

Drowning in a sea of information. Librarians don't sink... they swim!

Steve Ireland, Editor in Chief of *Computerworld Australia*, made his ignorance of the library profession quite clear in his article, 'Drowning in a sea of information' (*Computerworld* vol 16 N° 20, 12 November '93, page 24).

It appears Mr Ireland is pleading for a solution as to how best to cope with the deluge of information that he is being swamped with. In his article he says,..."The (information) flow threatens to sweep them away...it's a problem not just for the individual, but for the entire organisation...the challenge is to filter out the unwanted information..."

Methinks Mr Ireland needs a librarian!

*Trevor Wakely
Bureau of Meteorology*

Recognition for Library Technicians I

During 1993 the ALIA General Council considered a proposal to award a distinction comparable to a Fellowship to outstanding Library Technicians.

Despite persuasive and authoritative comment in the Letters column of *inCite* the General Council has taken the view that Library Technician members are eligible for the distinction of a Fellowship and has asked the Board of Education to look at what would have to be done to achieve this. The Board will have to weaken significantly the Regulations governing eligibility for a Fellowship in order to make it possible for a Library Technician to qualify.

For example, a Library Technician member cannot meet Regulation E 11(c), or E 17(a). The intent of the Association's Charter, By-laws and Regulations in this matter is clear and until the intervention of the General Council, the interpretation of the constitution has also been clear. In the view of the ACT Branch, only Associate members of the Association may receive the distinction of a Fellowship.

The Branch also wishes to see the very high standing and status afforded to the Fellowship retained

whilst, at the same time, recognising the need to have an award of comparable status for Library Technician members.

To assist the General Council and Board to resolve this matter and to avoid the divisiveness which will arise if the Council and Board downgrade the Association's Fellowship, the ACT Branch proposes a return to the Council's original intention to award a distinction *comparable* to a Fellowship to deserving Library Technician members. The ACT Branch offers the following suggestions: (a) ALIA to remind all Library Technician members that they are entitled to use the post-nominal letters, ALIATec; (b) Regulations be adopted which will allow outstanding achievement as a Library Technician member to be recognised with the distinction of 'Distinguished Library Technician member' (Draft Regulations have been sent to the Executive Director); (c) consideration of nominations for recognition as a Distinguished Library Technician member of ALIA to be undertaken by the Board of Education in conjunction with the executive of the national Library Technicians Section for recommendation to General Council; (d) that the post-nominal letters for a Distinguished Library Technician member be ALIATec (Dist.).

This suggestion has been forwarded to the Library Technicians Section and each Branch Council for comment and to the Chair of the Board of Education and the Chair of the By-laws and Regulations Committee.

All comments on this issue from readers of *inCite* are welcomed and should be addressed to: John Brudenall, ALIA, ACT General Councillor, C/- Parliamentary Library, Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600. Telephone (06) 277 7103; Fax (06) 277 5288; e-mail mjb@par18.aph.gov.au

*John Brudenall
ALIA ACT Branch Council*

Recognition for Library Technicians II

I understand that at its December meeting General Council re-aff-

firmed its earlier decision that library technicians are to be eligible for the award of Fellowships of the Association.

Deciding to do something, or that something may be done, is not the same as actually doing it, so there is still hope that this anti-professional and possibly illegal decision may not be implemented.

The challenge to devise a suitable award for superior achievement as a library technician is not appropriately met by mis-using the award for superior *professional* achievement. The two are completely different. As General Council is apparently unable to think of a suitable way of honouring excellent library technicians, I offer a suggestion to start discussion. I suggest that they be called Senior Technician (ALIASTec or STALIA for those who like letters after their names). Better ideas are welcome.

*Neil Radford
University Librarian, Uni of Sydney*

Crown copyright waived in NSW

An article in *The Australian*, 2 September included this statement: 'A couple of weeks ago the NSW Attorney-General, John Hannaford, announced that in future Crown copyright on legislation (Acts of Parliament, regulations, rules, by-laws and ordinances) will be waived, so that anyone may freely reproduce it in any form, provided only that the material be accurately reproduced.'

If this article is correct and copyright has been waived on NSW legislation, the NSW Attorney General ought to be congratulated and his counterparts in other States should be encouraged to follow suit.

Mrs Pat Kirkman

Help! Bad behaviour in libraries

Darwin Public Library and Information Service is currently gathering information on youth programs and youth involvement in public libraries.

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should now like to take some positive action and offer programs that are relevant to teenagers and encourage them to use our public libraries.

If any ALIA members have information that could be helpful, perhaps with some comments, could they please send it to: Senior Library Technician, Children's and Youth Services, Casuarina Public Library, GPO Box 84, Darwin NT 0801.

Barbara Moyle

Senior Librarian, Casuarina

Golden books panned out wrong

Bibliographic gremlins were at work on p22 of *inCite* 12 and missed about three lines. The correct information on the first two books is: Geoffrey Blainey, *Golden Mile*, Allen and Unwin, 1993 (\$32.95); Tess Thomson, *Paddy Hannan*, Thomson Reward Pty Ltd, 1993 (\$25.95).

Joanna Sassoon ■

Getting Decisions Right

THE COMMONWEALTH ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS TRIBUNAL has produced an informational video which provides potential users with an overview of what the Tribunal's review process would be like for them.

In the video's 10 minutes running time, Mary-ann Black, a social security pension recipient, has had her pension reduced and she is required to repay a sum of money which the Department of Social Security says was incorrectly paid to her. In showing the Tribunal's processes Mary-ann's case raises a number of general issues which are discussed by the presenter.

The video, together with information pamphlets, will be a useful tool for persons seeking information about their rights, and it will assist students and support groups in gaining an understanding of the Tribunal and its processes.

The video "Getting Decisions Right" is available from:

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