

Your voice

Waive annual fees

I am a technician member and work one morning a week in a volunteer library. In the afternoon I hand over to a retired teacher-librarian. Each month I abandon my used copy of *inCite* and the South Australian branch newsletter *InterALIA* in the library.

The teacher-librarian all but swoons at this. I asked her to explain this reaction: she told me that despite her continuing interest in the profession, she could no longer afford to maintain ALIA membership. It seems unfair to me that a person who retires as an ALIA member should, for financial reasons alone, be denied the simple pleasure of receiving our routine monthly publication.

I would like to propose that a 'publication only' category of membership be created for retired ALIA members and the cost of this made as close to free as possible. This would acknowledge the members previous support and contribution to the Association.

Let us not weed, delete and discard these people. For the cost of a few

magazines they could become one of our greatest resources.

Brian Gordon

Conference fees set too high

The members of the Riverina Regional Group have noted with alarm the cost of attending the 1996 biennial conference. The early-bird fee of \$470 for only three days, with most Monday and Friday activities incurring additional costs, seems beyond the reach of many members. Regional Australian librarians must also pay for travel and accommodation, and we note that there have been no offers of lower priced accommodation or other assistance for lower-priced ALIA members.

As the organisers of the 1992 conference, we were criticised for our early-bird fee of \$399 for a five-day conference. We are fully aware of the overheads and costs associated with organising a biennial conference, but believe that such factors as the costs of the venues must be considered when choices are made. We also believe that a

conference committee has an obligation to make provision for lower-paid members to attend the Association's major conference.

As representatives of regional Australian library workers, we wish to draw the attention of the profession to these concerns.

**Marsha Reilly,
Riverina Regional Group**

Members of the Library Staff Association of Monash University would like to support the view expressed by other correspondents that the fees charged to attend library conferences are too high. Not only do the high fees mean it is difficult for younger members of the profession to attend large conferences, but is also difficult for others to afford the registration. Institutional or corporate staff development budgets, where they exist, are limited. In the case of major conferences, support is often given to a certain dollar value. High conference fees mean fewer staff attend. We believe that there is great benefit to be gained by staff, and by the profession, if a greater number

of participants is encouraged. The larger conferences provide a great opportunity to gain knowledge, broaden our interests, share enthusiasms and make new friends and contacts.

Jan Gill, Monash University

**Helen Tait, conference convenor,
replies...**

The biennial conference is the Association's premier event. Its program is designed to meet the widest possible interests in professional topics through significant plenary sessions with major international and Australian keynote speakers and multiple option parallel sessions to extend the subject range.

Venues are very limited by the numbers expected to attend. In Melbourne, the World Congress Centre is the only realistic option for an anticipated 1200-1500 delegates in multiple sessions. The venue cost will be \$73 000 for three days. To contain costs, the decision over venues for Monday and Friday events has been left up to the organising groups with the expectation that most would use other venues for which there would be no charge. Registration progress to date now allows us to cover the congress

continued next page...



... announcing ...

WILSON ABSTRACTS on SilverPlatter



THREE SPECIAL INTRODUCTORY OFFERS

- **10% discount** for the purchase of any new Abstract-database
- **20% discount** off the Abstract-database for subscribers to the corresponding Index
- **20% discount** if you buy the four Abstract-databases – General Science Abstracts, Humanities Abstracts, Readers' Guide Abstracts, and Social Sciences Abstracts

Name:
Organisation:
E-mail address:
Phone:
Fax:

Wilson/Incite

For more information about the new Wilson databases or the special introductory offers, complete and return the adjacent form, or contact us as below – now!

Level 5, 181 Fitzroy Street, St Kilda, Victoria, 3182.

Phone: 03 9268 7600 Fax: 03 9268 7689

E-mail: aldis@aldis.com.au

centre cost. Organising groups will be advised of this.

Registration includes preprinted proceedings both because they are the significant scholarly record of the conference and to ensure that presentations can build on this permanent record rather than just duplicating it.

The conference is budgeted to provide substantial income to ALIA, to apply to member benefits. This income is completely covered by sponsorship and exhibitor fees. Sponsorship and exhibitor fees also cover more than one-third of conference costs. This substantial commitment entitles sponsors and exhibitors to expect a high level of attendance by delegates. For this reason lunch in the exhibition area is covered in the registration fee.

We are confident that the budget is not lavish. It is based on a conservative attendance expectation of 1100. We have had no experience of a 'normal' main centre conference for some years and cannot predict the effect that the increased number of specialist conferences during that time will have on attendance.

Registration closing dates were set to allow early-bird registration to be paid in two financial years.

We recognise that not everyone will wish to, or be able to, meet the cost of attending the conference. ALIA offers a wide range of local specialist, continuing professional development activities. I am sure that many who have committed effort to preparing conference papers would be happy to repeat them for local audiences. Branches and sections may wish to check the conference program and make approaches.

Have you looked at costs for other conferences lately? Through the generous contribution members make to Association events, I believe that we provide amazing value. I am sure those who attend the conference will think so too.

Historic documents stolen

In April my house was broken into and a large number of valuable and historic documents were specifically targeted for theft.

As the owner of the material, I have been gradually publishing the diaries of records of John and James Green because of their historic and cultural value for the peoples of the Gympie region and South East Queensland. The records

date from 1840 to 1938 — the main emphasis being on the years 1850 and 1900.

Exploration maps, drawings, sketches, glass photos, photocopied records of the diaries and other documents, contain a wealth of early detailed private settlement records of these early farmers/explorers. They also contain records of intimate relationships, customs, and events relating to European settlers as well as the indigenous peoples of the area.

A full inventory of the material stolen is available. If you think you have seen any of this material please contact Brett Green, 52 Red Hill Road, Gympie QLD 4570.

Brett Green

Thank you...

Thank you to everyone who has supported Australian Library and Information Research (ALIR) by sending me information on research projects. ALIR needs to capture more data on current and recently completed research work and

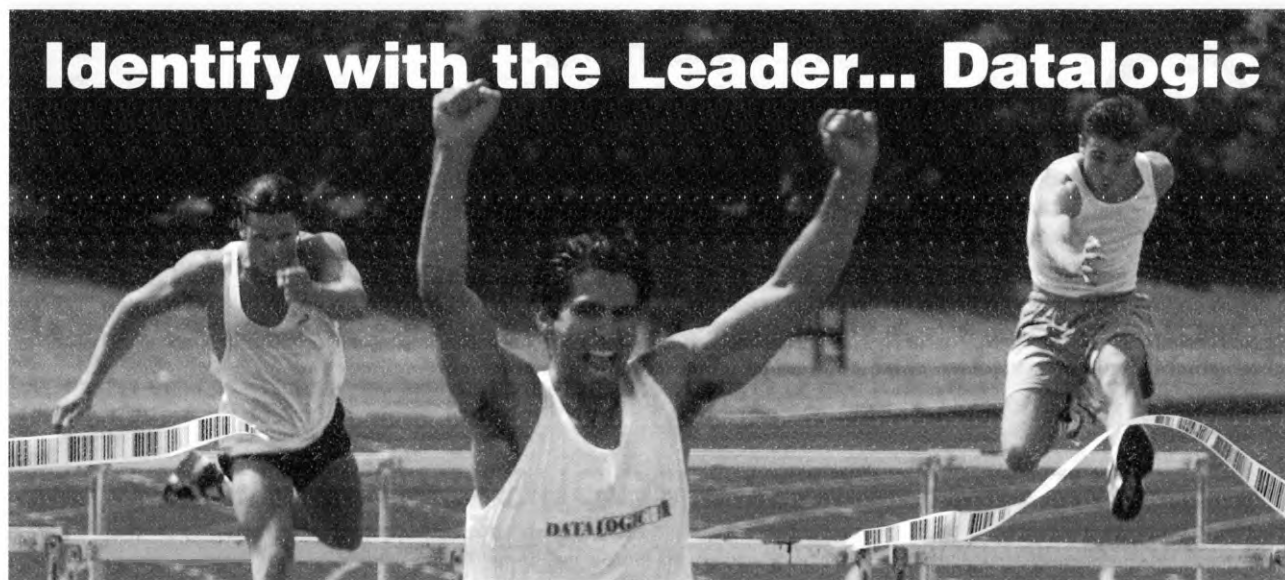
theses. I am asking potential contributors not to wait for their articles to be published or their theses to be accepted but to inform ALIR of their work. Please let me and the library and information world know what you are doing to extend the frontiers of knowledge. Report forms are available from Neville Aylmore, Editor, Australian Library and Information Research, c/- Australian Clearing House for Library and Information Science, University of South Australia Library, Street Bernards Road, Magill 5072. Phone (08) 302 44399 or fax (08) 302 4695.

Neville Aylmore

Your voice

Your letters on any issue of relevance to the library and information sector are welcomed.

All letters should be addressed to the inCite editor and may be e-mailed to incite@alia.org.au, faxed to 06 282 2249, or posted to: Your voice, ALIA, PO Box E441, Queen Victoria Terrace, ACT 2600. Please include your name and postal address with your letter or e-mail.



Identify with the Leader... Datalogic

No matter how tough the task, Datalogic's performance, flexibility and reliability leads the way in the world of Automatic Identification and Data Capture.

Datalogic's worldwide resources are utilised for a solution to your project, no matter what the size.

Call us today... you've got nothing to lose but a lot to gain.

- Hand-held and Fixed Position Barcode Scanners
- Portable Data Collection Terminals
- R.F.I.D. Tag Systems
- Photoelectric Sensors and Controls
- RJS Barcode Printers and Consumables
- Strandware Barcode Label Software
- Custom Software

DNA/INCITE 1017

Leaders in Automatic Identification **DATALOGIC**

Melbourne (head office) 03 9558 9299 Sydney 02 842 9216 Brisbane 07 3875 1848 Adelaide (Comware) 08 362 9230
New Zealand (Barcode Systems (NZ) Ltd) +64 9 849 5260 Malaysia (Triangle Hi-Tech (M) Sdn. Bhd.) +60 3 262 5805
Singapore (Shen Technology Pte Ltd) +65 562 6881