

Train Line



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THREE DAYS SPENT demonstrating the Training and Development Database on the ALIA stand at the 1992 Biennial Conference/Trade Fair in Albury convinced me that there is a lot of interest in a comprehensive guide to training and development activities in the Library and Information sector. Then I had doubts as to what is actually being achieved... So, what is ALIA really trying to do with its Training and Development database?

The T & D Database: what is it all about?

The current trend in Australia is for organisations to move towards the coordination of training and development activities rather than just provision of 'training' in isolation. This coordinating role also includes looking carefully at the quality of the activities offered. The Training and Development Committee of the ALIA Board of Education is in line with this trend, aiming to:

- provide advice on T & D to the industry;
- assess the needs of the profession;
- develop and implement strategies to encourage quality and accessibility of training and development activities;
- promote training and development activities.

A centrally located information database can contribute effectively to all of these functions. For example, by keeping track of what activities are being offered, gaps in subject coverage and geographical location of professional education opportunities will become more obvious. ALIA will have a clearer idea of members' needs by regularly evaluating the use of the database; promoters of events will have another publicity outlet.

As for ensuring quality in training, eventually the training providers listed on the database will take part in some kind of evaluation. This will give the potential participant an idea about what to expect from attending such an event, purchasing a particular training package, and so on.

The database is currently in an initial pilot stage—a printed copy of the information was offered to all divisions in June for use and comment. The result is that options are being put forward as to what format is acceptable and how the information can be made accessible to the largest number of people possible. The key to making the Training and Development program work for *you* is your participation—the effectiveness of this service hinges on a two-way exchange of quality information.

Your contribution is extremely valuable and you can participate in a number of very simple ways. If you would like to know what T & D activities are coming up in an area of interest OR if you are involved in planning an event OR if you would like to let me know your ideas and thoughts—RING ME! We have a toll free number for members—(008) 02 0 071 or fax on (06) 282 2256. Other options are to pass on your ideas to your local ALIA State Branch (or Office) OR drop a line to the T & D Officer, ALIA, PO Box E441, Queen Victoria Terrace, ACT 2600.



Nora demonstrating the T & D database last month at the ALIA stand in Albury-Wodonga

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Assessment for training packages: confusion reigns!

Assessment modules for the *Automating a Small Library* training package and the *Preserving Our Heritage: Stopping the Rot* package are causing some confusion for those people interested in purchasing these packages.

If you are buying a copy of either of these packages for reference purposes, you will not need the assessment. The assessment is to enable individuals to test the knowledge they have gained from completing the questions that accompany each of these packages. If you do buy the assessment with a package, note that:

- each order *must contain the name of the individual* who will be completing the assessment; and
- payment for this assessment entitles the individual to have their work assessed by a tutor, i.e. they send all assignments off to be marked. Successful completion of these ALIA approved packages will entitle participants to a certificate. ■