

## LETTER TO THE EDITORS

Re: Australian library schools

Dear Sirs,

I was pleased to see that the 1984 study of training for The Australian Bibliographic Network (ABN) was reviewed in *Education for information* 4 (1986) 127. However, I think the final paragraph concerning the "relative lack of attention paid to ABN by Australian library schools" requires a brief comment.

I suspect that any staff members of Australian schools of library and information studies reading the reviewer's comments would have found the wording quoted in the previous sentence somewhat ironic. From the viewpoint of many of the schools, perhaps the wording should have read the "relative lack of attention paid to Australian library schools by ABN". In the early years of ABN's development, Australian schools had considerable difficulty in gaining access to the database in any form. Three schools were chosen by ABN as "trial" sites. However, this was at considerable expense to the schools concerned.

The first time the schools were invited to put forward an indication of their requirements for links with ABN was early in 1985. This was only after much effort on the part of a number of schools. While resource problems remain in various forms, I am pleased to say that the situation has improved markedly since 1984, due to a combination of factors: the efforts of the schools, assistance from some larger libraries, library cooperatives and companies in the library automation business, and some changes in outlook and policy from ABN itself.

Yours sincerely

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