

## Your voice

Dear Editor,

I've just finished reading Francis Wheen's book *How mumbo jumbo conquered the world* and now feel happy to trust my instincts and identify mumbo jumbo when I see it, or, in the case of John Stanley's article 'Step three: Journey of excitement', read it. I've been sceptical of his ideas for a long time, but now feel I must publicly dissent.

I enjoy walking into my local library and seeing books on the shelves. That's why I go there, that's why my aged mother goes there and when the need arises even my teenage kids go there for exactly the same reason.

The highlight of my library experience is finding books on the shelf that I want to read, for my mother it's finding something that she's read about in the newspaper or heard about on the radio, and the kids, well they usually just want something to help them write their essays with as little pain or effort as possible.

I don't enjoy the retail experience with their invasive marketing techniques but I put up with it when I have to do my shopping. I don't really have a choice. However I don't want to have to put up with it in my local library.

I enjoy the fact that I can hear conversations, children mucking

about, the staff talking to each other and the general murmur of human activity. That's what I want, and I want my love of books to be shared by the staff in my library because that's what a library is to me. That's what excites me about libraries. It saddens me immensely to walk into my library and see the shelves more than half empty just because that's how a retailer would display them. What happened to all those great books?

I've no objection to libraries branching out and providing services in different formats, using different technologies but I sincerely hope that public libraries soon recover from what appears to be a monumental identity crisis.

I like libraries much more than I like retail stores; let's not muddle them up.

**Lesley James, Mount Barker, 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](mailto: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.*

- ▶ the profession, as well as to develop and articulate the profession's policies and future directions. Strategies can include professional development courses to develop research skills, encouraging support from more experienced researchers through mentoring, and easy access to information on the ALIA website about research opportunities and industry research awards such as the ALIA Study Grant Award, the Ray Choate Scholarship, the Dunn & Wilson Scholarship and the YBP/Lindsay & Howes Research Award for Collection Services.

While it is imperative that ALIA communicates the results of research activities through channels such as ALIA conferences, ALJ, AARL and the REAP e-print repository, more needs to be done to encourage the dissemination of projects that are currently unreported, and also for LIS professionals to reach out to an audience beyond our own profession to ensure that we don't just preach to the converted, but that the wider world hears our loud and clear messages about the achievements and the impact of our professional work.

### References

Muir Gray, J A (2001) *Evidence-based healthcare: how to make health policy and management decisions*, 2nd ed. Churchill Livingstone, London.

Todd, R (2003) 'Learning in the information age school: opportunities, outcomes and options', International Association of School Librarianship (IASL) 2003 Annual Conference, Durban, South Africa, 7–11 July 2003.

Ritchie, A (1999) 'Evidence-based decision making', *incite*, 20(12), p33. ■

## Election of ALIA vice-president and three directors

### Call for nominations

Nominations are called for ALIA vice-president [president-elect] and three positions on the Board of Directors of ALIA as incorporated under *Corporations Law*.

The vice-president [president-elect] and the two positions on the Board of Directors will be elected by the membership at large and one position will be elected by institutional members.

Nominees must be personal members of the Association and will represent the interests of the organisation as a whole rather than those of a particular constituency.

The vice-president and directors will assume office immediately following the 2006 Annual General Meeting (May).

The vice-president [president-elect] will assume the presidency following the Annual General Meeting of the Association in 2007 to the 2008 Annual General Meeting. The term of office of directors will be until the Annual General Meeting in 2008.

Nominations must be in writing and must be signed by two financial members of the Association and include the consent in writing of the nominee.

Nomination forms must be accompanied by a 100-word current *curriculum vitae* which provides full details of academic and professional qualifications and a 100-word statement of professional concerns. The *curriculum vitae* should be arranged under headings of present position, previous positions and professional activities. A standard colour portrait photograph *must* be included.

Nomination forms are available from ALIA National Office, or via ALIANet.

Nominations close at 5:00pm AEDT on **3 February 2006** and should be sent to the ALIA executive director, PO Box 6335, Kingston ACT 2604, e-mail [enquiry@alia.org.au](mailto:enquiry@alia.org.au), or fax 02 6282 2249.

Forms and information available from <http://alia.org.au/governance/elections/2006/>.