

# LETTERS

## ACLIS and ALIA

Dear Editor,

I completely disagree with Anne Hazell *Incite*, 3 April 1989 and others who believe that there is no need for an organisation representing institutions distinct from ALIA.

ALIA is, quite properly, an association of members, operated on democratic representational lines. As a professional librarian it has my full support.

ACLIS is a body representing institutions. As my institution's representative on ACLIS I express the policies and interests of the University of Queensland. Those policies and interests are not decided by a democratic vote of the Library staff or even solely within the University Library. The University's interests and policies may be quite different from those which individual librarians might express on their own behalf in ALIA.

For instance, the majority of library members might believe, as individuals, that the general public should be allowed to borrow from the higher education libraries without charge. They might have passed resolutions to that effect in ALIA meetings so that this has become formal ALIA policy.

The University, on the other hand, may have decided against such a policy. When representing the University, I am bound to represent the University's view whatever my personal view may be.

The difference between the policies and interests of institutions and the views of individuals is a real one. ACLIS is needed as a body through which institutional interests can be expressed.

Anne may be correct in believing that information provision will be 'de-institutionalised'. As she says that prediction has been around for a long time. I have not seen too many signs of it being fulfilled. If that time comes ACLIS will fade away.

F.D.O. Fielding  
University Librarian  
University of Queensland

## 'Fellows'

Dear Editor,

It is a pity that Neil Radford (*Incite*, 3 April 1989) in making his point about 'fellows' departs from his usual courtesy and gratuitously insults past and

present General Council members and, worse, the electorate for electing them.

A pity because I suspect that most would agree, anyway, that the distinction between fellow as a (commonly) male comrade and fellow as an honoured member of a learned society is sustainable.

However, for the issue to be raised and discussed briefly in the General Council's consideration of the new By-Laws and Regulations of the Association displayed a quite appropriate sensitivity to the possible viewpoints of ALIA's majority female membership.

If Dr Radford considers that General Council does not conduct itself properly by airing such issues perhaps he would consider standing for senior office in the Association. The electorate would doubtless, in this instance, make the right decision.

Alan Bundy

SA College of Advanced Education

## Move to Canberra

Dear Editor,

I wish to respond to the letter from Mr Tom Taylor, in the 20 February issue of *Incite*. Mr Taylor suggests that the Association has not given sound consideration to the political and professional aspects of the move. The impetus for the transfer to Canberra is precisely for those reasons — to ensure that the political and professional future of the Association can be assured.

Libraries and information services have to be much more assertive in getting their share of what funding is available these days. Governments have to be shown and shown frequently the importance of the work that librarians perform. This cannot be done by remote control from another State or Territory: politicians and bureaucrats who make the decisions on the allocation of funding have to be lobbied constantly by staff on the spot.

Because Sydney has the largest number of libraries and librarians is not an argument for having headquarters in Sydney: the Association's Head Office should be in the location that will be most productive for the Association. With the maturity and development of the Association's life, that is now Canberra.

The professional work of the Association will continue in Canberra as it has done in Sydney — and by its presence in Canberra the Association will ensure that it develops a national identity and national profile for the benefit of all members. The Government has recognised that national role for associations such as ours by setting aside

an area for national associations close to Parliament House. Significant activities, for example the development of communications policy, of immediate concern to all members, are produced in Canberra.

If we, as an Association, wish to make a contribution to the formulation of such policies and later to the related legislation, we need to be in Canberra. Our success will result in the Association supporting and servicing its members in a more effective and efficient way.

Averill M.B. Edwards  
President, ALIA



## ROCKDALE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

### SENIOR LIBRARIANS

Reference and Technical Services

**\$25,048–\$28,444 pa**

Are you a qualified and experienced public librarian who is looking for change and an opportunity to extend your experience in a different environment?

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Ability to control staff and to work in a team are important qualifications. The salary offered is from Librarian Grade 6 to Librarian Grade 12 (\$481.70 to \$547.00 per week). All senior staff are required to work shifts for which an allowance will be paid.

Rockdale Municipality is located south of the Sydney Central District, on the shores of Botany Bay. The Library serves a population of 85,000 residents through a Central Library and five Branch Libraries. It has a subject specialisation in the area of Music and an excellent collection of Music Scores which are lent throughout the State.

Applications, giving personal information and details of experience and qualifications, including copies of recent references or names of referees, will be received by the Town Clerk up to 4.00 pm on Friday, 9 June, 1989.

Further information and job descriptions may be obtained from either the Chief Librarian Mrs Margaret Austen or the Deputy Librarian Mr Colin Bard on (02) 597 1666.

**S.J. Blackadder, Town Clerk, Administration Offices, 2 Bryant Street, Rockdale 2216.**