

• **5/3 Literacy Section meeting.** 10am – 1pm. Auburn Library. Contact Sue Scott (02) 230 1526.

• **6/3 ASSIG Seminar** — *The future of serials* speakers include Octover Ivins, North American Serials Interest Group and Will Wakeling, UK. Serials Group. \$95 ALIA members, \$45 students, \$125 others. Local contact Lionel Robson (02) 385 2656. Registration forms Alfred Gans (07) 3371 7500, fax (07) 3371 5566, e-mail alfred@isa.com.au.

• **7/3 Information Science Section.** PCAUSTATS, TRADSTAT and Victorian University of Technology. Import/Export statistics — *What every Australian enterprise needs to know about world trade data.* Metcalfe Auditorium, SLNSW. Contact Jenny Affleck (02) 212 2867.

• **13/3 NSW Specials Committee meeting.** Contact Moya Lum, phone (02) 257 5481, fax (02) 257 7756.

14/3 Insearch/Knight Ridder Information Seminars. Introductory DIALOG (14/3) Trade-marks (26/3) Business (28/3) Sydney. Contact (02) 212 2867.

• **26/3 NSW Branch AGM** Further details TBA. Enquiries to Joanne Fuller or Nicole Hmeltnitsky on (02) 9906 6000.

30/6–3/7 Shaping the wisdom of Oz NSW Computer Education Group Conference, Charles Sturt University Bathurst. A 'don't miss' conference for all librarians, needing to keep abreast of information technology. Contact Conference convenor, Stan Wawrzyniak, 56 Church Street, Castle Hill NSW 2154. Phone (02) 894 5128 (AH), (02) 639 0034.

NT

• **11/3 NT Branch council meeting.** Details TBA. Contact Kathy Stapelton (089) 456 023.

Qld

6–8/2 Insearch/Knight-Ridder Information Seminars Introductory DIALOG (6/2), Beyond the Basics (7/2), Asia Pacific Corporate Intelligence (8/2, am). Brisbane. Contact (02) 212 2867.

• **7/2 RAISS (Qld) AGM.** Details from Secretary

• **12/2 Qld Library Technicians Section meeting.** State Library Theatre. 5.30pm. Contact Ailsa O'Donnel (07) 3259 3025.

• **21/2 Public Libraries meeting.** *Marketing libraries*, speaker Val Stadden. 6pm for 6.30pm (refreshments provided). \$10 ALIA, \$15 others. Central City Library, City Plaza, Corner Ann, George and Adelaide Streets Brisbane.

continued next page...

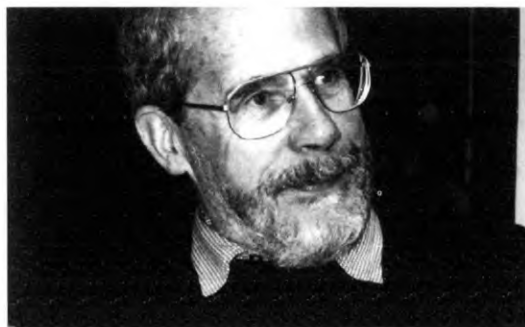
An interview with the incoming editor of *ALJ*

In late August of 1995 Dr Michael Talbot tendered his resignation after a five-year stint as editor of *The Australian library journal* (*ALJ*), effective from the last issue of 1995. ALIA thereupon advertised the position and after a lengthy selection process, offered the appointment to John Levett, a well-known member of the library community and a long-standing member of ALIA.

inCite: John, this appointment isn't a new one for you, is it?

John Levett: No, I was editor from 1981 to 1990. Michael Talbot then took over from me, and I am in the process of returning the compliment. I thought very hard about applying this time round. All the aphorisms about pitchers, wells and soufles ran through my mind, but in the end, my conviction that this was one of the most interesting honorary appointments the association had to offer won out. And here I am.

inCite: Do you plan any radical changes to the journal? Some people have argued that it should, as the association's 'flagship' publica-



Professor John Levett

tion, be more scholarly and publish only refereed articles reflecting genuine research. Do you agree with this?

John Levett: Firstly, no radical changes are immediately contemplated, and in any case, such a shift is not mine to make. One of the terms of my appointment was that I should generate a three to five year strategic plan for *ALJ*, and that process will be the appropriate vehicle through which to explore and negotiate any change.

Obviously, external factors such as the current shifts in communication and publication technology will have implications for the journal, but at the moment, only a proportion of members has routine access to the Internet of a kind which would allow them to read an electronic version, so paper will continue to be the main format for the foreseeable future.

Nor do I think it appropriate that the *ALJ* should become a fully-refereed journal, although I can see that for those members for whom publication in a refereed journal is a career imperative, this might lead them to place their articles elsewhere. *ALJ*

does however publish a substantial proportion of scholarly articles which would readily find their way into a refereed context. It always has.

The point I am making is that *ALJ* has a very mixed audience, it serves the membership as a whole, and to close its pages to a significant proportion of its readership and potential contributors would be unduly restrictive. In time, *ALJ* might sponsor a scholarly offshoot, say the *Australian journal of library and information research* (or it might come into being spontaneously); an interim compromise might be to allow contributors the option of having their article refereed. They could then note this in their *curriculum vitae*.

inCite: What do you see as your role as editor?

John Levett: What it has always been in my forty years in the profession: to provoke, stimulate, encourage and support those people who have a contribution to make to the debate. My current stint as editor is a logical extension of that position. The autonomy which attaches to the position of editor is an invaluable platform for such a role. ■

