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• **24/3 WA Special Libraries Section Committee meeting.** Time: 5pm
Contact: Tracy Gerritsen, ph (09) 366 4737.

National

13-16/3 The 1997 Somerset celebration of literature. This nationally recognised festival, which features children's authors, will be held for the fourth year at Somerset College. Confirmed authors to date include Colleen McCullough. Contact: Graeme Gardiner at Somerset College, Somerset Drive, Mugeeraba 4213.

2-5/4 Pacific Asia Conference on Information Systems 1997 (PACIS '97). *The confluence of information systems theory and practice.* QUT Brisbane, Australia. Registration fee: Academics \$325, Practitioners \$495, Full-time students \$150. For further information view <http://www.fit.qut.edu.au/PACIS97/> or contact: angie@asclink.net.au.

• **4/5-10/5 Australian Library Week.** Theme: *Libraries: a web of information.* Further information and material available from ALIA National Office, PO Box E441, Kingston 2604, ph (06) 285 1877, fax (06) 282 2249, e-mail enquiry@alia.org.au.

• **23/8-7/9 IFLA Study Tour.** Draft itinerary available from ALIA National Office, PO Box E441, Kingston 2604, ph (06) 285 1877, fax (06) 282 2249, e-mail enquiry@alia.org.au.

Conferences

• **25-26/8 ALIA TAFE National conference: Call for papers and chairpersons.** Theme: *Partnerships.* Venue: Sydney. Expressions of interest are sought from potential speakers, suggestions of speakers who can be approached and people who would like to chair sessions. Recommendations are welcomed to identify best practice models of working partnerships. Call for papers forms are available from Marion Bannister, Program Subcommittee Convenor, c/- Wagga Wagga TAFE Library, PO Box 2335, South Wagga Wagga 2650. Ph (069) 381 402, fax (069) 381 489, e-mail marion.bannister@tafensw.edu.au. Call for papers closes on 14/3

• **11-12/9 12th National Cataloguing conference.** *New opportunities for cataloguers.* Paper sessions and workshops. Contact: Prue Deacon, ph (06) 289 7062, e-mail prue.deacon@hhlgs.ausgovhcs.telememo.au.

• **19-20/9 ALIA Local Studies conference.** *Timekeepers: forging links in local studies.* Venue: South Perth Heritage House. Contact: Ailsa Gregg, Education Department WA, 151 Royal Street, East Perth, ph (09) 264 4952.

• **24-26/9 Library Technicians conference.** *InterACTion.* Venue: National Convention Centre, Canberra. Contact: Marion Boyd, High Court of Australia, PO Box E435, Kingston 2604, fax (06) 273 2110.

• **12-16/10 7th Asian Pacific Specials, Health and Law Librarian's conference and exhibition — Perth On the Edge.** Venue: Duxton Hotel, Perth. Contact: Motive Conventions, GPO Box Z5327, St Georges Terrace, Perth 6831, ph (09) 322 2666, fax (09) 322 1417, e-mail edge97@portia.murdoch.edu.au.

• **9-12/11 Public Libraries Section and Reference and Information Service Section conference.** *Creating tomorrow today: can you imagine...* Venue: Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre. Contact: Kelly Flynn, Conference Secretariat, PO Box 1280, Milton 4064, ph (07) 3369 0477, fax (07) 3369 1512, e-mail pubr97@sunray.im.com.au. ■

All inCite Events are limited to 40 words maximum and must include: date, name of Division, title of event, theme and key speaker (if relevant), venue, time, costs, and a contact name with phone and fax numbers.

ALIA divisions should mail or fax details of forthcoming events to the address shown below.

Non-ALIA entries: Send (at a cost of \$40 for 40 words) with your complete billing details to **inCite Events**, ALIA, PO Box E441, Kingston, ACT 2604; fax (06) 282 2249. An invoice will be sent to the address indicated with your entry. For a small additional cost, your event may be listed on our World Wide Web site. Please call for details.

• **bullets indicate activities organised by ALIA Divisions**
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Call for training in on-line and Internet services

Marie Murphy

Preliminary analysis of the survey of continuing professional development needs which was distributed in the September 1996 issue of *inCite* has identified on-line skills, including database searching, using and publishing on the Internet, as a major area of need. The survey, which aimed to identify members continuing professional development needs during the next three years, also asked respondents to indicate their incentives for undertaking continuing professional development activities and to identify any areas in which current continuing professional development needs are not being met.

Sixty-four per cent of respondents to the survey indicated that activities built around further developing and extending on-line and Internet skills were important for their continuing professional development. Another six per cent indicated a need to further develop information technology skills in order to maintain or further develop their library system.

Although distance education is a preferred option for eighteen per cent of those aiming to extend skills in these areas, most respondents are seeking hands on courses offered through ALIA divisions or in the workplace. Other areas of general need identified in the survey include strategic planning (fifteen per cent), management skills (twenty-four per cent), especially financial and human resources management and presentation skills (nine per cent). Refresher courses to enhance reference and/or technical skills are required by twenty-seven per cent of respondents who are seeking to enter new areas or to re-enter the workforce.

The main reason survey respondents undertake continuing professional development is to further develop skills and knowledge so that they can continue to provide a service relevant to the information needs of clients (forty-nine per cent). Other incentives for continuing professional development include the need to remain employable (eighteen per cent) and for personal and career development (fifteen per cent).

Developing management skills, including financial management skills, was identified as an important area where continuing professional needs are not being fully met. This information will assist ALIA National Office in developing strategic partnerships with education and training providers to offer courses to fully meet members' needs. Respondents also indicated that many continuing professional development opportunities are available to those who may be seeking a particular course.

While over seventy per cent of respondents indicated that they receive employer support such as time release and study leave to attend courses as well as financial support, it was noted that in general there is little or no support offered to casual and contract employees.

As well the results of the survey show that many members are committed to undertaking continuing professional development activities, beyond those supported by their employer, in their own time and at their own expense. ■