

## Your voice

### A gesture towards reconciliation

If your library uses the first three letters of the title as part of each book number you may have some books about Aborigines which include ABO in the spine label.

I have had library clients, both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal express their discomfort at finding use of the abbreviation in other collections. Something like ABB works just as well to identify a book and it offends no one. Let's make this small contribution towards reconciliation with Aboriginal Australians by altering those labels.

Joy Scott, Hurstville

### What's all the fuss about?

I have a postcard of The Body Shop's Rosie on my notice-board at work, and groaned, along with my colleagues, at the sight of Xena the Warrior Librarian in the ALW Catalogue (we gave out Minties — it may have been a subconscious reaction!).

There are other matters in librarianship, however, that bother me more than Xena. Why is it only in May 1998 that we have an *inCite* devoted to the millennium bug? Every Australian daily discussed the topic in detail last year, and people with links to the computer industry have known about it for far longer. Could it be that our profession is not as forward-looking as we like to think?

PS. 'Y2K' is a barbarism of marketingese that should not penetrate the discourse of people engaged in cultural transmission. I spit upon it!

Ellen Hrebeniuk, Lidcombe

### From the editor...

*Although we have all known about the potential for disaster with the Y2K problem, the level of inactivity is alarming. We hope that the May issue of inCite has acted as a reminder that the problem exists, and needs to be dealt with, now. The computer that sits in your office may well cope with 1 January 2000, but what about your telephone, lift, or office security system?*

### A question of image

I would suggest the Western Australian Branch of ALIA look again at its image of librarians. We are professionals at the cutting edge of the information age. The picture on the front of the calendar suggests a 'page 3' image which I personally think we don't need. I have a similar objection to the photographs on page 24 of the June issue. The pose of the three females is particularly provocative and suggestive. We have for years insisted on being taken seriously as an information profession. We don't need to appeal to the public or our professional peers as providing some glamorous titillation in order to raise public awareness in libraries.

Jeanette Saviane, Michelton

### Free to good home

The following material is available to any library willing to pay transportation costs: Australian library material from 1970s, 1980s including signed copies

of books, Australian conference proceedings, and an almost complete set of *Australian Academic and Research Libraries*, plus much more. There are about five cartons of material available. Contact Maxine Rochester, School of Information Studies, Charles Sturt University, Locked Bag 675, Wagga Wagga, NSW 2678, phone 02 6933 2810, e-mail mrochester@csu.edu.au, between 13–24 July 1998.

Maxine Rochester,  
Wagga Wagga

### Your voice

**Your letters on any issue of relevance to the library and information sector are welcomed.**

All letters should be addressed to the *inCite* editor and may be e-mailed to [incite@alia.org.au](mailto:incite@alia.org.au), or faxed to 02 6282 2249, or posted to: *Your voice*, ALIA, PO Box E441, Kingston ACT 2604. Please include your name and postal address with your letter or e-mail.

Letters will be accepted for publication until the 10th of the month.

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