

1996: The year ahead

We asked all ALIA Branch presidents to give a quick run-down of what they perceive to be the major issues to be focused on in 1996...

Priority issues

The old and new executives of the ACT Branch met in late December for a handover of activities and processes. The new executive will develop a draft *Branch goals and strategies statement 1996*. While the Branch does not yet have a formal document indicating priority issues, the following themes will have a significant impact on Branch and will be considered: the Federal election and the Branch's role in lobbying; the further development of *ALIANet*; the role of the Branch in the further implementation of competency frameworks; the development of closer working relationships between the Branch and ACLIS ACT; the development of a mentoring framework; and the development of an active seminar program. When developed, copies of the Branch goals and strategies will be posted on the Branch home page on *ALIANet* and announced through the Branch newsletter, *Proactive*.

Cliff Law, ACT

Recruitment and retention

A major issue for NSW Branch is recruitment and retention. Associated with this issue is succession planning for Branch Council and the committees represented on Branch. Other important professional development activities identified are Internet access and censorship, information technology development, outsourcing and competitive tendering, and the social and economic worth of libraries. Branch Council will

host the inaugural *Library oration* for Australian Library Week (ALW) 1996. Also for ALW, we will conduct activities in conjunction with other bodies, emphasising the value and future of information services. We will be utilising the successful *Program budgeting* project to link activities to Branch strategic plans and performance indicators. The information industries are in a constant state of transformation. ALIA provides an opportunity for librarians and information workers to collectively redefine their role and to provide leadership in this environment.

John Bartholomaeus, NSW

Individual empowerment

Numerically the Northern Territory is the Association's smallest Branch. Our size and isolation are both our strength and weakness. They give us a sense of purpose and of identity as well as a certain fragility, relying as we must on a relatively small pool of resources. 1996 will be a year of refocussing — to improve our administrative processes and to embark on a realistic range of activities acknowledged by members as being useful to their individual empowerment and to ALIA's leadership status in matters concerning the profession. Fundamental to this process will be participation in the *Lobby for libraries* training program and support for various promotional initiatives. Encouraging awareness and acceptance of the principles articulated in the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander protocols for libraries, archives and information service* will be another area of endeavour

for the Branch, probably in collaboration with ACLIS and the School Library Association of the Northern Territory (SLANT). Indeed, given the overlapping membership of these three organisations we will be continuing to seek ways in which we can work more effectively together.

Lorraine Vass, NT

Targets for mentoring

Recent success in the recruitment and retention of members will be consolidated through the use of multiple advertising/promotion opportunities. Graduates and newly-qualified librarians and library technicians will also be the prime target group for a mentoring program. Greater emphasis will be given to the continuing education program in 1996. The number of Branch meetings with invited speakers will be increased, and through sectional representation on the continuing education sub-committee, a more coordinated program will be developed. Continuing improvements to the Branch's newsletter *Quill* are expected, with a current review of content, format and production. More regional group and section reports will be incorporated and it is planned to launch *Quill* on *ALIANet*. Advocacy and lobbying continue to be high on the agenda for 1996, particularly in the context of the forthcoming federal elections. The Branch also plans to have a higher level of involvement in ALW this year. A task force will liaise closely with the Queensland Libraries Promotion Council in developing a program, a major feature of which will

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be the involvement of high profile members of the community. All in all, we look forward to a busy and successful year!

Janice Rickards, Qld

New sources

Tasmania has only a small number of members in comparison with most of the other branches, but this in no way diminishes our enthusiasm or belief in our profession. One of our main challenges in 1996 will be in maintaining and increasing our membership. In the past our main source of new members has been students and graduates of the Department of Library and Information Services at the University of Tasmania. This school has closed in December. We will have to look to current practicing librarians who are not members of ALIA to join us and become involved in the support and development of the profession. We have a keen professional development committee who endeavour to arrange interesting and stimulating activities for members. We are hopeful that in 1996 we may be able to entice speakers who are in Melbourne for the ALIA conference to visit Tasmania. Branch council will, through the various Sections, continue to raise

the profile of the profession in the state.

Chris Richardson, Tas

Victorian value

The Victorian Branch is looking forward to an action-packed year in 1996! A draft program has been developed to ensure regular meetings and seminars that demonstrate value for the membership — watch *inCite* for details. Our successful mentoring scheme will continue to provide practical assistance to new and junior members of our association. Special activities for ALW have been planned — capitalising on the advance planning and great coordination between states that has been fostered by the ALIA National Office. Significant activity has already taken place in the planning for the ALIA Biennial Conference. It is timely that Helen Tait, our confere chair will also be ALIA President. We are pleased that Victoria can contribute so much to our national association in 1996. Many of us are continuing to do more with less in our work lives but it is gratifying to see the spirit of cooperation and service that maintains the diverse range of activities within the Branch and Sections.

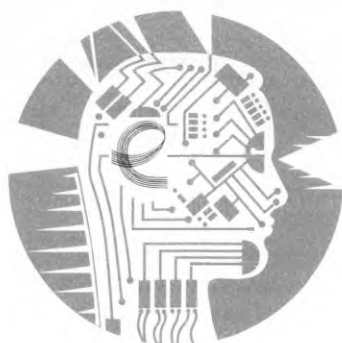
Philip Kent, Vic

Fresh faces with fresh ideas

1996 promises to be an exciting year for ALIA in the West. We are working hard to ensure that ALW has a much higher profile here than in previous years. We have made a bid to host the ALW oration in 1997 and we have well-advanced plans for major media coverage during the week. We have also been working hard on increasing the membership. In particular, we hope to encourage newly-graduated and younger members of the profession to participate in Branch activities. The incoming Branch Council for 1996 contains many fresh faces, with fresh enthusiasm and fresh ideas. Continuing professional development continues to be a major focus of activity with plans already in place for a sophisticated and comprehensive set of offerings by a range of providers. The Standing Committee on publicity and marketing, which has taken on major responsibility for a number of tasks that were previously fragmented across smaller committees, is working well and should be even more effective in the year ahead.

Vicky Wilson, WA

THE EIGHTH AUSTRALASIAN CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION



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