



Planning Guidelines

5(20) 1984 reports the 'successful planning' of *Policy and planning guidelines for public libraries*. It was comforting to read an article, remarkable for its typographical errors, that the function was well led.

The invitation arrived two days before the and a telephone call to LAA House met the polite response that the short notice due to the need to select a date convenient for important guests. Obviously committee members responsible for creating the guidelines did not fit into this category. The committee had also arranged for Bruce Petty to launch the publication. Bruce's participation in this way would have involved some national consequence and would have given the LAA an opportunity to acknowledge his generosity in creating a portfolio of illustrations at a nominal fee. I hope that the Association at least congratulated Gael Fraser and Marina Garlick when they met the launching date. Both librarians had so hard to make the new guidelines a reality. Members of the profession owe a great debt to them.

L.H. Ellis

Victorian Representative
LAA Public Library Guidelines
Committee

date for the launching of *Policy and planning guidelines for public libraries* was decided upon in consultation with Marina Garlick and to suit the busy schedules of Bruce Petty and Warren Horton. Invitations were sent out approximately two weeks before the function and possibly the late arrival of the invitation was due to delays by Australia Post. Bruce Petty was invited to participate in the launching of the invitation stated. *Editor*)

IFLA

It seems to me that the main impetus behind the wishing of IFLA 1988 on to Sydney comes from Melbourne and Canberra, and maybe from people who must be harbouring a certain animus against this Bicentennial-torn city. Sydney librarians don't seem that keen.

I wonder whether the LAA could hold a referendum of all members, asking:

Question 1. Is it your wish that IFLA should meet in Australia? If your answer is *yes* (which it certainly wouldn't be in my case) please tick one (only) of the following:

Question 2. Would you like the meeting to be held in

- (a) Melbourne
- (b) Perth
- (c) Canberra
- (d) any other capital city or country centre you'd like to embarrass — please specify . . .

In the circumstances all informal votes, and all eligible members failing to vote, should be counted as *no* answers to Question 1; and the officers of the LAA should be committed to acting in accordance with the advice embodied in the result.

Janet D. Hine

PNG Funding

I was astounded to read that the Library of the University of Papua New Guinea was given funding to establish a Papua New Guinea Information Network project (*InCite*, 30 November 1984).

Surely funding for projects of this nature should be allocated to the National Library Service of Papua New Guinea, rather than to a University Library (or has the University Library formally taken over the function of providing bibliographical services on a national basis for Papua New Guinea?).

Tim Bruwer,
College Librarian.

CAVAL OFFICE MOVE

As from Tuesday the 4th of December 1984, the new address for the CAVAL office is
10 PROSPECT HILL ROAD
CAMBERWELL VICTORIA 3124
PHONE: (03) 813 3844

The CAVAL office will continue to be serviced by the VUAC Courier.

SHOULD PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP SELF-DESTRUCT?

The Board of Education has recently been discussing Association policy concerning professional membership, bearing in mind changed conditions in society at large and in particular the broadening of the information industry, emerging roles and expectations of information workers, and the need for professional members continually to update and renew their knowledge base.

Revalidation was one of the ways the Board saw of encouraging renewal and updating. That is, periodic reassessment of a professional member by the Association, to determine whether the member has maintained the initial level of competence set down for admission to professional membership. The implication of failure of such a member to satisfactorily demonstrate competence at revalidation time, would, of course, be the loss of his or her professional 'licence', with professional membership lapsing after a specified period.

The Board discussed a paper prepared by one of its members, Mairéad Browne, which examined the rationale for revalidation, and the criteria on which it might be based, such as work experience and continuing education. The conclusion of the Board was that revalidation process for professional member would be both costly and complex. More importantly, the Board decided that the philosophy inherent in such a process was inappropriate for librarians in Australia at this time and that revalidation processes could be seen as punitive rather than a positive encouragement to professional self-development on a continuing basis. The Board therefore gave the 'thumbs down' to revalidation for professional members of the LAA.

The Board's discussion on professional membership continues, and will now focus on the potential of developing a range of professional membership categories including 'higher' categories to which members might aspire.

Copies of the Board's discussion papers on possible future policies on professional membership, may be obtained from Sue Phillips, Assistant Executive Director.

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