

ALIA and the Australian Libraries Summit

Executive Director, Sue Kosse, summarised ALIA's strategy for carrying forward the resolutions assigned to it by the Australian Libraries Summit in *InCite* 10(17), 30 October 1989.

InCite continues its series on the Summit with the following report on implementation of resolutions related to school libraries. This is extracted from an article in *Orana*, the journal of school and children's librarianship, with the permission of ALIA's School Libraries Section (National Group). The Group has been active in pursuing the Summit resolutions relating to school libraries, and their progress should be of interest to those involved in this area.

Implementation of resolutions related to school libraries

School libraries were well represented at the Summit—in general discussions, and in the session dealing particularly with 'a national strategy for school libraries'.

The Australian Libraries Summit resolutions that relate to school libraries fall into two groups:

- those that came out of the session on 'a national strategy for school libraries'; and
- those that came out of other sessions, but have implications for school libraries.

In the latter category are resolutions identified as ones on which the School Libraries Section and/or ASLA needed to take action, and resolutions referred to the School Libraries Section by ALIA General Council.

In addition, General Council has referred to us resolutions related to library materials for users with special needs, categories of people who might be exempt from user-pays charges in public libraries, and action for the International Literacy Year.

Action strategy

In March 1989, an 'action strategy' document was prepared by the National Committee of the School Libraries Section as the basis for work on these resolutions. This document showed each of the relevant resolutions, with the organisation by whom action was to

be taken (assigned by the Summit), the dead-line for action, the priority assigned by the Summit, and some suggested activities. The suggestions were in no way intended to be prescriptive; rather, they were listed in the hope that they would help to generate other ideas.

At the end of March, the document was circulated to State Groups of the ALIA School Libraries Section, ASLA, the coordinators of the State Department/Ministry of Education school library services (or equivalent), the heads of library schools where courses in teacher librarianship or school librarianship are taught, and other interested groups and individuals.

Each group or individual was invited to select a resolution or resolutions which they would like to follow through, and to respond to the National Committee by the end of May. This report collates those responses.

Clearing house

It was agreed that the National Committee of ALIA's School Libraries Section and the National Executive of ASLA would together act as a 'clearing house' to receive the proposals, to ensure that all the resolutions were covered appropriately, and to approach people (where necessary) to initiate action on resolutions.

People or groups were asked to indicate the resolution/resolutions with which they wished to deal, and to provide information on: what they planned to do; who would do it; how it would be done; the target audience for the activity; and the time frame.

Where more than one proposal was received related to the one resolution, the clearing house group was to try to arrange for the proposers to work together, or to cooperate in some way if working together was not appropriate.

It was suggested that, in relation to each resolution, information would need to be collected before action was undertaken. This might involve a survey of current practice, finding out what happens at present, and collecting opinions. Other bodies with an interest in the outcome of the particular resolution would need to be identified and approached; efforts would need to be made to find out what they were doing and, if appropriate, provide support or initiate joint action. Such

bodies could include the various State/Territory educational computing associations, the reading associations, associations for educational administrators, or principals or deputy principals, educational research organisations, and parent groups.

In relation to each resolution, a target audience or audiences would have to be identified, and their needs and activities considered. Once the information had been collected, and the target audience had been identified, goals and strategies could be developed.

Reports to Council

The ALIA General Council, at its meetings held three times a year, requires a report from each of the Sections indicating progress on the Summit resolutions. Therefore, a reporting mechanism has been suggested, so the clearing house group has up-to-date information about what is happening in relation to each resolution. This reporting mechanism will also enable the clearing house group to provide coordination and reduce the likelihood of duplication of effort across groups. Those who accepted responsibility for a resolution or resolutions would therefore need to be aware that brief reports would be necessary, both for this purpose, and to keep other interested people informed of progress in each area.

Work in progress

Following is the full text of resolutions relevant to the School Libraries Section and related to 'a national strategy for school libraries', together with a summary of action being taken and contact information.

Not all the resolutions are currently being acted upon. The others are receiving attention from various Education Departments/Ministries, ALIA School Libraries Section State and other groups, ASLA groups and library schools.

Resolution PP1

That ALIA/ASLA work with the appropriate authorities and other bodies to develop a national policy on information literacy by 1990 in time for active participation by school libraries in the International Literacy Year (ILY) and the Year of the Reader. That this policy be included on the agenda of the

Australian Education Council, the Conference of Directors-General of Education, and other appropriate educational bodies.

Response

1. The School Support Officers (Library) from the Western Australian Ministry of Education will coordinate the preparation of a submission to the ILY Committee requesting the allocation of funds to develop a national policy on information literacy. (See Action plan below.)
Contact: Norma Jeffery, Western Australian Ministry of Education, 151 Royal Street, East Perth, WA 6000; telephone (09) 420 4111.
2. The Statewide School Library Support Centre, Ministry of Education, Victoria.
Contact: John Marsh, Statewide School Library Support Centre, 67 High Street, Prahran, Vic. 3181; telephone (03) 521 1721.

Action plan

- Gather information about the aims, objectives and funding capacity of the National Committee for ILY;
- contact other bodies that may be interested in developing a policy on information literacy, e.g. the Council for Better English; the English Teachers' Association; the Reading Teachers' Association;
- prepare a joint submission with groups wishing to be involved;
- inform other State education bodies and appropriate professional associations of the action taken and suggest that they prepare a similar submission; and
- promote the resulting policy with education authorities, schools and the public if the outcome is favourable.

Time line

June–December 1989 for points 1–3.

Resolution PP2

That equity of access to information for school communities be taken up as a national issue; factors to be considered include staffing, funding, physical facilities, access to learning resources and technology.

Response

1. The Victorian Group of ALIA's School Libraries Section plans to enlist the support of teacher-librarians to collect data.
Contact: Beverly Pianta, Honorary Secretary, ALIA School Libraries Section (Vic. Group), 3/25 Mitchell Street, Brunswick, Vic. 3056.

2. SASLA and the South Australian Coordinating Committee.
Contact: Jill Stevens (08) 263 6244.

Resolution PP3

That ALIA and ASLA jointly develop strategies for school libraries to participate in the development and use of the national collection and of appropriate databases.

Resolution PP4

That performance indicators be developed for school libraries within the context of the National Agenda for Education by the appropriate government educational bodies in association with ALIA/ASLA.

Response

1. The ALIA School Libraries Section (NSW Group) is working on a position paper on educational indicators, for publication at the end of 1989. (See Action plan below. Action also covers resolutions PP5, PP6 and PP11.)
Contact: Murray McLachlan, ALIA School Libraries Section (NSW Group).
2. The coordinators of school library services (or equivalent) in the Education Departments/Ministries have proposed to the Conference of Directors-General of Education that they form a working party of the coordinators to address Summit resolutions PP4 and PP5 on performance indicators and statistics.
Contact: Colette McCool, Northern Territory Library Services; telephone (089) 895 932.
3. Personnel from the Western Australian Ministry of Education will develop performance indicators for school libraries and circulate these as a discussion paper to education authorities and professional associations. (See Action plan below.)
Contact: Norma Jeffery, Western Australian Ministry of Education, 151 Royal Street, East Perth, WA 6000; telephone (09) 420 4111.
4. Statewide School Library Support Centre, Victorian Ministry of Education, 67 High Street, Prahran, Vic. 3181.
Contact: John Marsh (03) 521 1721.

Action plan

- Read widely on the topic of performance indicators;
- consult with school personnel, education authorities and professional associations to develop a set

of indicators;

- circulate as a discussion paper;
- publish in Access for further discussion if acceptable; and
- incorporate in a Ministry of Education Library Policy when one is developed.

Time line

August 1989 – August 1990.

Resolution PP5

The Summit urges representatives of government and non-government school library services to develop and implement a common approach to the collection of statistics. That ACLIS write to the Conference of Directors-General of Education and non-government education authorities expressing the importance of a common approach to the collection of statistics because of their importance as a basis for policy formulation, development of standards and planning for school library resource services.

Response

1. The ALIA School Libraries Section (NSW Group), as for PP4.
2. The coordinators of school library services in the Education Departments/Ministries, as for PP4.
3. Personnel from the Western Australian Ministry of Education, as for PP4.
4. Statewide School Library Support Centre, Victorian Ministry of Education, as for PP4.
5. The ALIA School Libraries Section (Vic. Group).
Contact: Beverly Pianta, Honorary Secretary, School Libraries Section (Vic. Group), 3/25 Mitchell Street, Brunswick, Vic. 3056.

Resolution PP6

That ALIA/ASLA/ACLIS approach State and federal governments to ensure that curriculum priorities are supported with appropriate funding for school libraries.

Response

1. SASLA and the South Australian Coordinating Committee.
Contact: Jill Stevens, (08) 263 6244.
2. The ALIA School Libraries Section (NSW Group), as for PP4.
3. The ALIA School Libraries Section (Vic. Group), as for PP5.

This article will be continued in Incite 10(20), 11 December 1989, with the remaining resolutions and work in progress.

