

FRONT

L I N E



Lynn Allen President, ALIA

I would like to start this Frontline by providing 'feedback on the feedback' I have received from a few members of the profession on two issues I have raised in previous Frontlines — the role of the profession in research and ALIA's relationship with other organisations.

Research

The response on the research issue has been supportive, emphasising the need to forge close links between practitioners and academics. Recently, I attended

the launch of a collection of papers on research at the Curtin University Library. The volume is entitled *A research agenda for Western Australians* edited by FAC Exon and Julie Richards.

The event was held in the library and attended by the Western Australian Minister for Education, Dr G Gallop who launched the book; Prof J Maloney, Vice-Chancellor of the University; Prof G Stanley, head of the newly formed WA Higher Education Council and senior members of academic librarianship and the public sector.

The evening demonstrated how effective lobbying can be when focused on a topic. I believe WA librarians raised their profile with the Minister and the academic hierarchy by focusing on a topic of common interest.

Another event of significance has been the creation of an ACLIS subgroup in WA to look at how a clearing-house operation on research can be set up. In addition, a preconference ALIA seminar is being organised to focus on the current status of statistics gathering in Australia and to consider the development of an action plan in this area.

Sorry if these examples are Western Australian but they let you see what practitioners can do in this area — research is not something only done in

universities. Even if it were, the uses to which it can be put are many and varied. I think much of the strategic planning going on in libraries is close to research since much of the methodology I see being applied has not been applied to libraries before.

I mentioned previously the role ALIA might play internationally in research. IFLA needs a research focus, it seems to me, and why should Australia balk at providing it? We have the talent and, as many travelled librarians tell us, our libraries are as good as, if not better than, any in the world. ALIA's International Relations Committee will meet in Brisbane in June and this item will be on the agenda.

Relationships with other organisations

I have received warm and encouraging responses from the Australian Society of Archivists' and Records Management Association of Australia's Presidents. I look forward to meeting with them and exploring areas of mutual interest. Issues like National Information Policy, Freedom of Information Legislation, information technology

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1990 Conference

While the Early Bird may have flown, it is certainly not too late to register for our conference. The Trade Exhibition is fully booked, and we even have a waiting list for it.

Registrations are coming in at a pleasing rate, and most of the first drafts of the papers were on time. All plenary speakers have confirmed their willingness to speak:

Monday, 1 October 1990. Inform, Educate and Entertain: John Berry III, Editor of *The Library Journal*.

Tuesday, 2 October 1990. Effective Management of Library and Information Services: James Billington, Librarian of Congress. The February 1990 *Specialist* outlines Billington's address to the US Special Libraries Association Board of Directors where he spoke on the Library of Congress' recently completed review with their introduction in early October last year, of seven new service units. He also spoke on the introduction of fee service. What is in store for us in October?

Wednesday, 3 October 1990. The Profession: Margaret Cameron, Vice-Chancellor and Librarian, Deakin University. An active ALIA member and recent recipient of the distinction of an ALIA Fellowship.

Thursday, 4 October 1990. Access to Information: Technological



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networks and preservation are but a few areas where a national, common front is needed. None of these are the exclusive domain of any single profession.

ALIA's relationship with ACLIS is on a sound and amiable footing. Sue, John Levett and I met with ACLIS's Policy and Advocacy Committee in March. The Committee consists of Earle Gow (President of ACLIS), Alison Crook, Warren Horton and Gordon Bower. We will be meeting again in Brisbane at the end of June to discuss Statistics Gathering, Lobbying and Promotional Activities among other things. I am looking forward to the meeting so that these two significant forces in the library and information services sector of the community can work jointly for the benefit of the Australian people whom we serve.

On a footnote, I hope you have sent in your registration form for the Conference. If not, you'll be missing

and Economic Issues: Ian Lowe, formerly of the Commission for the Future and now Director of the Science Policy Research Centre at Griffith University. He writes a very interesting weekly column in the *Weekend Australian*. Have you caught up with it?

Friday, 5 October 1990. Access to Information: Social and Political Issues: Lauchlan Chipman, Pro Vice-Chancellor, University of Wollongong, and social philosopher.

The Social Committee has been busy organising an Art Gallery Exhibition, a Conference concert, the UCRLS Conference Dinner, and the opening and closing Receptions. There are also Library Tours, Section Dinners, pre and post Conferences, and more.

The Registration form and Third Circular have been out since March — if you do not have a copy please contact the Conference Organisers Promaco Conventions, Unit 9A, 890-892 Canning Highway, Applecross, WA 6153, telephone (09) 364 8311, fax (09) 316 1453, for a copy.

See you soon!

Margaret Medcalf
Conference Chair



out on what is shaping up to be the best conference yet. The trade exhibition is fully booked and plans are proceeding well. I look forward to welcoming you to our lovely city in September/October.



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