

## The IFLA Conference

It was with some astonishment, upon opening my *InCite* No 13 of 13 September, that my name leapt out in print on page 2 in the following terms: 'Gordon Bower has agreed to approach ADAP (*sic*) and the Department of the Special Minister of State about government support at a Federal level' (for the IFLA Conference).

The publication of this untrue statement places me in a difficult position. If I seek a simple correction, I suspect it may be along the lines of 'Gordon Bower has not agreed to approach . . .'. If my letter is at all critical, it may suffer the fate of Marina Garlick's request for a correction, and not be published at all!

Please allow me to state the facts very briefly. Mr Mitcheson has approached me on three separate occasions on the question of federal funding for IFLA, the first occasion being some months ago, the most recent being two days before the copy in question of *InCite* was published. At no time have I agreed to approach ADAB (or anybody else). After thinking the matter through, following Barrie's initial approach, I decided that such requests for funding should be handled by either the International Relations Committee or the LAA Executive Director. I said, and still maintain, that approaches by individuals muddy the waters and do no good at all. On the last occasion on which we spoke, Barrie's response to this was to suggest that I join Warren Horton and Alan Bunsell on a Sponsorship Committee, an offer which I declined.

My reason for writing in this vein is that once again members of General Council, and the membership at large, are being deceived about the IFLA Conference. Following on from the resolution passed at the Brisbane AGM, the subsequent endorsing by General Council of

'the intent of this resolution' (GC 7/8 Dec 84, Minutes, p.7), and the adoption of GC 204/84, members might have expected to see some financial data about the conference by now. Indeed a 'firm commitment' was given at the March '85 G.C. in Canberra that a budget for the IFLA Conference would be 'published before the August '85 Council meeting' (the President's words at the meeting). We still have not seen one.

IFLA '88 must take place in Sydney and it must be a success. But it will only succeed when it has the support of the membership, and I, for one, want to see a lot more financial data than we have been given to date before my support is forthcoming. It would also help if we had some honest reporting of events at IFLA in Chicago, including the heated discussion which took place on some issues, rather than a glossy 'travelogue' report. To put it plainly, we want to know the good with the bad, and be able to make informed decisions based on facts.

G. R. Bower  
Manager

Information Service AIDC

## Censorship

V.L. Williams (*InCite*, August 30) raises two points about 'censorship' in libraries. He is clearly right to deplore political censorship in libraries.

The case of *Ex Nihilo*, the creationist magazine, is rather different. Despite its expensive production, research shows that it is riddled with errors, misquotations and misrepresentations. Nothing is perfect, but in *Ex Nihilo* the error rate appears to be about 90%! (I will send copies of the research to anyone interested.) Declining to hold such a magazine is hardly 'bias': it is simply keeping up standards. Incidentally, to describe *Ex Nihilo* as 'non-sectarian' is very misleading. It is an ultra-fundamentalist publication with views condemned by all the major churches.

(Dr) Martin Bridgstock  
Lecturer

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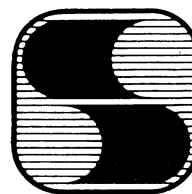
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