

ASSOCIATION OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST LIBRARIANS

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**NINTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE
SERVICE THROUGH LIBRARIANSHIP
UNION COLLEGE, LINCOLN, NEBRASKA
JUNE 19 - 24, 1989**

- Adventist Resources Section, Pre-Conference Monday, June 19
 - Opening Conference Session Monday evening, June 19
George Akers, Director,
General Conference Department of Education
 - Tour of Nebraska Historical Sites Wednesday, June 21
 - Valentino's Famous Pizza** Wednesday evening, June 21
A visit to Lincoln wouldn't be
complete without this!
 - Management Seminar Thursday, June 22
Herbert S. White, Dean
School of Library and Information Science
Indiana University
- **One of the authorities of today's profession! Don't miss this.****

Complete conference program is a supplement to this issue as are registration forms and maps. Make your plans now to attend this outstanding conference.

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**HEAD LIBRARIAN HOPES FOR \$16,200 IN REFUND
FOR BAD CATALOG SYSTEM**

by Tammy Wolcott

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McKee Library [Southern College] is looking for a new computer system to replace Sidney, which has served the library since April 1987. Sidney can't handle the library's 85,000 book records and it takes between 30 seconds and 30 minutes when searching, according to Peggy Bennett, the Head Librarian.

Bennett is hoping to get a \$16,200 refund from Sidney to buy a better system. Brian Foley, vice-president of the company which manufactures Sidney, apologized for its inaccurate estimate that the computer could handle the 85,000 records which McKee Library stores. He told Bennett, "If we can't improve your response time we will refund your money."

Sidney, called the "Mercedes of Systems," was selected after a thorough research by the librarians, said Bennett. It is used for searching subjects, titles, and authors. Sidney is connected to an IBM/AT compatible computer with a hard disk drive of 350 megabytes, capable of containing 200,000 titles.

Many students have been frustrated by Sidney's slow searching. Eric Tanner, a senior Public relations major, said, "I don't like it. It's too slow and too vague."

Some promising new systems are Mediflex, Computer Assistant Library Information Co., Inc., and Calico Lion.

"Mediflex is now on our file server, but is not accessible to students. It gives the library staff a chance to see where the system's problems are," said Bennett.

A visiting Mediflex representative loaded 75,000 records into his system in one-half hour. "It took us weeks to do the same thing," said Bennett.

**SOUTHERN COLLEGE RECEIVES REFUND
FROM SIDNEY**

Peg Bennett, library director at Southern College, reported at press time that they have received a \$20,500 refund, costs plus damages, for the Sidney system due to the problems described in the above article. The Mandarin system has now been selected and tested extensively. "We are very happy with the results", reports Peg. The president of Mandarin has provided Southern College a letter guaranteeing a full refund if response time exceeds 10 seconds.

PUC UNVEILS COMPUTERIZED LIBRARY CATALOG

Reprinted with permission from the Campus Chronicle

At 10 a.m. on January 5, the last card was filed in the old card catalog in the Nelson Memorial Library at Pacific Union College. Moments later the new computer terminals which contain all entries held by the college were unveiled by PUC President Malcolm Maxwell.

The new "on-line" catalog give students and visitors speeded-up access to some 125,000 titles, plus visuals that include the library's floor plan.

"The system utilizes CD-ROM (read only memory), read by a microcomputer. This simply means the computer uses compact discs that look like conventional music CDs, except that they read text and visuals," says Taylor Ruhl, library director.

The system, called the Intelligent Catalog from the Library Corporation, Washington, D.C., is designed to be user friendly, offering on-screen instructions and a telephone receiver which gives audio instructions.

Students looking for a specific title can search the catalogue by entering either author, subject or even key words.

"People won't be dependent on knowing the exact terminology we librarians use," says Ruhl "With the on-line catalog we have also drastically reduced the scope of assignments for library instruction. Students ought to like that."

When the correct title has been located, the user may print all or part of the on-screen information. A dot matrix printer is attached to each terminal.

In the future, Ruhl hopes to see a catalog station in each dormitory. "Our limitation at this point is money. Grant proposals have been sent out, and we're waiting to see if funds will become available."

Those attending the unveiling ceremony included Dick Sletwick, Dorothy Ferren, and Barbara Phipps. Sletwick, currently catalog librarian, was library director when conversion of the card catalog to machine readable format began in 1977. Ferren was the first librarian at PUC to catalog with a computer. Phipps, retired reference librarian, is a volunteer card filer and filed the last card in the catalog on January 5.

PUC RECEIVES GRANT FOR AUTOMATION

The Fletcher Jones Foundation of Los Angeles notified Pacific Union College on March 22 that they were funding a grant proposal for \$40,000 to fund the addition of the circulation module to the online catalog and the purchase of additional catalog stations including the hardware to provide dial access from microcomputers across campus.

The proposal was prepared and submitted by Dr. Yew Chong Wong of the College Development office with the library faculty advising.

ADVENTISM IN THE ANTIPODES: A REVIEW OF TWO BOOKS

by Keith Clouten

Seventh-day Adventists in the South Pacific, 1885-1985. Edited by Noel Clapham. Wairoa, Australia: Australasian Division of Seventh-day Adventists, 1985.

Symposium on Adventist History in the South Pacific, 1885-1918.

Arthur J. Ferch, editor. Wairoa, Australia: South Pacific Division of Seventh-day Adventists, 1986.

The year 1985 was significant for the Adventist Church in the South Pacific as it marked the centenary of the church's work there. In June 1885 a party of eleven Seventh-day Adventists from North America landed in Sydney, launching a work which in one hundred years has grown to include 185,000 members.

Recent commemoration of these beginnings has included the publication of two important books, both sponsored and published by the South Pacific Division.

Seventh-Day Adventists in the South Pacific, 1885-1985 is an attractive album of photographs (many in color) and text by sixteen contributors, edited by Noel Clapham, now-retired history professor at Avondale College. The contributions follow a thematic rather than chronological presentation, presenting such topics as "Public Evangelism", "Adventist Youth", and "The Aborigines." Of the fifteen chapters, one covers New Zealand and another the Pacific Islands. The absence of a brief overview of the entire period is a serious omission. Without it there is no total picture into which the individual contributions can be fitted. Another surprising omission is a chapter tracing the nine years that Ellen White spent in Australia (the chapter on Avondale College has little to say about her influence on its beginnings). The fact that the book is aimed at the ordinary church member rather than the scholar explains the lack of footnotes or bibliographies. But even if the book "is not intended to be a reference work" (preface), the lack of an index to a publication filled with hundreds of personal and place names (including photographs) is almost unforgivable! All this notwithstanding, the book is an important album of Adventist history in the South Pacific.

In October 1985, the South Pacific Division sponsored its first Adventist History Symposium at Monash University in Melbourne, with contributions from sixteen scholars including one non-Adventist. The sixteen papers have been published as Symposium on Adventist History in the South Pacific: 1885-1918, edited by Arthur Ferch. A second seminar in 1988 was to deal with events and issues since 1918. The papers are grouped under four general headings, covering such diverse topics as SDAs in their socio-political and religious environment, the influence of A. G. Daniells in Australia, some aspects of the church's growth, and three papers on the Pacific island work. The contributions are uniform and well documented, providing valuable insights into Adventist history and development in one part of the world. The South Pacific Division and its scholars are to be commended on a fine and worthwhile project.

FROM A READER: ACTION'S FIRST LETTER TO THE EDITOR

I commend Maynard Lowry for his fine article concerning recruitment and retention of SDA librarians. As I looked at the age distribution of current SDA librarians, I was struck by how similar it is to the national norm. It is important to remember that many librarians come into the profession when they are in their 30s or older. This was certainly true in the library school (Chapel Hill) that I attended.

As we think about the career paths of potential employees, we should remember that, for many of them, it will be a second or third career. This also opens opportunities to recruit potential employees who want to make a career change. Women re-entering the work force are one such group. Another is primary and secondary teachers who may have belatedly decided that their career is not what they thought it might be. There is much burnout in education today, and that could work for or against us. We certainly don't need employees who are so burned out and tired that they don't offer the "new blood" that we need.

We have openly stated in our [library's] strategic plan that we want a wide mix of ages, ethnic groups, library school attended, and experience represented on our professional staff. Just how we can market our potential jobs to those with the most potential seems a major problem. We don't have so many openings that we can justify setting off a stampede to library schools. We should also consider how to [recruit] more [minorities] to our profession.

One of the traditional career paths has posed increasing difficulties in recent years. SDA secondary schools hire fewer and fewer professional librarians, so there is a very small pool to recruit from. In addition, the specialized training needed for school and academic librarians has become so divergent that by choice or accident one seems to get locked into one path or the other. Many school librarians are committed to remaining there and resent the notion that moving to higher education is a "promotion".

On the other hand, librarians in higher education must have a real commitment to the academic world and be able to work with and be respected by administrative and teaching colleagues. The church also has difficulty staffing its overseas college libraries, especially when expatriate workers are needed. In addition to the usual problems with using expatriates at this time, there don't seem to be enough to go around. This is not helped by what I perceive as a church attitude that paying a professional librarian to go overseas isn't very important, and they would just as soon use a volunteer retiree (there aren't enough of them to "go around" either) rather than pay a full salary. I am not criticizing the abilities of our retired librarians or the contributions that they have made. What bothers me is the attitude that the church seems reluctant to pay librarians, when it appears they are more than willing to give full pay to other professionals.

An additional problem for expatriate librarians is where to "land" when their term is up. Often the timing is awkward and an appropriate opening is not always available. In addition, there is

often a need to update their professional knowledge so that they have the needed background to operate in North America. Perhaps church support of a semester sabbatical in library school for these individuals would make the landing easier.

While Loma Linda did "sponsor" a number of librarians to library school, it was quite unusual for Andrews to do the same (usually reserved for seminary librarians who come with theological training but no library education). One of the problems with sponsoring students at the master's level is lack of adequate policy. Unlike the doctoral graduates, there is no "bounty" given those who paid for their own degrees. Paying for some and not paying for others seems to me a good way to cause personnel problems.

The current system seems most unworkable because it requires that there be a pool of potential employees available at all times, ready and anxious to relocate. It is hard to plan for personnel changes because we never know when they will happen. We can no longer assume that our employees will stay until they retire. We also cannot plan exactly when a person will retire. Low salaries not only tend to "force out" some of those we can least afford to lose, it also makes it very difficult to recruit SDA librarians who work "outside", possibly because there was no opening at the time they were available. Once they're gone, they are usually gone for good.

I agree with Maynard that this is a difficult problem that is not getting easier. But I hope by open discussion we will be able to develop some successful strategies to deal with it. In addition to the problems of recruitment, we must also deal more adequately with the problems of retention.

Harvey Brenneise
Andrews University

INFORMATION SOUGHT FOR NEW OUTREACH PROGRAM

The General Conference Department of Education recently circulated a prototype issue of a new journal, DIALOGUE, designed for Adventists on secular university campuses. It is estimated that there are 40,000 young adults in this category, worldwide. The journal is sponsored by the committee on Ministry to College and University Students (MiCUS) of the General Conference.

Besides containing articles by James Cox, Jack Provonsha, Gottfried Oosterwal and others, the first issue of DIALOGUE includes a list of SDA professional associations, including ASDAL.

The sponsoring committee is appealing to all members of ASDAL to help locate Adventist students and faculty on non-SDA campuses. If you can supply the names and addresses of any individual who should receive DIALOGUE, would you please send the information to: Dr. Humberto Rasi, Associate Director, Department of Education, General Conference of SDA, 6840 Eastern Ave., N. W., Washington, D.C. 20012.