



### Professional appointment

I note in the issue of 9 May 1986 an advertisement for the position of State Librarian of Tasmania. Under 'Qualifications' it is stated that 'It is highly desirable that the successful application (*sic*) will have tertiary qualifications appropriate to the position . . .' In other words, the next State Librarian of Tasmania need not necessarily be a qualified librarian.

In 1972 the LAA adopted a 'Statement on Professional Appointments' which states, *inter alia* that 'A person who is not a librarian should not be called a librarian and should not be appointed to the position of a librarian'. The Statement also commits the Association to objecting 'with all means in its power' to any breach of these principles.

I ask two questions:

1. Has the Association objected, or is it going to object, to the decision by the government of Tasmania not to require librarianship qualifications for the position of State Librarian?
2. Why is the Association publishing an advertisement in its official newsletter which breaches its Statement on Professional Appointments?

*Neil A. Radford*  
University Librarian  
University of Sydney

Page 16 of *InCite* 9 May 1986 carries two advertisements (State Librarian, Tasmania; Librarian, Bald Hills College of Tafe) which do not prescribe that applicants must be eligible for professional membership of the LAA.

It seems to be inappropriate for *InCite* to carry advertisements without this prescription given that Branches of the LAA such as ours are at considerable pains to educate employers in this matter.

*Alan Bundy*  
President (SA)

### On isolation

It was with much interest that I read John Daley's letter on librarian isolation (*InCite* 9/5/86). I couldn't agree with him more.

I have just returned to the 'Big Smoke' to take up duties as special librarian with a government organisation after surviving approximately 2½ years in the wilderness at Trangie (you'll need the atlas for this one).

My problems were exactly the same as Mr Daley's and one does feel 'out of it' when reading of all the seminars, meetings and workshops that are held in Sydney. However, it is necessary to maintain an optimistic attitude and look for ways to become less isolated.

An excellent example is by 'networking'. There are other professional librarians west of the Great Divide. Surely these librarians can get together and have their own cocktail parties. After all Orange is only half an hour's drive from Bathurst and one and a half hours from Dubbo. Think of all the school, college public and government librarians in this region and the opportunities to network in terms of resource-sharing, holding seminars and generally swapping information.

I wonder how many city librarians (and Mr Daley) could cope with providing a library service in an area stretching from Mudgee (East) to Broken Hill (West) to Walgett (North). And relying on a manual telephone exchange. Imagine the shock on the other end of the line upon hearing 'are you extending!' On-line searching was a problem also until my previous employer installed a computer network with lease lines direct from Trangie to Sydney. No more acoustic couplers!

My time in the bush was one I will never forget with many experiences learnt. In particular, never to take quick direct access to information for granted.

Now, I am looking forward to attending all those mid-week Happenings and to re-join the LAA, for sadly the Association does fail in its attempts to reach members 'gone bush'.

*Therese Bendeich*  
Librarian,  
NSW State Emergency Service.

### Australian books

Members of the School Library Association of Victoria viewed with considerable surprise the article in *InCite* (21.2.1986) by John Cook, entitled 'Buy Australian'. We agree, of course, on the desirability of a sizeable and representative holding of Australian books in any Australian library, and we wish to see continued prosperity for Australian writers and publishers. Nevertheless, we find astonishing the suggestion of some publishers that there should be 'voluntary or mandatory guidelines (my italics) on the purchase of Australian books', to the extent that 'as a condition of public funding, libraries should be required to buy one copy of every Australian book published'.

The Librarian's task is to select books and materials which meet the varied needs of library users. Ethnic, educational, social and many such considerations mean that sensitivity and discrimination are required to secure the best resources available for the purpose identified within the community. If it happens that the most suitable book comes from overseas, then that is the one to which the reader is entitled. (Stringent library budgets may well prevent the purchase of both an Australian and an overseas book.)

It seems to us unfortunate that a librarian, in a library periodical, appears to favour a policy which, unless budgets are limitless, would surely deny users access to the widest possible range of culture and scholarship. Buy Australian by all means, but not indiscriminately. Quality and suitability should be our overriding criteria.

*Mrs Julia Nutting*  
(For Slav Council)

#### AUSTRALIAN LIBRARIES AND INFORMATION COUNCIL (ALIC) Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea Government Copying Project

ALIC was established in 1982, to advise relevant Ministers on means of securing cooperation and coordination between the Commonwealth and the States in the development of library and related information services.

ALIC wishes to commission a study to determine the extent of the documentation relating to the settlement of Australia, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea, with a view to determining the feasibility and cost of a Government Copying Project.

Terms of reference are available on request from the ALIC Secretariat. Broadly they cover the time span of the records to be covered, survey and research of settlement records, published and microfilmed records, original records, and recommendations on the management, locality, funding, staffing and equipment which would be needed. \$10,000 is available to meet costs including travel.

Enquiries are invited and should be directed to Jenny Gleeson, ALIC Secretariat, C/- Department of Arts, Heritage and Environment, GPO Box 1252, Canberra ACT 2601. Telephone (062) 46 7307. Applications should reach the Secretariat by 31 July 1986.

### InCite Deadline Dates

Issue No	Deadline Date	Mailing Date	Cover Date
10	June 3	June 16	June 20
11	June 17	June 30	July 4
12	July 1	July 14	July 18
13	July 15	July 28	Aug. 1
14	Aug. 5	Aug. 18	Aug. 22
15	Aug. 19	Sep. 1	Sep. 5
16	Sep. 2	Sep. 15	Sep. 19
17	Sep. 16	Sep. 29	Oct. 3
18	Oct. 7	Oct. 20	Oct. 24
19	Oct. 21	Nov. 3	Nov. 7
20	Nov. 4	Nov. 17	Nov. 21
21	Nov. 18	Dec. 1	Dec. 5



THE INSTITUTE OF  
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS  
IN AUSTRALIA

#### AUSTRALIAN ACCOUNTING & BUSINESS THESAURUS

General editors Robert G. Ellis FCA  
and Judith Ramsay ALAA

- A Guide for Australian Accounting Database
- Online Information Retrieval
- Records Management
- Computerised Information Systems

Copies are available from ICAA  
Library & Information Service,  
37 York Street, Sydney 2000.  
Contact Jane Cameron  
on (02) 290 1344.

Only \$55 (including postage).