databases. We are hoping that increased demand for these services will ensure their continued expansion. In the meantime, CSIRO support is being maintained.

Interlibrary loan and reference services are being maintained although they have been suffering financial stringencies for several years. What public service hasn't? Interestingly, the one controversial measure that I am canvassing publicly, namely full cost recovery for interlibrary loans, would, if introduced, allow CSIRO to reverse this situation. I say, 'if introduced', because I am conscious that this is an area where unilateral action could be counterproductive. All proposed changes to existing arrangements are being evaluated carefully to establish their potential benefits and costs.

What is happening, as with CSIRO central stores, is that we are increasing the effort going into an ongoing housekeeping operation begun some years ago but impeded through lack of resources. We are also valuing the material received on Gifts and Exchange. Eventually, the CSIRO Divisional librarians will determine which exchanges should be maintained on the basis of cost-effectiveness and value to the CSIRO collection or of potential value to other Australian collections.

These processes are not being conducted behind closed doors. No material or exchange of potential value is being discarded until it has been carefully evaluated. Outside libraries with a potential interest in this material are also

being notified of contemplated changes to give them an opportunity to nominate any material unique to Australia or of particular significance to their collection that they wish to preserve. I invite any of your readers responsible for academic or research libraries who have not already been approached by CSIRO to let me know of subject areas in which they might like to take over exchanges or material culled from our central collection. We can add them to the list of libraries that we notify of contemplated changes.

As noted above, our review processes are not complete. When they are, I will provide the library community with a full account of the CSIRO's intentions through the columns of publications such as *InCite*. In the meantime, I would like to meet and talk with as many interested members of the community as possible to explain how the situation is evolving and to hear their views. I would be particularly grateful if individuals who share J. E. Brown's concern might check their facts with a CSIRO spokesperson before making or answering calls to action. It might just avoid wasting the efforts of local members [of Parliament] on an insubstantial case at a time when there are more significant CSIRO-related matters, such as our overall budget, for them to work on.

James A. Lumbers
Assistant General Manager
Information Services Unit

Features articles are frequently unsigned. The information in the *InCite* article referred to above was believed to be an accurate statement of the facts as they were known at the time the article was published.

The book count

I thank the President for his kind reference in 'Frontline' (*InCite*, no. 13, 12 August) to my past efforts in statistics.

I have retained my interest in library statistics but without institutional backing there is little I can do to clear up the indescribable mess into which most attempts have fallen. I may make some 'historical' comments.

The main reason why our several attempts to create sound statistical bases and overviews of library services have failed is because we have left this important task to librarians! When I was preparing the first Census, I had much help from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS);

the Lynch Razor Gang, unable to understand what libraries and librarians are about, issued a ukas preventing the ABS from continuing the compilation of library statistics. I have always been proud, in a negative way, that this particular aspect of social statistics was explicitly excluded by the government of the day — it gives one a certain cachet *negatif d'importance*.

However, if ABS had been allowed to do what they had promised me, we would have had an impartial and responsible body forcing the LAA to make up its collective mind regarding basic definitions. Why, the LAA — and certain sections of it in particular — can't even tell you who is a librarian and who is not! That is one of the basic questions that stymied the first Census. Next came the inevitable task of ensuring that the 'count' would relate to bibliographical items — not toys, mss., number games, etc. These are the problems that bedevil any attempt at a census; some of them have been spelt out by me and others, but nobody appears to have the guts to say precisely who is causing the problem.

I am of course, a librarian (you know, once a librarian always a librarian!) of the Old School and I fervently continue to believe that our libraries should primarily deal with books and with services related to them, for the better information and enlightenment of our fellow citizens. Libraries so called that do not contribute materially to our bibliographic wealth should be left aside until we have the time and need to make a paper count rather than a book count.

Dietrich Borchardt

IFLA thanks the LAA

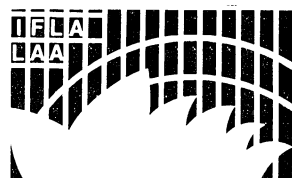
On behalf of the IFLA Executive Board and the IFLA community present at the IFLA/LAA conference in Sydney this year, I want to express my sincere thanks for all your energy and activities which made this happening so rewarding and successful.

However complicated the organisation, for both LAA and IFLA participants, the combination of their conferences was at least an interesting experience. We highly appreciated the relaxed and open atmosphere in which the meetings and other events took place.

We learned that the Australian librarians are not only good in organising but also in

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LAA Conference Proceedings 1988



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LIBRARY ASSOCIATION of AUSTRALIA HONORARY AWARDS

Nominations are now being called for the following honorary awards of the Library Association of Australia.

HCL Anderson Award

The General Council may confer the H.C.L. Anderson Award on any person who is a professional member of the Association or who holds an overseas qualification in librarianship or archives which is recognised as a professional qualification by a library association or archives association in the country concerned, and who has rendered outstanding service to librarianship or to the library profession in Australia, or to the LAA, or to the theory or practice of librarianship.

Redmond Barry Award

The General Council may confer the Redmond Barry Award on any person who is not eligible to be a professional member of the Association and who is not employed in a library who, in the opinion of General Council, has rendered outstanding service to the promotion of a library or of libraries, to the Association, to the theory or practice of librarianship, or to an associated field such as bibliography.

Ellinor Archer Award

The General Council may confer the Ellinor Archer Award on any person employed or who has been employed in libraries, who is not eligible for Associateship of the LAA, who has rendered outstanding service to libraries, the promotion of a library, or libraries, to the theory or practice of librarianship or to an associated field such as systems, conservation, management or bibliography.

Letter of Recognition

The General Council may on the recommendation of the Honorary Awards Committee present a letter of recognition to a person or

an institution or organisation who/which has rendered a significant, specific service to a library or libraries, to the LAA or to the promotion or development of libraries or library science or who has over a period demonstrated significant services well over the call of duty in these fields.

Nominations

Members and Divisions of the Association may make a recommendation that an honorary award be conferred by writing confidentially to the Convenor LAA Honorary Awards Committee, C/- LAA, 376 Jones Street, Ultimo NSW 2007.

Confidentiality

It is essential that nominees should NOT be aware that they are nominated for an award. Nominations are considered by the Honorary Awards Committee and Council in committee, and details are published only when the nomination is successful.

Divisions of the Association particularly are asked not to note nominations in their agenda papers or minutes. Disclosure of such details can prejudice a nomination.

Nomination forms

Nomination forms and further information on each of the awards may be obtained from the Assistant Executive Director or Programme Support Manager, LAA, 376 Jones Street, Ultimo NSW 2007.

Nominations for the HCL Anderson Award, Redmond Barry Award and Ellinor Archer Award close on **Tuesday 28 February 1989**. Nomination for Letters of Recognition may be made at any time, and will be considered at the first available meeting of the Honorary Awards Committee.

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improvising. This skill, I personally admire very much because unexpected elements can sometimes give a conference a special touch.

Through this conference, Australia has become much closer to us, not only geographically but also professionally. This is a fact we have to keep in mind for the development of new projects and other activities. I assume that the Australian librarians have the same feeling about IFLA. An example is the plan for a PAC Seminar for the Third World in Australia in 1989 which expresses the involvement of Australia at a worldwide level.

We also want to compliment you on your presentation at the Meeting of Conference Organisers. This was in one word: Excellent!

And finally, the IFLA officials and officers thank you also for your co-operation; your assistance and support were efficient in every respect.

We hope to see a large Australian delegation in Paris next year.

Paul Nauta
IFLA General Secretary

WHO'S WHERE

- Heather Black has recently been appointed Data Trek product manager for Resource Card Services, a service organisation to university and college libraries, and suppliers of the magnetic stripe debit card systems. Data Trek, is a fully integrated library management system which operates from a personal computer.

Heather is a fully qualified librarian and prior to joining Resource Card Services, she was library consultant for Hills Library and Information Services and previously worked as the Information Centre co-ordinator for Bank of America Australia Ltd.

- Following the resignation of Mary Lord, Frances H. Awcock has been appointed executive director of the National Book Council. Holding a Bachelor of Arts degree and a Diploma in Librarianship, she brings with her a wealth of experience in the world of literature, librarianship and education.

In her last position as director of Technical Services, State Library of Victoria, she was responsible for the development of the library's collections and for their bibliographic control.

- Stowe Computing Australia has appointed Howard Amos to the position of customer support consultant—library. He has worked in public and academic libraries, New Zealand and attended the University of NSW Graduate School of Librarianship where he specialised in library automation.

Stowe Computing has also recently appointed to its Library Systems Section, Stan Hirschfeld, as industry manager; Margaret Allen, as product manager, and Sue Harmer as library support consultant.

- Three new staff have been appointed to Nunawading Public Library, Melbourne. They are Gay Sussex, deputy librarian, who recently came back to Australia after working for ten years in Manchester's libraries; Patricia Hulskamp, the new reference and information librarian, previously employed by the Melbourne City Libraries as corporate librarian; and Megan Lee, the new Central Branch children's librarian from Lalor Technical School.

- In September, Yu Ming Han started as a general library assistant in the Social Science and Humanities Library, University of NSW. Rita Keller returned to the library as general library assistant, grade I, in the Audio Visual Section.

- Mr Masaki Nasu of the National Diet Library in Japan, has just returned to his country after a three-year secondment at the National Library of Australia (NLA).

During this term at the NLA, he worked with the Japanese collection, selecting, cataloguing and carrying out reference duties. Masaki worked as editor of the *Japanese National Bibliography* before coming to Australia. In Australia, he has written two articles on the NLA Japanese collection and conducted a survey of users of the NLA Japanese collection. A successor is expected to come to NLA early in 1989.

- Mike Haslam has retired as national manager, Subscription Division, University Co-operative Bookshop Limited. He would like to thank the librarians and library staff who demonstrated loyalty over the past eight years at the University Co-operative Bookshop Ltd. He would also like to thank those associated with the health sciences area of librarianship and with GRATIS, GRATISSA, GRATISQ, GRATISACT and VICGRATIS.

Labeling Systems Advice

Does anyone have a SE-LIN 290D labeler? Mitchell CAE Library would like to contact any library using this system, especially associated with an IBM Wheelwriter or Typewriter. Send us a message on LIBNET (MLN205100) and we'll ring you or phone Margaret McPherson or Susan Blood on (063) 332 732. Thanks in anticipation

Get in touch with the LAA by fax. The LAA's fax number is 692 0689.

Inserts this issue:

LAA Tas Branch newsletter.
LAA Vic Branch newsletter.
CAA - Aboriginal film and video flyer.