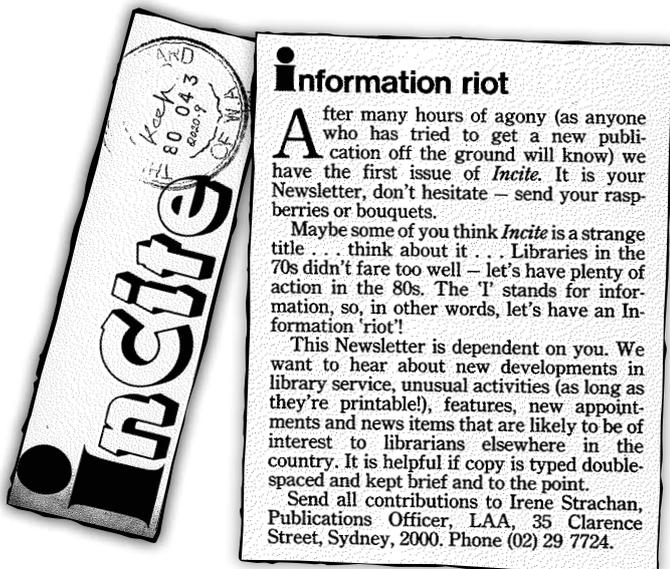


# INCITE

## THEN AND NOW



It seems only appropriate to end an issue looking at publishing with a blast from the past and a call for the future. Accordingly, ALIA's ACT Territory Manager Diana Richards strapped on her miner's headlamp and went deep into the archives to excavate the very first issue of *INCITE* so we could enjoy a little stroll down memory lane. *INCITE* Vol 1, No 1 hit members' mailboxes in January 1980. And lo! Right there on the first page, by way of explaining the new publication's title, is a call for all ALIA members to riot.

'Maybe some of you think *Incite* is a strange title...think about it...Libraries in the 70s didn't fare too well – let's have plenty of action in the 80s. The 'I' stands for Information, so, in other words, let's have an Information 'riot'!

The 'I' in *INCITE* still stands for information, and just a few years later we installed it in the Association's name as well – evidence of its growing importance and relevance to our profession. It would also seem this second decade of the new millennium seems to be yet another opportune time to rally back to the cause.

So, what made the cut in 1980? No 1 included a hefty selection of letters covering everything from an error in the latest edition of the Dewey Decimal Classification to a protest of the view that technological change would lead to librarians being viewed as nothing more than 'information intermediaries mainly to socially disadvantaged groups'.

There was lots of news about amazing advancements in technology including the introduction of DIALOG's 1979 White House Conference on Library and Information Services Hotline: 'the result of the combined efforts of *Library Journal* editors who prepared the copy; Information Access Corporation, which processed the information into machine-readable form; and the Lockheed DIALOG Service which prepared the file for searching. Twenty-seven abstracts were prepared, and these summarise the activities, debates, resolutions and problems of the Conference'.

In 2014, we and our users not only accept but expect access in real time to pretty much everything from everywhere. How times change!

One thing hasn't. *INCITE* is still about the oceans of information news sloshing around in the workplaces, brains and resources of members. We may now have a busy events calendar on the ALIA website to augment the happenings reported in our pages and a myriad of ways to connect but, as the then Publications Officer Irene Strachan wrote in that very first issue, *INCITE* is still 'dependent on you'. We still 'want to hear about new developments in library service, unusual activities (as long as they're printable!), features, new appointments and news items that are likely to be of interest to librarians everywhere in the country.'

The good news is you don't need to send it typed double-spaced anymore. Email us instead at [incite@alia.org.au](mailto:incite@alia.org.au).

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