

## Students at ALIA '92...

Without wishing to reopen the 'moaning correspondence' referred to by Averill Edwards in *inCite* of 24 September 1990, as a third-year undergraduate student at Curtin University of Technology, I feel compelled to comment upon one aspect of the 1992 ALIA Biennial Conference.

At the 1990 Conference, the fee charged to students was \$100. To gain access to a similar range of activities at Albury-Wodonga, the student participant must now find \$225.

Whilst excellent value was admittedly had (by a relatively small number of people) at \$20 per day in 1990, the student fee has risen from 22% to 56% of the full member registration fee.

Few students presumably reside in Albury-Wodonga, and there should be no need to reiterate the financial circumstances of the average student who faces similar travel, accommodation and meal costs to other participants.

This dramatic increase is the more disappointing in an organisation which professes to encourage student involvement. The question which begs an answer is: Why?

*Roger A Horgan*  
Dianella, WA

## ...and a reply

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to Roger Horgan's letter about the student registration fee for ALIA '92.

A lower registration fee for students is achieved by a subsidy from other, full fee paying, delegates. Because of the accessibility of Albury-Wodonga, and a much more generous definition of 'student', ALIA 1992 will attract a large number of student registrations, which means the Conference is faced with a higher total subsidy. If we were to achieve a fee of the level generously offered in Perth, every other delegate's fee would have to be increased by more than \$20.

Please bear in mind, too, that the LAA 1988 Conference fee for students was 40% of the full fee, and that did not include a copy of the Proceedings (which Mr Horgan's will). It seems, perhaps, that Perth's student fee was unusually low. On the other hand, in comparison with Perth it will be a great deal less expensive for the majority of students to attend ALIA '92, with travel and accommodation costs being considerably less.

*Roy F Sanders*

Chair, Conference Committee  
ALIA 1992 Biennial Conference

## Date stamp your serials!

We would like to remind serials staff in major libraries and in special libraries of the importance of recording receipt dates on individual issues of journals which are kept and ultimately bound, so that this information is permanently available even after binding.

At the accession stage, the date of receipt should be stamped on the first page of text of individual issues of journals and conference proceedings, as well as on the covers for library identification.

For one of our clients opposing a patent application, we have recently been trying to confirm when certain journal articles and books were publicly available in Australia. Because of interlibrary loan arrangements, if it can be proven that specific issues were received in a major lending library on or before a certain date, such information may be used as evidence in court cases.

This can be critically important to Australian companies trying to develop and market new products.

If we are going to be 'the clever country', we need good libraries and information services to provide the knowledge needed by companies, but we also need to be able to prove that Australian libraries were clever enough to acquire important

material and when it was received!

*Elizabeth Swan and  
Bronwyn Ahearn*  
Information Edge Pty Ltd

## The British job market #1

I read with interest the article on the job market in Britain, *inCite* 6 April 1992. However, some important points were glossed over.

I am an Australian librarian who has been working for nearly two years, in Christ Church Library in the Oxford University. I was very fortunate to get a job here before I left Australia, but it took a lot of letter-writing and contact-making and over a year's wait before I was offered this job. The library job market in Britain is similar to that in Australia: there *are* jobs, but there are a lot of applicants, especially around the end of the academic year in June, when European librarians are also trying to work in Britain during the summer. Richard Hanson's experience (next letter) shows that it is not as easy to get a temporary job over here as Ms Jago's article suggests.

There are many advantages and disadvantages to working in Britain: you can travel around Britain and Europe but accommodation and just about everything else is expensive; the wages are lower and you have to pay income tax, poll tax, and national insurance; if you are over 28 years of age you cannot get a worker's permit unless your employer is willing to sponsor you; leaving Britain to travel on the continent can affect your length of stay; and working in an unfamiliar environment can be difficult. However, librarians are adaptable and resourceful, and the disadvantages can be overcome. I just feel that the article made it all sound too easy.

I have enjoyed my time in Oxford. I would recommend working in Britain to any librarian, but I would advise

writing in advance to major libraries and agencies such as TFPL for employment prospects *before* leaving Australia, and looking carefully into permit and visa requirements.

*Gill Pennock*  
Assistant Librarian  
(Cataloguing)  
Christ Church, Oxford

## The British job market #2

I arrived in Oxford over three years ago when my wife gained a place at this university. As we left Brisbane in rather a hurry I was unable to write in advance and it was some months before I was to work in one of the (many) libraries of this university. After a year of fairly menial work my luck changed and my present position gives me a great deal of personal and professional satisfaction.

My advice to *inCite* readers is to write well in advance and be prepared to work (initially) at a lower level than you may have been used to. Be adaptable, be persistent, be open-minded and you may find yourself rewarded with a unique working situation.

*Richard Hanson*  
Librarian, Balfour Library  
University of Oxford

## A 'Library Legislative Day' for Australia?

Alan Bundy in his letter (*inCite* 3, p22) highlights (perhaps inadvertently) a reason for his perception that the Australian library community has failed dismally to get its advocacy act together...market segmentation.

We cover a very diverse range of libraries and information services reaching out to an equally diverse audience; all operating with equally diverse means of private and multi-tiered government funding. A national advocacy campaign calls for all these to be packaged into one concept, which sounds simple but in practice, is not.

However, Alan will surely agree that advocacy campaigns concerning segments of the whole have had much success in

this country...the current campaign by TAFE libraries is both exciting and challenging to this ideal.

His own American example of the 'Library Legislative Day' is I note, staged by the Special Libraries Association. And with this example, I think it is important to keep the event in perspective. As an 18-year old tradition, the fact that it attracts 600 librarians (and friends and trustees) from across a country of some 250 million people is not really all that spectacular, although it makes good copy for a press release! When I lived in Washington DC twenty-five years ago as a high school student, I found Capitol Hill generally, and Senators in particular, very accommodating in granting interviews and participating in projects. I don't wish to demean this event but I take issue with Alan's using it to demonstrate that our Australian experience is 'sporadic, ill-funded and wimpish' by comparison.

I agree with Alan that we should look to others for example and ideas, that advocacy is a priority not a pastime, and that we should pay *much* more attention to cultivating our governments; but let's not sell ourselves short in the process.

In fact, I wouldn't be a bit surprised to come across an American library publication citing a press release on our Summit or *Towards Federation 2001* as a sterling example of how the Australian library community has its act together!

*Jan Gaebler*  
Librarian  
State Bank of South Australia

## AUSLIB Press

Auslib Press has had the pleasure of publishing recently *Recollections: forty years as a public librarian*, by F A (Ali) Sharr, a former President of the LAA and architect of the public library service in Western Australia.

I would welcome ideas from *inCite* readers about similar valuable contributions to the still sparse record of the development of libraries and librarianship in this country.

*Alan Bundy*  
Editor Manager  
Auslib Press □

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