

Your voice

The PowerPoint debate continues

It is a good idea to debate the merits or otherwise of PowerPoint presentations at conferences. However when reading the latest *inCite*, it seems Alan Bundy and Richard Goodram (letters, *inCite* March 2004, p5) may have more time at their disposal than many of us have, and are more interested in archival and documentation processes, than the issue of how to ensure delegates paying to attend conferences have the opportunity to hear brilliant, knowledgeable speakers.

Of course delegates to library conferences 'have the capacity to read a paper' but written papers are only by-products, and not the *raison d'être* of conferences. The question I suggest both Alan and Richard ponder about is 'Do busy, talented people have the time today to produce written conference papers to be read for free in archival form — long after a conference has finished?' Should we perhaps consider if it is practical and legitimate from an intellectual property perspective to record, in full, the papers as they are presented if full records are required for future reference?

As someone who has been involved with organising several Information Online

conferences, I know how difficult it is to put a high quality program together and how hard committee members, often volunteers, work to try and obtain written papers. But at the end of the day, most of us I think would agree the most critical objective is to ensure we have knowledgeable speakers at conferences. If our wonderful speakers can only spare the time to produce a PowerPoint presentation, rather than a full written paper — this is at least of benefit to those paying to attending the conference, and is frequently better than nothing at all.

**Elizabeth Swan, convenor
Information Online 2003**

PowerPointlessness?

The term PowerPointlessness mentioned in my earlier letter (*inCite*, March p5) was indeed coined by an Australian, and a South Australian at that. Barb Jenkin from the South Australian Department of Education confirms that she did so.

PowerPointlessness

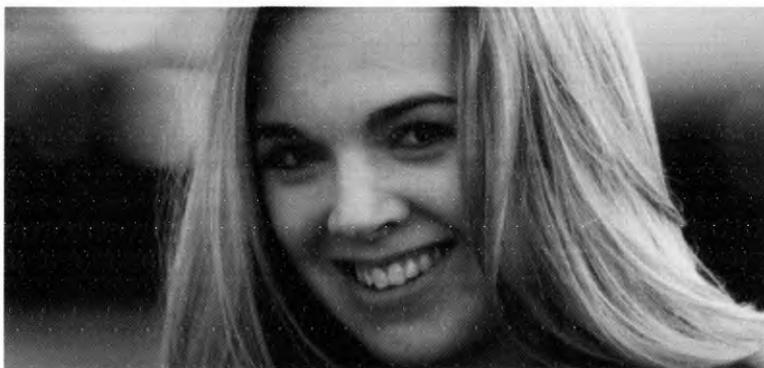
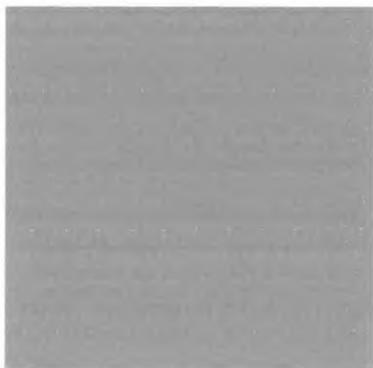
Noun. In a PowerPoint presentation, any fancy transitions, sounds, and other effects that have no discernible purpose, use or benefit.

Dr Alan Bundy, University of SA

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 02 6282 2249, or posted to: Your voice, ALIA, PO Box 6335, Kingston 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.



Travelling to Europe and looking for work?

We are the leading UK Recruitment Agency specialising in the Library, Information, Records and Knowledge Management Sector. We have temporary and contract vacancies in both the public and private sector.

Call the contract recruitment team on
+44 (0)20 7251 5522



tfpl

TFPL Recruitment 17-18 Britton Street, London EC1M 5TL, United Kingdom

tel: +44 (0)20 7251 5522 fax: +44 (0)20 7251 8318 email: recruitment@tfpl.com

www.tfpl.com