

## Your voice

### Pathways to success

I would like to congratulate Di Booker and the conference committee for a job well done. I found the conference to be fantastic. The venue was great, the papers presented were stimulating, the plenary speakers were excellent, the food and trade exhibition were fabulous. The choice of many things to see and hear about in the parallel, issues, and workshop sessions which some saw as a disadvantage, I saw as an advantage, as they demonstrated that there was variety, and something for everyone available at this conference.

You may recall my letter of complaint in *inCite* (January 1997) where I voiced my disappointment with ALIA 96. To which Anne Hazell (*inCite* March 1997) responded. In my humble opinion the committee

have well and truly succeeded in making ALIA 98 superior to ALIA 96.

Let me also add that I rose to the challenge of Anne's response to my letter, and to the words of the opening speech of Warren Horton at ALIA 96 for younger members of ALIA to publish, write, and contribute to the intellectual integrity of librarianship. My paper presented at ALIA 98 was well received and was personally a great professional development experience. My paper presentation, I feel also contributed to my organisation and helped raise the profile of my library to the Australian library audience.

**Graeme Oke, Melbourne, Victoria**

### A professional image

We wish to express our indigna-

tion at the reference made to librarians in an article written by Everard Hunder in *The Melbourne Weekly* about the principal of Kilvington Girls Grammar, Ms Di Fleming (*The Melbourne Weekly*, November 10-16).

In describing Ms Fleming the author states 'While her resumé makes her sound like a formidable businesswoman, in the flesh she's like a librarian: curly hair, glasses, and a soft voice. She flops onto the couch and sighs'.

The inference here is that librarians are not formidable, forward thinking, proactive professionals, but rather, introverted, frumpy females who hide behind their books.

Anyone who knows anything about the information management profession would know that librarians have been at the

forefront of technological change and need to be self-confident, dynamic and visionary in order to exist in this age of compulsory competitive tendering and government funding cuts.

**Heather McPhee, Jan Weinberg, and Fabiola Salvo, Parkville, Victoria**

### 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](mailto:incite@alia.org.au), or faxed to 02 6282 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.

Letters will be accepted for publication until the 18th of the month.

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**MCB UP will be on Stand 71, Information Online & On Disc '99, Sydney, 19-21 January 1999**

*Come and see us on the stand or call for an appointment*

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