

ians in Thailand, Vietnam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Brunei, Fiji and some other Pacific Island countries who have attended three day courses run by Australian Professionals under the ALIA banner.

The work of this group is diverse and interesting. Mr Ketley believes that a review of the group's original terms of reference and an assessment of the activities it has pursued is timely. This review will be completed early in the new year and is expected to result in the strengthening of the group's activities and a growth in membership.

### Joint Conference—Wellington 26-30 Sept

The Australian Convenor of the joint NZLIA/ALIA conference, Warren Horton, provided a report to General Council on progress with planning. The conference will be run over three days with workshops being held on the days prior to and subsequent to the core event. A full report on conference planning will be provided in the next edition of *inCite*. Mr Horton also reported on his attendance at the IFLA conference in Barcelona last August.

### National Public Libraries Conference Sydney Nov 1995

General Council endorsed the proposal from the ALIA Public Libraries Section (NSW Group) to organise a conference in 1995.

### Meeting arrangements

The December General Council meeting was the final meeting at which Jenny Cram presided as President of the Association. There are many members who have appreciated Jenny's commitment to the profession and her very hard work on their behalf. Our thanks and best wishes are passed to Jenny as she accepts her new position as Immediate Past President.

Bill Linklater, Librarian at the University of Newcastle, is the 1994 ALIA President. Bill has been very active as a library consultant in the Asia Pacific region in addition to his work over many years in university libraries. Bill's first occasion in the Chair at a General Council meeting will be on 25 and 26 March. Other meetings will be held on 22 & 23 July and 25 & 26 November 1994.

## Competency standards

Arts Training Australia is now busy collecting data on libraries

The first sweep of data collection took place in Brisbane last November and in Melbourne three weeks later, aiming to cover as many work areas as possible. A stratified selected sample enabled the collection of core information on a wide range of work in libraries. Within the work streams so identified, information was then collected on major activities, key knowledge and skills, performance criteria and workplace information.

The people who have provided this information all have extensive experience in library work, have the respect of their peers, subordinates and management and are comfortable working in groups. Some also perform specialist activities and come from a range of backgrounds, such as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, non-English speaking backgrounds, have disabilities and (since librarians are mostly female) are male workers. Group participants and interviewees were selected from over 135 suitable names received for each State from different sources.

In each State two one-day discussion groups were organised, with about 15 participants in each group. Structured interviews on management issues were also held with participants working in management areas, looking at the changes that are occurring and are foreseen in the next few years, and the implications of these changes for the competencies and vocational education and training needs of staff. There was also discussion on their present training strategies and practices and on how the eventual competency standards may be used. Similar discussions were held with providers of education and training.

The data from the first sweep will be analysed and any gaps identified. After appropriate consultation, steps will be taken over the next few months to address these gaps.

This first sweep of data collection has been from metropolitan areas in populous states. The Taskforce has chosen Western Australia and Tasmania as the 'remote states' for data collection, where collection will also be outside the capital cities. It will also visit Townsville during the validation process and may visit regional areas in other states and territories after the draft standards have been widely distributed.

A more detailed report will be provided when the analysis of the data is complete.

*(Edited from the interim report on the primary information collection, prepared by Arts Training Australia)*



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