

An important year



**Sue McKnight,
ALIA Victorian Branch president**

I am delighted to be president (again) of the Victorian Branch. I was president of the Branch in 1994 and chair of ACLIS (Victoria) 1996–1998. I have also been president of the Geelong Regional Group and a general councillor (for Queensland) a long time ago. So, I feel like I am being recycled!

This is an important year for ALIA as it goes through its renewal process. The Victorian ACLIS and ALIA state executives have worked very closely together over many years. As president for 1999, I will be endeavouring to ensure that, by drawing on our collective experience of serving the best interests of both individual and institutional members, we help shape the national renewal process and outcomes.

Another major focus for the year will be to concentrate much more effort on providing forums for the discussion of issues impacting upon our profession. For instance, we shall be discussing the Victorian Government's Libraries Policy, which has implications for all sectors. We will participate in the Australian Digital Alliance and contribute to the digital copyright agenda. We will need to inform members of the revised competency standards for library workers once these are released, and analyse what these mean to our professional education programs as well as for in-house training and development. These activities, of course, will be in addition to the strong sectional and regional programs of continuing professional development.

The Victorian Branch will continue to support the successful mentoring scheme and look to ways of encouraging much more participation in ALIA activities. My hope is that we will be overwhelmed at the end of 1999 with nominations to serve on Branch council in 2000. It will be a busy, challenging and, I am sure, rewarding year.

Contributing to a new Association



Sue Grimes, New South Wales Branch president

I have been involved in ALIA sections for several years and through these sections I became involved in NSW Branch and its activities. My experience in libraries has spanned the last thirty years in a variety of libraries from North Queensland to Victoria. I am currently working for Wentworth Area Health Service as their library manager. Wentworth Area Health Service (WAHS) is based around the Local Government Areas of Penrith, the Blue Mountains and Hawkesbury, and the main library is located within the Nepean Hospital campus at Penrith. I have been in this position for the past two years and before that I worked in libraries within the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Defence.

Nepean Hospital is one of the teaching hospitals for the University of Sydney Medical School, as well as providing training resources for a number of nursing courses and placement for students in various allied health disciplines. This involvement means that the library service must provide support not only for the staff of the Area Health

Service but also to students and their supporting academic staff. Although only a small- to medium-sized medical collection, there is a wide diversity in the client groups for whom we provide information services. The WAHS library is also a GRATIS member and I have been the national and state coordinator of GRATISNET and GRATIS in 1998 and will continue this role in 1999.

I am looking forward to my year as president of the New South Wales Branch Council. I hope to continue the efforts we made in 1998 to provide opportunities for our members to contribute to the development of their new professional body, and ensure that those members who want to contribute have as many opportunities to do so as possible. I firmly believe that organisations such as ALIA are only as strong and effective as the sum total of their membership. I hope to be able to find ways to encourage more members to become involved in the formal activities of Branch Council as well as the sections, regional groups and special interest groups.

Working together



Brigitte Glockner, Western Australian Branch president

What are my qualifications for taking on the role of Western Australian branch president? I have worked as a health librarian for the last thirteen years, I hold a Master's degree in Information and Library Studies from Curtin University of Technology, and I was the 1994 recipient of the WA Special Librarian of the Year Award. I have worked as a law librarian as well as a special librarian in Germany and South Africa. My main interests are accreditation and professionalism.

I am the senior librarian at King Edward Memorial and Princess Margaret Hospitals, where I am also a member of the Organisation Self-Assessment Team. This is the approach taken by the Australian Quality Awards. Hospitals are accredited by the Australian Council on Healthcare Standards by the 'Equip' process, but can use other recognised processes to

achieve accreditation such as ISO 9000 or the Australian Quality Awards.

As president of the Western Australian Branch I would like to see accreditation for library services introduced. In conjunction with ALIA on a nationwide basis I would like to develop minimum requirements for library services. Organisations wishing to establish an Information and Library Service could approach ALIA for guidelines.

I would also like all sections to work closer together. I strongly believe that we are letting ourselves to be categorised into too many specialised sections and interest groups. While our subject knowledge may differ, we are all librarians wishing to provide the best possible service to our clients.

Working closer together would be for the greater benefit of a revitalised, revamped, and maybe even renamed ALIA. ■