

LIBRARY ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA, ARCHIVES SECTION
NEWSLETTER NO 2
(August 1972)

1. Standards and Status.

The L.A.A.'s Committee on Standards and Status has addressed a circular communication to the Archives Section, which for larger Sections of the Association is primarily intended for Divisions. The Committee asks to be fed information on 'salaries, standards, working conditions, staff classifications, case studies (e.g. where a well-run special library convinces the employer of its value), investigations that are under way, and problems that exist – in fact anything at all related to the standards (in the broadest sense) and status of librarianship.' Archives officers who would like to contribute such information are invited to channel it through the Honorary Secretary of the Section, Mr J.H.M. Honniball, 77 Melville Beach Road, Applecross, Western Australia 6153.

2. Committee on Social Issues.

Priority is to be given by the L.A.A. in 1972 to promoting programmes of continuing education, federal aid to public libraries, and social issues. With regard to the latter, the Archives Section has received a letter from Mr Allan Horton, the Convener of the Committee on Social Issues, asking for any suggestions of comments that members may care to make. These could be sent to the Secretary of this Section who will send them on. The Committee suggests that priority should be given for the present to the following:–

- (a) The availability of books to children;
- (b) Remedial teaching for poor readers;
- (c) Provision of adequate libraries for children;
- (d) Problems of reading and book provision for Aborigines, migrants, handicapped, poor, aged, etc.

3. Permanent Headquarters.

The A.C.T. Branch Council has submitted proposals to be considered by the General Council of the L.A.A. that the permanent staff of the Association be located in Canberra in prestige accommodation and that a full-time Executive Director be appointed.

4. International Federations of Library Associations.

A sub-committee of the L.A.A. is to be formed to study the feasibility of holding the 1976 I.F.L.A. Council meeting in Australia.

5. Sub-Professional Staff.

A request has been made to the L.A.A. from the Technicians Course at Whitehorse Technical College, Box Hill, Victoria, that consideration be given to the formation of a Section of the Association to cover the interests of library clerks and technicians.

6. Bibliographical Services.

In April the Victorian Branch of the L.A.A. held an advanced workshop on Australian bibliographical services. The general view emerged that the top priority for the National Library of Australia should be to achieve excellence in the creation and dissemination of current bibliographical data. The view was expressed that the state of retrospective bibliography of Australian publications should be improved, including the closing of the so-called "Ferguson gap". The use of microfiche, microfilm and MARC also came under discussion. On local and local government publications it was recommended that State and public libraries should be asked to participate more actively in tracing local publications and to assume greater responsibility for ensuring that local publications were listed in the national bibliography. The need for a current Index to Australian newspapers was urgent and a union catalogue of documentary films was recommended. It was regarded as highly desirable that legal deposit provisions for audio-visual materials including, but not restricted to, sound tapes, recordings and Australian prints should be introduced into Australian legislation.

7. Guide to Collections of Manuscripts Relating to Australia.

In March 1972 a meeting to discuss matters concerning the *Guide to Collections of Manuscripts Relating to Australia* was held at the National Library, Canberra. The discussions covered the size limits of collections and the desirability of including official records, copies (Xerox, microfilm, etc.), closed or restricted material and tapes from oral history projects. A possible change of title, the form of the *Guide* and the subject index were also considered.

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NEWS NOTES

The Archives of the University of Tasmania

Some recent transfers to this repository have included a large collection of Midwood cartoons, 1900–1904; the files of the Australian Labor Party (the opposition in the Tasmanian Parliament, 1969–72); and some very early letters of the Grant family of "Tullochgorum", Fingal, 1823–26.