

# Letters

## The 'Letters' column (the President comments)

### Dear Editor,

The day that *inCite* has no letters to publish, or when it publishes letters which fail to provoke debate, will be the time to review its effectiveness as the Association's vehicle for news, information, comment and argument.

The 'Letters' column is there to allow members an opportunity to *air their own views*, and within the usual limits of good taste and good manners, coupled with the availability of space, every letter has an even chance of publication.

That said, it must be noted that members' opinions as reflected in their letters ought not to be interpreted as Association policy. I have been asked to point this out in general terms, and also, specifically, in relation to Zena Wallace's illuminating letter in *inCite* 17, of 29 October last.

John Levett  
President

## Library technicians

### Dear Editor,

I am pleased my letter in *inCite* 17, p 18, stimulated some debate in *inCite* 20.

Freedom of speech and of the press belongs to the people, and as such, the *inCite* editor has a moral obligation to use that privilege to inform members fully, even though this sometimes incurs the wrath of readers. *inCite's* editor should therefore not be 'questioned' on a decision to publish and right of reply should not be a criterion of letters-to-the-editor. Censorship is an issue librarians have been fighting against for years.

Any inferences or conclusions by others made about what I have said in *inCite* 17, are purely that. There was no intention to denigrate library technicians in any way, but it still stands that library technicians should never be ALIA recognised librarians unless they undergo further librarian training.

Students have articulated between the Qld TAFE Assoc. Dip. Ap. Sc. (Library Technician) program and the NSW Sturt University BA (Library Information Science) Degree for several years now, and I was 'amazed' that people could think articulation was a 'new' occurrence. This does not in any way criticise institutions that accept the qualifications of TAFE graduates nor does it 'demean' students who have graduated from these programs.

In fact such institutions with graduating students deserve praise! My implication was that there should be more places for post-graduate library training.

Zena Wallace

(Ed: This correspondence is now closed. *inCite* will be glad to report professional activity by library technicians and looks forward to your feedback!)

## Don't neglect schools, either

### Dear Editor,

It was most appropriate to kick off 1991 with John Levett's rallying call (Front Line, 11 February) BUT (ain't there always a 'but...?') perhaps one sentence could have been re-written.

'The school, the city, the State, the nation which neglects its libraries, neglects, in the end, itself.'

Penny Hall  
Teacher-librarian  
Queenwood Junior School for Girls

## John Levett and ALJ

### Dear Editor,

I write as an ALIA member and as a member of the *ALJ*/Editorial Board between 1979-1983 to record my appreciation for the 10 years of editorship of the *Australian Library Journal* recently completed by John Levett. As a professional literature 'junkie', I believe that under John Levett's editorship *ALJ* attained and maintained the highest standards in both content and appearance over a remarkably long period.

John took a very pro-active approach to the editorship, pursuing articles, goading (potential) authors and reviewers, and sought to ensure that significant papers, such as the Plenary papers from the Perth Conference, appeared in the Association's flagship journal with a minimum of delay. His editorials were read with anticipation, were invariably stimulating, and usually provocative — as should be the case. (They also tended to extend the vocabulary — or at least did in my case.)

Editing a professional journal is a difficult, arduous and often thankless task, requiring great professional dedication and commitment. This is particularly the case for a 'membership' journal such as *ALJ*. Such editorship is a task which usually receives little recognition from us as a professional community. That the journal continued to flourish after being 'floated' as a subscription journal is testimony to its standing among the profession and industry.

I extend congratulations to the new editor, Dr Michael Talbot, on his appointment and wish him well in this challenging position.

Marianne Broadbent □

# Who's Where

Joan Jensen has been appointed Research Officer of the Library, Australian National University, and took up the position on 29 January. Joan has been a lecturer in librarianship in several states and lately at the University of Canberra. She is still associated with the University of Canberra as member of the Centre for Library and Information Studies consultants' team. Joan is currently doing a PhD part-time at the University of NSW on the effect of de-regulation of telecommunications on the information industry.

Allan Thomas was appointed Chairperson of the Division of Library and Information Studies, Institute of Education, University of Melbourne, on 1 December 1990. He succeeds Angela Bridgland who has been granted leave in the latter half of 1991 to commence a Ph.D. Allan has also been appointed Deputy Head of the School of Humanities and Information Studies Education.

At the end of 1990 the Division farewellled Fay Nicholson and Stan Watson. Fay and Stan have both taken early retirement after making a long and valuable contribution to the work of the Division and to the library profession in general.

For 1991 we welcome Barbara Bugg and Cindy Tschernitz as new staff members. Barbara comes as a full-time member of staff after working for many years in Technical School libraries and the Statewide School Library Support Service.

Cindy's appointment is part-time and she retains her position as Information Services Librarian at the National Information Resource Centre, Telecom Australia. □

## Library Locums

Library Personnel  
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& Sydney

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