

Your voice

Looking for a complete record

My friend, Katherine Raper, who attended the Melbourne conference was nice enough to lend me her copy of the conference 'proceedings' as I was unable to attend the conference in person. I must say that I was very disappointed to discover that half of the papers presented were not published, including the keynote speech presented on the opening day! Therefore Alan Bundy is correct in his criticism that future works of this nature should be titled 'selective conference paper pre-prints'.

If it is possible to record the papers presented in audio form, it should be possible to publish the transcripts of these tapes in print or any other format. I agree with Helen Tait that a conference can be recorded for future study in various formats and this allows a degree of choice. However any recording of the event made available to the

public should be a complete one and if it is not, it should be clearly stated that it is not a complete record.

Michael Wayne Soo, NSW Library Technicians Section

Challenge or crisis?

Upon reading the November issue of *inCite*, I seriously considered the value of my membership to ALIA. It has taken a while for me to respond formally as I was so incensed at the misconception that all was rosy in library land.

I have read the DEETYA *Job Futures* publications, *Skills Demand Bulletin* and *Skilled Vacancy Surveys*. It is important to note that *Job Futures* states that 'there is an element of personal judgement and conclusions may not always concur with the views of all contacts' (DEETYA *Job Futures* 5, May 1996). On reading the DEETYA caveat, I have little faith in some of the final analysis. I believe

that it is time for ALIA to get with the popular opinion and really look at what it is doing for its membership. Many members are facing extremely difficult times ahead. We can be all 'touchy feely' about it and call it a 'challenge' but the reality is more of a crisis. I applaud the work of ACLIS Victorian Division, ALIA Specials and many dedicated individuals in the culmination of 'The winning package'. This project is one way that practical help can be provided to library and information professionals.

David Tan

We all accept that times are tough for many, especially in the public sector where downsizing policies hold sway at the moment. But this is affecting all employees, and not just librarians. We need to focus on ways to deal with and identify opportunities from change. ALIA is committed to enhancing the employment and career prospects of

those in the library and information sector and is undertaking a number of projects in this area. The findings and projections we quoted in inCite (Nov 96) came from Australia's most extensive report on jobs in the future, Australia's workforce 2005: jobs in the future (ISBN 0 644 45206 4), a publication that indicates a positive outlook for those with knowledge and skills currently held by librarians and information professionals. The reality is that the future is offering opportunities that require versatility, flexibility and transferability of skills.

Editor

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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, or faxed to 06 282 2249, or posted to: Your voice, ALIA, PO Box E441, Kingston ACT 2604. Please include your name and postal address with your letter or e-mail.



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