

MISCELLANY

Edited by MICHAEL SACLIER

More on non-aqueous deacidification

For those not familiar with them I recommend the following articles which give information on the Chicago Process of non-aqueous deacidification as well as a useful survey of "established methods". As more up-to-date information comes to notice it will be included here and any useful references on this or similar topics which readers may come across would be gratefully received by the writer.

G. M. and D. G. Cunha *Conservation of Library Material: A manual and bibliography* (2 vols.) 2nd ed. Scarecrow Press, Metuchon N.J. 1971-1972. Appendix S Vol I pp. 380-6.

R. D. Smith "New Approaches to Preservation" in H. W. Winger and R. D. Smith (eds.) *Deterioration and Preservation of Library Material: Proceedings of the 34th Annual Conference of the Graduate School of Librarianship, Chicago, August 4-6, 1969*. University of Chicago Press 1970. Also published in *Library Quarterly* Vol. 4, No. 1, January 1970.

Unesco Draft Law on Archives

I am grateful to Mr. Kevin Green for drawing my attention to a volume in the Unesco series Documentation, libraries and archives: Studies and Research which should be of interest to all Australian archivists at a time when archival legislation and reorganisation at both State and national levels is news. This is the *Draft Model Law on Archives: Description and Text* by Salvatore Carbone and Raoul Gueze, Unesco, Paris, 1972, produced by I.C.A. under contract for Unesco.

It is not my intention to review the volume here but merely to draw attention to it. It would, however, be well worth a review article concentrating more, perhaps, on the underlying premises and thinking than on the text of the law itself.

There is, however, one point which for interest or amusement I would like to mention. Article 170 of the draft law lays down relative salary levels for various staff classifications on a points basis, and a copy of this is appended. The salary levels for the administrative class are based on those of university teachers (presumably Italian) and those of the administrative assistants and technical class on the salaries of equivalent officials in other occupations ("officials of the law courts, treasury, etc."). To apply this scale to the Australian situation is difficult as the draft law envisages a highly integrated national archives service, and the scale is based on a far less egalitarian society. This second point might be best illustrated by applying the scale on the basis of the lowest paid employee (that of Porter) receiving the minimum wage (at present over \$2,500 p.a.). A base-grade archivist should then receive \$10,417 and the Superintendent-General \$29,167! Mr. Green has calculated relative salaries on the basis of salaries paid to Attendants (who have since received an increase) and Head Watchmen at the Australian National University and these have been added to the table as Scales 1 and 2 respectively. For "professional" positions in archives it would be of interest to construct a scale on the basis of new recruits to the profession. However, this information is not readily available and in any case is likely to vary considerably from institution to institution. A possible comparison might be made by equating the post of Superintendent-General with that of the Director of the Commonwealth Archives Office, and scale 3 has been constructed on this basis. In each case the figure underlined is that from which the others have been calculated.

	Index Figure	Scale 1	Scale 2	Scale 3
Administrative				
State Archivist	150	4232	3382	3707
Research-historian/Archivist (basic professions)	250	7053	5636	6178
Research Worker or expert who has completed 8 years' active employment in the grade	350	9874	7890	8649
Research Worker or expert who has completed 20 years' active employment in the grade	450	12695	10145	11121
Research director or laboratory director	550	15516	12399	13592
Secretary General	600	16926	13526	14828
Superintendent-General of Archives	700	19747	15780	17300
Administrative Assistant and Technical				
Secretary/accountant or laboratory technician	100	2821	2254	2471
Senior Sec/accountant or senior lab. technician	200	5642	4508	4942
Principal Sec/accountant or principal lab. technician	300	8463	6763	7414
Chief Secretary or head of workshop	400	11284	9018	9885
Executive				
Assistant	75	2116	1691	1853
Senior Assistant	150	4232	3382	3707
Chief Assistant	250	7053	5636	6178
Assistant archivist	300	8463	6163	7414
Auxiliary Staff and Attendants				
Porter	60	1693	1353	1482
Head Porter	120	3385	2705	2964
Attendant	150	4232	3382	3707
Guard	200	5642	4508	4942
Head Guard	250	7053	5636	6178

Toward an Association of Archivists

In the last edition of this section an outline was given of the formation of a steering committee to investigate the practicability of forming an association of archivists. This has been augmented by the addition of Mr. Christopher Hurley, Senior Archivist in charge of Registration and Disposal operations in the A.C.T. Branch of the Commonwealth Archives Office.

Three valuable informal meetings have been held in the A.C.T. to discuss various aspects of the formation of such an association the results of which will be passed to the steering committee in the hope that they will be of assistance.

In general the reaction to the idea has been very favourable, particularly in the A.C.T. and Victoria.

As a by-product of the A.C.T. meetings it was decided to form a group similar to the Sydney Archivists Group which will hold its first meeting in February 1974.

The Ademco Flatbed Presses and Lamatec Laminating Tissue

Readers will recall that in the August issue mention was made of the above. The A.N.U. Archives' press has now been installed but has not yet been brought into full operation.

Initial experiments indicate that it needs to be used with some care and that there are some traps into which the inexperienced can fall. It does, however, promise to be a worthwhile addition to the archivist's equipment and further developments will be reported at an early stage.