



From 4

Arts (where we are comfortable) to the new Faculty of Professional Studies, scheduled for birth on 1 July 1990.

One or two frivolous members of staff have idly proposed the inclusion of Information after Librarianship to give an easily remembered abbreviation. But we are not sure that that kind of humour would be professionally acceptable. What do you think?

Acting Professor Mary A Ronnie
Chairman, Graduate Department
of Librarianship,
Archives and Records

Dear Editor,

The 30 April 1990 cover date of the latest *inCite*, received by me on 17 April 1990, took me by surprise. I appreciate the zeal with which issue No. 5 has been put together and despatched. However, the disparity of dates raises questions about the lead times imposed by you for items to be included in *inCite* e.g. how many divisions, members, advertisers missed the deadline for issue No. 5, with the arrival date of it almost a fortnight before its cover date? After all *inCite* is not *Vogue*, *Cleo* etc!

The patience and continued support to which you referred in your response to Vicki Williamson's letter, in issue No. 5, are certainly being tried. Can we expect a better match between copy deadlines, cover date and receipt date?

Julie Young
President
NSW Branch

Dear Editor,

Congratulations on your speedy delivery of *inCite* Vol. 11 No. 5 to those of us in the West who have fought an ongoing battle to receive our professional newsletter in time to act on the information it bears.

Congratulations also on featuring some Western Australian Branch activity news. We are active in the West, but have, until recently, had problems in gaining editorial space.

Keep up the good work.

Kay Poustie
President
WA Branch

Editor's reply.

Australia Post require a minimum of 6 working days to deliver *inCite* to WA, NT and Tasmania. With Easter approaching *inCite* 5 was processed on 12 April to avoid any delay that might occur due to the holidays. If it had been left until after the break the above-mentioned states would possibly have received *inCite* late.

First ALIA Conference 1990 What a choice!

The third circular and registration form for the first ALIA Conference was previously included with *inCite*, and all members have now had a chance to peruse the program. It is a professionally exciting program with some fascinating papers from both Australian and overseas speakers ranging from the practical to the theoretical. Who could resist 'Distant, diverse and delightful' or 'Every time an old person dies a library burns to the ground', or 'Access to information — technological and economic issues' or 'How others see us — the power of the pen, or publish or perish' or the opportunity to hear the papers on national collection development and Warren Horton on 'Information policy — the next agenda' or James Billington on 'Effective management of library and information services'. What a choice!

There is an exciting list of pre and post conference seminars and meetings which will be well worth attending. The early bird registration has been extended to 30 April in view of the later than usual date for the Biennial Conference.

The Registration fee is \$450 for early birds, \$500 for later registrants. Before bursting into loud wails, members should consider what they are getting for \$450:

- attendance at all sessions
- entrance to Trade Exhibition
- opening reception (including a meal)
- closing reception (including a meal)
- special Art Gallery Exhibition preview
- symphony concert in the Perth Concert Hall
- library tours covering a wide range of interests
- morning and afternoon tea each day.

Some of these are activities which have been additional costs to the registration fee in other Biennial Conferences. This is a bargain. In comparison with other professional conferences, it is at least \$200 cheaper — most management conferences cost between \$600-\$1000 for 1-3 days. The total fee for a 6-day conference works out at \$75 a day — not bad for this array of speak-

ers and papers. This compares very favourably with other ALIA 1-day professional development courses.

The registration fee and costs of attending the conference are tax deductible as it is a professional development exercise. Full receipts need to be kept but it is an allowable deduction.

The costs of travelling to the more distant parts of this country are high — but there are some very good value packages available. The members who live in WA, NT, Tasmania and north Queensland all have these high travelling costs every time they come to the south-east corner of Australia for conferences and meetings. This is a democratic Association and as such, members have resolved to have the Biennial Conferences in all the States and Territories in which members live, and this means that in some years the travelling costs will be higher than in other years. The 1992 Conferences will be held in Albury/Wodonga and will be easier for access and have cheaper accommodation.

Revenue for the Association comes from a variety of sources, including membership fees, advertising, interest, publications, donations and conference income. Each biennial conference must budget to return to the Association the seeding money which was advanced to it during the planning stages, together with a 20 per cent loading for having tied the money up for that period of time. This is often for a 3 to 4 year time period.

The Biennial Conference is therefore not only a major ALIA sponsored professional development activity, but it also must pay for itself so that it does not become a financial drain on the Association and its other programs.

The Biennial Conference is a valuable professional activity for members. It provides an opportunity to hear about and to discuss professional matters with your colleagues, and of course, to have an enjoyable social occasion as well.

Averill M B Edwards
Immediate Past President