



**CENTRAL HIGHLANDS  
REGIONAL LIBRARY SERVICE**

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Dr. Stephen Murray-Smith,  
Editor,  
OVERLAND  
P.O. Box 249  
MT ELIZA 3930.

4 Feb 1988.

Dear Stephen,

It is with a great deal of trepidation that I submit this article for your consideration.

My thesis is this; due to financial constraints, Victorian Public Libraries are in trouble and the size and vitality of the book collections are likely to be one of the first casualties. Simultaneously local publishers are calling on Librarians to spend more public money on Australian books and thereby help promote Australian culture. Librarians are probably willing to co-operate but life is a giant trade-off. The publishers are going to have to improve areas of their service.

I am also working on various attitudes to Australian literature but the section dealing with the reading tastes etc of Librarianship students is depressing!

Even though it is an imposition, I would be grateful for any comments that you may wish to make about this piece.

Yours Sincerely,

*Peter Mansfield*

Peter Mansfield.

**OVERLAND**

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Dear Peter:

Thanks very much for the piece. I like it, a good mix of fact and wrath and clear thinking. I must say that I didn't find it as interestingly written as I would have hoped to. It hops about a bit, is not very well sewn together, would be a very much more effective piece if you treated this as a draft and re-wrote it, shortening by one-third and writing with some of the clarity and immediacy that you did in your accompanying letter.

If you would do this I would not only run it but would add one or two things to it, on libraries, and make the library issue a special feature of an early issue of the magazine.

It's certainly time we had a go on all this, and congratulations on grasping the nettle. I think that you could be even more hard-hitting and uncomplimentary in various areas than you are.

With many thanks and good wishes,

*Stephen*