

Librarians should be certified

In the last few years, I have been looking at the library profession and our standing in society in comparison with other professionals. Having worked with accountants, I am conscious of the respect and value their profession has. I have followed carefully the marketing campaign they launched to establish themselves as CPA (Certified Practising Accountant).

What I am proposing is something similar. Perhaps a CPL (Certified Practising Librarian) as a suggestion. Accountants are required to upgrade regularly before they are issued with their certificate to practise. Other professions require compulsory membership to their professional association. I suggest that our profession do likewise. There are people calling themselves librarians without any formal qualification just as there were accountants. People are practising as librarians with no upgrading and in an advancing technology area as ours is, this is not good enough.

The library association would gain from upgrading the professional standing of its members and having their interests considered.

Food for thought!

Julie Woodyatt

The new relationship with ACLIS

I have read the text of the Joint Statement agreed by the ACLIS

National Council and the ALIA General Council last November (*inCite* 2, p 6) and remain confused.

We are told the Joint Statement represents a new basis for the working relationship between ALIA and ACLIS. This new relationship implies to me that there is now a limitation on the role and scope of ALIA. Without saying so in clear, direct language the Joint Statement denies that ALIA legitimately has institutional members and is properly concerned with efforts to promote and improve library services to better meet the needs of all Australians. This seems to flow from the categorisation into 'professional association' and 'industry association'. A purely professional association would probably not have hundreds of institutions as members as ALIA has, nor by-laws, etc. to govern many aspects of institutional membership.

Could we the members please have an explanation of the meaning and implications of the Joint Statement for ALIA? Could we also be told why such a potentially far-reaching Statement was agreed by the General Council without any prior consultation with the membership? ALIA has clear and effective communication channels with its membership and any proposal to narrow the scope of the first Object in its Royal Charter is not something any General Council should decide without consultation.

John Brudenall

That 2% levy on DAS contracts

I wrote last year (*inCite* 10, p 18) about the objections by Commonwealth librarians who use the Department of Administrative Services Panel Period Contract Scheme for the supply of books, legal materials, cataloguing and indexing services and serials. The librarians believed that the scheme had been very useful in ensuring that the best prices and conditions were available to Commonwealth libraries. We were concerned, however at the 2% levy on all purchases being charged by DAS to the suppliers as reimbursement for the cost of preparing the contracts.

I am glad to say that the specific contract which we were involved in reviewing and lodged an objection to over the 2% has resulted in a change in policy. DAS will be charging only 1% for the serial publications supply contract. The date of the application of the 1% charge has yet to be determined.

This major breakthrough was achieved thanks to the persistence of DAS staff and librarians in ensuring that the issue was raised and considered fully. It is the only DAS contract so far to have the 2% charge reduced.

I will let you know when we have further information on the date of application. Meanwhile, for more details, contact me on (06) 250 0206.

Roxanne Missingham ■

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