

# Your voice

## In support of CPD

May I add my support to the remarks of Kerry Smith and Roger Hawcroft (*inCite* December 1999) regarding CPD.

CPD offers the opportunity to maintain one's professional credibility over career breaks, and in this uncertain world career breaks can happen, not only through redundancy but through childbirth, illness, moving house and caring for distressed relatives.

Circumstances forced me to give up work some years ago, but happily I was recently able to do my Master's. I felt the benefit of a little intellectual discipline and hope I have contributed something to the profession.

However, I was really floundering at times and although I had attended many of the one- and two-day seminars that I could afford, I would have benefited greatly from some form of supervised on-going professional education during my time of unemployment. I am sure that if

I had had CPD I could have produced a better dissertation with less effort, and, if I were a few years younger, I could start looking for a job again.

**Shirley Cohen, Mumurkah, Vic**

## Where are all the graduates?

Mairéad Browne (*inCite* April 2000) asks why newer practitioners (many of whom are working in non-traditional jobs) are not visible in the Association.

Despite having 'Information' in its name, ALIA is still very much an organisation that represents librarians, and this is probably appropriate. The information industry is diverse, and there are other organisations that better represent people working in specific areas.

That said, there are many information workers with no direct ties to librarianship, who have an abiding interest in the field due to their studies and early work. Perhaps ALIA could inter-

est these people by offering cheaper membership to people who have another organisation as their primary professional organisation.

If ALIA truly feels that it should be representing a broad range of information workers, then all aspects of the organisation need to be examined to ensure that they are not directed solely to librarians. While many activities do reflect the diversity of members, others do not.

The advertisement for the ALIA Awards for Innovation (*inCite* April) has categories for people in six types of libraries, but no category for innovation in information access not in a library. Even one category called 'other' would acknowledge the other information workers in the Association.

Finally, I am not convinced that most members of ALIA feel a commonality of interest with other information workers. Many librarians only want to employ librarians with experience in

exactly the same field as the job they are filling. I have seen, for example, advertisements for children's library positions that require three years experience not just in a library, but in a children's library. The library community seems to be unable to acknowledge commonality of interests and skills with other librarians, let alone with other information workers. Until the organisation and its members truly offer equal service to all information workers ALIA will not be considered an essential membership for non-librarians.

**Glenda Browne**

## 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.

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