

Letters

The ongoing saga of unemployment among new graduates

Dear Editor,

In my recent letter in *inCite* (Vol 12 No 5) I outlined the problems of unemployment among new graduates. Since that time, I have been fortunate enough to secure an excellent position with the Orbital Engine Company in Perth. After 5 months of unemployment, it is a blessing to be working in my chosen field.

I am writing now to offer encouragement to my fellow ex-students who are still looking for work. If I can offer any tips, I would suggest:

- read *inCite*, *Biblia*, and any other library information you can get your hands on;
- join committees, get involved, and do some work with your future colleagues;
- go to all the ALIA events you can

afford, and talk to people, so that you become known;

- above all, try to keep cheerful, and don't become bitter and resentful. I know only too well how easy it is to become depressed when you're unemployed, but put on a happy face, even if you have to fake it! Otherwise, it will show very clearly at job interviews, and why would any employer take on someone who is a drag to have around?
- most importantly, keep in touch with your friends, and share your experiences and tips. I did this, and I found the support really kept me going through the tough times. For goodness' sake, don't become one of those twisted individuals who is so envious of others that they can't even offer sincere congratulations when one of their friends has got a job! Team spirit is vital to most employers, and interviewers will shun you like poison if they think that you are selfish and mean-spirited;
- look carefully at advertisements. Not all information jobs are advertised under the title of librarian, and yet they may be just what you are looking for. Look at public relations, administration, personal assistant positions, to name just a few;
- if you possibly can, apply for country positions as well as local ones. You may

well have more chance to secure a country position than a city one;

- don't be put off by employers who make impossible demands. If you are convinced you can do the job, and have good evidence to support your claims, have a go! It's been my experience that some employers just run the same old ad they've always run, without really thinking whether they need something different. It's up to you to convince them that you can do the job.
- treat your job search as though it is a job. Work from 9 to 5 on your job search, 5 days a week. I did this, and I found that it really paid off. Apart from anything else, it put some discipline in my life and stopped me becoming totally depressed.

I still firmly believe that Australia is oversupplied with librarians, and that our education should be strongly vocationally oriented, with a good chance of a job at the end of it. If this means tying student numbers to demand, so be it. To those who say that this can't be done, I disagree. There will never be an exact match, of course, but it would have to be a better ratio than there is at the moment. In the meantime, prospective students should

continued next page...

SERIALS AWARDS

\$2000 AVAILABLE NOW!

The Australian Serials Special Interest Group (ASSIG) is now offering two serials awards.

The awards will interest postgraduate students in library and/or information science, professional librarians and library technicians. Preference will be given to proposals of a practical nature, and they must relate to serials librarianship in Australasia and the South Pacific. The awards are intended to promote the goals and objectives of the Australian Serials Special Interest Group, which are:-

- to promote professional awareness among all those concerned with serials;
- to promote a forum for the interchange of information and ideas;
- to encourage and assist library educators to provide continuing education in serials; and
- to discuss future directions in serials.

Two awards of \$1000 each will be made. Further information, including guidelines for submissions, can be obtained from Marianna Ibrahim, Convener, ASSIG, telephone (02) 697 2633, fax (02) 662 1203.

Globe Subscription Agency

Pty Limited (Inc. 1977 in NSW)

GLOBE LIBRARY SCHOLARSHIPS

Globe Subscription Agency Pty Ltd has established a fund for scholarships to support the overseas travel expenses of librarians and library technicians working in Australian special libraries, and in libraries of the Agency's clients.

Applications or nominations are now invited for the scholarship(s) to be awarded in 1991.

Personal applications should give the names and details of two referees. Nominations should give the names of the nominators and a note of consent from the nominee.

The application/nomination must include:

1. A current CV of the applicant/nominee.
2. Reasons for the application.
3. Benefits expected from the scholarship.
4. An undertaking to provide an article for publication or a conference paper on matters associated with the scholarship.

A cover sheet should clearly state:

- Name and address of applicant or nominee
- Day and evening telephone numbers
- Names and addresses of referees or nominators.

The closing date for receipt of applications/nominations is **31 July, 1991.**

Please forward to: The Administrator
Globe Library Scholarship
PO Box D1001 (18 Station St)
Dundas NSW 2117

be warned of the tough battle they will face at the end of their courses.

Anyway, my message to fellow students is simply that if I can do it, you can too. Persistence does pay off, so please keep trying and don't give up. I wish everyone the best of luck.

Christine Jones

The Conspectus exchange

Dear Editor,

In the issue of *inCite*, 10 June 1991, the Conspectus exchange continued. The Editor's note: 'Has nobody else any views on Conspectus?', has prompted me to reply that yes, there are people interested in Conspectus and finding it worthwhile. Readers are referred to the latest issue of *Australian Library Review* May 1991. This issue contains a collection of articles which outline some applications of Conspectus within libraries in Australia.

Contributions include the following:

- Margaret Henty, Conspectus in Australia: the view from the bridge
- Alan Ventress, Use of the Australian Conspectus at the State Library of New South Wales
- Averill Edwards, Conspectus at the National Library of Australia: chipping away at the mountain
- Conspectus at the University of Western Australia

Part 1: An overview, Toby Burrows

Part 2: The Law Library Experience, Paul Genoni

- Marian Bate, Accountability, Collection Management and Conspectus
- Tom Cochrane and Janice Richards, Support for Research in a New University: a practical application of Conspectus at the Queensland University of Technology

This collection may be purchased as ALR Collected Essays No 1 for \$10 from: Centre for Information Studies, Charles Sturt University — Riverina, PO Box 588, Wagga Wagga, NSW 2650.

Sue Clarke

Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology

Update — VIBRA '91

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Working Group on Multicultural Library Services
Christine Avraam fax (03) 650 2265

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Literacy — Treasurer
Ann Le Lievre telephone (03) 650 5622,
fax (03) 650 2265

Please amend your copy.



Australian Library and
Information Association

Board of Education

Election of two members by the
membership of the Association

Call for nominations

Membership of the Board of
Education is as follows:

- three professional members elected by the Professional Committee of General Council;
- seven members, of whom at least four must be professional members, elected by the membership-at-large of the Association;
- the President of the Association *ex officio*;
- the Executive Director as a non-voting executive member. (By-law 24)

The terms of office of three members of the Board end on 31 December 1991. Two members are now to be elected by the membership of the Association to hold office until 31 December 1994. The Professional Committee of General Council will elect the third member.

Nominations are hereby called for the two positions. Nominees must be personal financial members of the Association, however they need not be professional members.

Nominations shall be:

- in writing;
- signed by two personal financial members of the Association;
- countersigned by the nominee;
- accompanied by a curriculum vitae (giving full details of academic and professional qualifications) and a statement of concerns, each to be not more than 100 words.

Nominations close with the Executive Director, Australian Library and Information Association, PO Box E441, Queen Victoria Terrace, ACT 2600 at 5 pm on 1 September 1991. Board members retiring on 31 December 1991 are Angela Bridgland, Twila Herr and Eric Wainwright.

Continuing members of the Board are Anne Hazel, Joyce Kirk, Christine Henderson, Michael Middleton, Jean Bailey, Kay Poustie, Vicki Williamson, John Levett and Fay Nicholson.

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