

ALIA in Hong Kong

While in Hong Kong last month to participate in a higher education conference, ALIA president Gillian Hallam had the opportunity to meet with some personal members of the Association. Despite the onset of torrential summer rains, Ruth Wong from the library of the University of Hong Kong, Eddie Ho, librarian with law firm Allen Overy, and Bernadette Walker joined Gillian for an evening to discuss professional issues.

Senior management of the Hong Kong Public Library also kindly hosted a meeting and tour of the Central Library, which attracts 10 000 visitors daily. ALIA extends warm thanks to directors Ms Chimene Ho, Ms Terry Lee, Mr KPYam and Mr YM Lee. The Hong Kong Public Library is an institutional member of ALIA, while Mr Lee has been a personal member of ALIA for 28 years. ■



(l-r) Eddie Ho, Bernadette Walker and Ruth Wong with Gillian Hallam

Your voice

The independence of Cuban libraries

I note that *inCite* has published ['Cuban librarians convicted of being dangerous', *inCite*, June 2005] without attribution — I should have thought a publication by librarians for librarians would have been more careful to declare its sources.

May I refer readers who are interested in this complex issue to the 'Discussion on the "Independent" Cuban libraries' on the *International Responsibilities Task Force of the American Library Association's Social Responsibilities Round Table* web page at <http://www.pitt.edu/~ttwiss/irtf/cuba.html>.

There is also a continuing discussion on this topic on the IFLA Committee on Free Access to Information and Freedom of Expression (FAIFE) e-list — for information on joining this list, see <http://infoserv.inist.fr/wwsympa.fcgi/info/faife-l/>.

Gayle Davies, Manager, Library Services, Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (NSW)

Human rights in Cuba

In regards to your article 'Cuban librarians convicted of being dangerous' in the June 2005 issue of *inCite*, the convicted people are not librarians. During their trial, evidence was shown that they received money from the

US-based Cuban American National Foundation and the US Mission in Havana. CANF campaigns to overthrow the Cuban Government by violent means. Australian academic Tim Anderson wrote about this in the *Green Left Weekly* of 13 April 2005, which can be accessed at <http://www.greenleft.org.au/back/2005/622/622p16.htm>.

The website of the Cuban Libraries Solidarity Group at <http://www.cubanlibrariesolidaritygroup.org.uk/> has information about libraries and librarians in Cuba.

Alleged human rights violations perpetrated by the Cuban Government are a separate issue to whether these people are librarians. If ALIA members are interested in human rights issues, perhaps it would be more helpful to start by considering the alleged human rights violations of our own government. As in the Cuban case, this has little direct relation to libraries.

Clare Snowball, Perth WA

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.

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