

...continued from 6

professional librarians. The NT Branch is looking for solutions that will make the profession more attractive to local newcomers and needs the cooperation of professional library educators. To this end, the Branch has also written to the ALIA Board of Education seeking its support in encouraging library schools to address this issue creatively and to be prepared to share expertise with Northern Territory Branch.



David Hugo

Possible solutions include:

- Establish traineeships for graduates to travel interstate to obtain graduate diploma qualifications after completing degrees locally.
- Establish traineeships for school leavers to work part-time while studying externally at an accelerated rate.
- Facilitate the conversion of library technician qualifications to professional qualifications in librarianship by maximising legitimate credit transfer.
- Provide intensive course work programs ('Summer Schools') run in the Northern Territory by interstate library schools.
- Offer a graduate diploma year in the Northern Territory at regular intervals, say every 5 years, to take up graduate numbers.

Each of these solutions has possibilities that could be worked on by Northern Territory Branch in combination with interested educators. It is not a problem which will go away, in spite of the 'over supply' of librarians in southern States. However, the problem should be easier to solve now that the Northern Territory has its own university. Degree courses in the faculties of Science, Arts, Education and Business can now be completed in Darwin.

The issue of credit transfer appears to be a major one, particularly in relation to non-librarianship units in integrated courses. The Branch can make Northern Territory University handbooks available to any interstate library school that wishes to study this issue more closely. Lack of certainty about finding a place in any interstate library school also inhibits

school leavers planning to travel interstate for an undergraduate library course. The Branch is also working on establishing traineeships and scholarships within the Northern Territory Public Service.

The Northern Territory Branch is gathering information from members within the Territory asking for their comments upon the feasibility of scholarships/traineeships and a librarians-in-training classification. As well, documented cases are also being sought of long standing vacancies in libraries deriving from a lack of availability of qualified librarians and cases of school leavers who decide against a library career because of a lack of access to courses in the Northern Territory.

Any ideas and your thoughtful comments can be forwarded to M. A. Clinch, Coordinator, Librarians-in-Training Sub-Committee, c/- Northern Territory University Archives, PO Box 40146, Casuarina, NT 0811.

David Hugo  
NT Branch President



## PDQ: Professional Development Questions

Many ALIA members ply their trade beyond the reach of the tertiary institutions. Some, indeed, work in isolation where there is no professional support at all, not even from colleagues. For these people, the following items have particular relevance.

The Board of Education's Professional Development Committee is developing a new format for PD which will be an attractive option for all members, as well as answering some of the needs of the isolated.

Called 'packages', the new format will involve a course of study on a topical issue, with an optional assessment module. The successful completion of the module will earn a certificate which may be used in a job application or possibly, by an employer to prove compliance with the new Training Guarantee Act.

Content of packages will be provided by an appropriate expert. Possible topics include *How to Approach AACRII* and *Choosing the System to Automate a Small Library*. Packages will be available as readily to Weipa as to Woolloomooloo, Woolloongabba or Woop Woop.

The first package should be developed and available next year.

For librarians interested in more formal courses, the University of Canberra's Centre for Library and Information Studies is now offering a research Masters degree which will overcome the

## From the Editor's desk

Don't look for immediate and dramatic changes in *inCite*! It's doing a great job already, and your new Editor and Designer want to ensure a smooth operation with tight deadlines before they do more than sandpaper a few corners.

Between now and the end of the year we in the *inCite* team want to ask the questions 'What is *inCite* for? Can it do it better?' Obviously, it's for communication and feedback. And it is the only ALIA publication that we can be sure every member sees. So it is also, inasmuch as the printed word can ever do such a job, a potential force for generating and maintaining an ALIA corporate identity — image — spirit — ethos — *esprit de corps* — and all the other intangibles which turn a group of 7000 individuals into a strong and united association with a single powerful voice. A channel to enable wide debate on vital professional issues, to work towards consensus.

Do you agree? And are there other functions *inCite* should serve? Please let me know what you think, and if you raise problems suggest how we might resolve them. From time to time I'll let you know how this process of consultation is developing, and maybe at the start of the 1991 Volume, with your help, we'll be able to publish a new-look *inCite* with clear objectives and some fresh directions.

Peter Judge  
Editor

problem of distance for many. The course involves attendance at two summer schools, each for the month of January, held on the Canberra campus. Other requirements may be undertaken off-campus.

Next intake will be January 1992, and the following one in January 1995, so some planning is required.

This initiative brings the opportunity for further education within reach of many hitherto isolated librarians. For further information, contact the Centre for Library and Information Studies, University of Canberra, PO Box 1, Belconnen, ACT 2616, telephone (06) 252 2111.

As your new PD Officer, I welcome the opportunity to discuss PD matters with you. Please contact me at the ALIA national office when you wish to share your views.

Carol Kenchington  
Professional Development Officer

