



## the front line

In common, I am sure, with all members of our Association I am anxious to see Australia develop into a prosperous, informed and caring society. As Maurice Line said recently in the October 1986 issue of *Aslib Information*, 'Working towards an acceptable future requires vision — a vision of the future human society we want to see, one able to cope with the problems caused by massive changes beyond our control, and to use the opportunities by means within our control.'

At its meeting in November 1986, Council approved newly stated objects for our Association as follows:

- (i) to promote and improve the services of libraries and other information agencies;
- (ii) to improve the standard of library and information personnel and foster their professional interests and aspirations;
- (iii) to represent the interests of members to government, other organisations and the community;
- (iv) to encourage people to contribute to the improvement of library and information services by supporting the association.

In giving expression to this restatement of our objectives the Council was 'working towards an acceptable future' and seeking to ex-

press, in broad terms, the use of opportunities within our control.

As librarians and information workers we have a vitally important role to play in helping to shape and develop a society in which we, our children and grandchildren, will wish to live.

I was brought up in the belief that we work in a service industry; one dedicated to acquiring, recording, housing and making available the collected wisdom of mankind. Ours is also in the mainstream of the knowledge industry.

While almost daily we read of, or perhaps are involved in, 'non-traditional' areas of information provision, the library remains a unique social institution dedicated to collecting, preserving and making available the accumulated knowledge of mankind.

All information professionals, whether they work in a library or not, are dependant on these institutions, great or small, to service the informational, recreational, or inspirational needs of mankind.

Because of this commitment to service in this essentially intellectual environment, librarians and other information specialists dedicate themselves to meeting one of the three fundamental needs of all peoples — nourishment of the mind. With some deplorable exceptions, most people in Australia now receive adequate nourishment of the body — indeed often to excess. It is probable that the obverse is true of spiritual nourishment and wellbeing.

But of all knowledge forms and structures in our society the library remains one of the greatest social institutions serving the intellectual needs of mankind. It follows that those who work in these institutions have a responsibility to discharge their duties with

professionalism and a high degree of dedication.

The Australian Library and Information Association, as the largest body for and of information professionals in the country, exist to support its members in all spheres of their professional life and development and thus to assist them in discharging their unique and important responsibilities in helping to shape the future of our society.

*Peter Daur*  
President

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. . . for those of you who have yet to pay your 1987 MEMBERSHIP FEES. Remember that these must be paid by the 31 March in order to ensure that you do not miss out on *InCite* and other Association goodies. If you are having trouble with the form (or with finding it) please phone head office on (02) 692 9233 or 008 22 1481 (toll-free) and speak to Jenny Angus or Jenny Carroll.

1987 is shaping up as an exciting and challenging year for the Association — make sure you benefit from it and RENEW NOW!

# URICA.

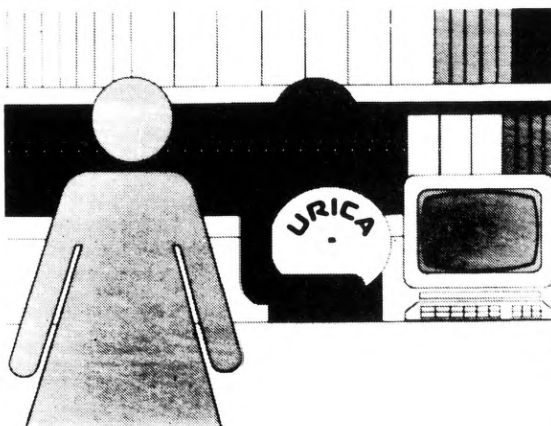
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