

LIAISE

Looking for a job — Liaise!

The NSW Branch of ALIA is pleased to announce that its employment service has been revitalised, reactivated — and renamed... LIAISE.

The new name is a reflection of the importance of networking within the library and information industry, and it is anticipated that the service will become an extension of the existing network which sources information, jobs and people.

The service, which places librarians, library technicians and other library support workers, predominantly in the metropolitan area, has been operational for a tiny two months. Registration is free, but only personal financial members of the ALIA can lodge applications — yet another reason to join your professional Association!

The service operates as a contact service only. The onus still remains with the employer to interview applicants put forward by the Service Coordinator.

Any employer can utilise the service for full-time, part-time, temporary or permanent staff placement. Full institutional members of ALIA receive their contact listing of potential employees for a \$25 service fee, plus \$25 for the first 5 names. Non-institutional members are charged at the rate of a \$50 service fee and \$50 for the first 5 names.

Information sheets and applicant and employer registration forms are available from the coordinator, Sue Innes on (02) 250 0376.

Remember, whether you're looking for a job or desperately in need of staff — LIAISE first.



ALIA Study Grant Awards for 1991

Applications for the ALIA Study Grant Awards for 1991 should reach the Division Support Officer, ALIA, PO Box E441, Queen Victoria Terrace, ACT 2600 by 1 September 1990.

Application forms are available from the ALIA national office, Telephone: (06) 285 1877 or (008) 02 0071.

LETTERS

Dear Editor,

I refer to the letter from Mr AJ Gans in your edition of 11 June 1990 concerning the recent tender for library services and the commission on turnover to be charged against sales made under that contract. Mr Gans also wrote to me on that subject. I would like to take the opportunity, via this page, to explain to your readers the facts relating to the introduction of the commission.

In 1988 the Government decided that the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) must recover the costs of its operations — that decision is binding on all public servants, librarians and Purchasing and Sales Group (PSG) staff alike. In order to meet that requirement, DAS applies a small commission on turnover to common use contracts arranged by the PSG.

Similarly, the purchasing rules concerning open and effective competition also bind all public servants. Common use contracts, which are established in accordance with those rules, save departments and agencies the administrative effort and cost involved in arranging tenders. In the absence of a common use contract those bodies would be required to go through those processes each time they wanted to acquire goods and services such as library services.

Mr Gans' views on the value and cost of the common use contract tender process do not coincide with the experience of the PSG. Over a long period of time PSG has found that contracts arranged for a fixed period, such as 3 years, aggregate demand, reduce the cost of the purchasing process and give a continuity of supplier, and demand for that supplier, all of which result in savings to the Commonwealth and the individual librarian.

PSG is a client-oriented service organisation. To assess whether its involvement will add value to the purchasing process, prior to arranging a contract PSG evaluates the need for that contract and the costs involved in arranging and maintaining it. Should the costs of arranging a common use contract exceed the potential benefits to clients, PSG would decide, after consultation with those clients, not to arrange such a contract. Once in place, however, PSG continues to monitor its contracts to ensure that they fulfil client needs.

In the case of the contract for library services, I am satisfied that it does not

create an unfair imposition on librarians nor indeed on the numerous suppliers who responded to it. PSG consulted Commonwealth librarians about the contract and explained the impact of the new commission requirements to them. During the period from February to May 1990 five meetings were held. Those meetings were attended by 72 librarians. With the exception of one, PSG obtained the support of all those consulted before introducing the contract.

P J Grills

Assistant General Manager
Purchasing Services

Dear Editor,

As an active member of the School Section of ALIA I write to voice the concern of the Victorian Branch at the many and continuing mis-statements which appear regarding the review of *Books and beyond* and its current replacement.

It was as the result of the submission written by Victoria (acting as National Section) to the then Commonwealth Schools Commission that a grant was approved for the project. Since that time I believe that both the National Section and the various State Sections have been treated less than courteously.

ALIA School Section organised numerous meetings and visits for the consultants, inviting participation of SLAV. While we were aware of numerous communications passing between the Steering Committee and other parties we were not consulted for input or consultation. At no time did we receive the draft documents although we were aware of their existence and were able to examine them. Even now after release of the publication we have not received a copy.

Members of our Section, the majority of whom are also SLAV members, question why do we continue to be members of ALIA, to work hard for the promotion of the Association, to provide professional development opportunities for members when we are continually ignored by our Association.

There is little incentive for teacher-librarians to be members of the Association when for less than one third of the cost they can join SLAV and apparently enjoy equal, if not better, status from ALIA.

This is penned in direct response to Direct Line, Vol. 11 No. 7 (28 May) where it is stated that 'ALIA School Libraries Section will be contributing to a draft brief being developed by ASLA'. Why? Are we wanted or not?

Pamela Taylor

President
School Libraries Section (Vic Group)

Childrens' Book Awards continued from 1...

nality and appeal about the Children's Book Awards have been there, signalling the best.

Recognising the expansion of all aspects of the children's book world, the Children's Book Council began a new phase of accountability. Their annual Judges' report expanded to include general comments on the books entered for the awards with extended reviews of the winning and Short Listed titles. Not only were decisions made explicit but such comments raised the standard of debate about quality children's books.

Even more importantly, the Judges' reports have become valuable documents in their own right. They provide an assessment of trends, developments and changes in direction; and encourage publishers to maintain high quality and to identify overall weaknesses and gaps in publishing for children.

So far the awards have been presented as having a major impact on the creators, publishers, booksellers, those who work with children and the children themselves, but the impact of these awards travels farther afield. Winning an award increases the likelihood of being selected for a foreign edition.

Other bonuses attached to the awards include the increased possibility of receiving a Literature Board grant to subsidise writing and larger returns from the Public Lending Right program as award winners make their way to public library collections. There can be no doubt about the impact of the Children's Book Awards. Just how important these awards are can be summed in a single word, *very*.

Dr Belle Alderman
University of Canberra

InCite Deadline Dates				
Issue		Ad Bookings		Cover date
All copy		Events		
			10.30am	
15	24 Aug	27 Aug	3 Sept	24 Sept
16	7 Sept	10 Sept	17 Sept	15 Oct
17	21 Sept	24 Sept	1 Oct	29 Oct
18	12 Oct	15 Oct	22 Oct	12 Nov
19	26 Oct	29 Oct	5 Nov	26 Nov
20	9 Nov	12 Nov	19 Nov	10 Dec

VALA AWARD

The VALA Award, now made biennially, is presented to the Australian library or information centre judged to have made the most innovative use of currently available computer technology during the previous two years.

Nominations are now invited for the 1990 Award for systems installed between January 1988 and December 1989 inclusive.

All libraries and information centres in Australia are eligible for nomination by staff, users or other interested persons.

Guidelines and nomination forms can be obtained from:

The Secretary
VALA
GPO Box 2342V
MELBOURNE VIC 3001

Nominations close 12th October, 1990.

INC 12/63

Monash Information Service (MONINFO) HYPERTEXT FOR LIBRARIANS

SHORT COURSE

Monash University, 20 - 21 Sept 1990

Hypertext is a powerful new technology with the potential to revolutionise the effectiveness of library guidance systems, reader education and information management. This intensive two day short course with hands-on experience gives librarians the skills needed to take full advantage of this technology.

Objective: To introduce the basic concepts of hypertext using the HyperCard system and to encourage the use of hypertext for library purposes.

Outcomes: At the end of the course participants should be able to,
* use HyperCard as an information organiser and for the management of personal information
* develop simple library guidance or CAL systems
* utilise HyperCard for reader education purposes

Course Leader: Mr Edward Lim (Monash University Librarian) is experienced in the use of hypertext for library purposes. He has lectured on the use of microcomputers in libraries and conducted courses on database management and information retrieval using software such as INMAGIC and CD/ISIS.

Cost: \$300.00 (by 14th Sept) includes refreshments, lunch and materials.

Send registration form to: Mr Leigh Oldmeadow
Monash Information Service
Wellington Road
Clayton VIC 3168

Enquiries: (03) 565 2690, Fax (03) 565 2610

REGISTRATION FORM

NAME:

INSTITUTION:

ADDRESS:

POSTCODE:

TELEPHONE: Fax:

I enclose a cheque (payable to Monash Information Service) for

\$ in payment of participants.

Signature: Date:

INC 12/59

UNIVERSITY OF NEW SOUTH WALES & ALIA

Spend a day with

Don King & José-Marie Griffiths

24 September 1990

DISCUSSING

Education for information services management in the nineties

Don and José-Marie will address questions on quality and value in education and on markets for education programs and their graduates;

Australian professors and practitioners will comment on the keynote addresses;

AND

there'll be lots of scope for audience participation.

Fee: \$75

Bookings/inquiries: Dr Patricia Willard (02) 697 3445

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