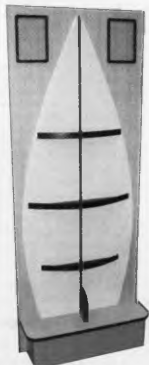


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Letter to the editor

The little article 'Staying connected with ALIA' in the last issue of *InCite* really got me thinking.

I have 'retired' a couple of times and because I live in a small town job opportunities keep popping up so I do casual and contract work in school and public libraries. I feel as if I am remaining in contact with the 'real' library/info world through my membership of ALIA and am therefore confident that I can add value when I take on a short term or casual job.

I tend to disseminate information and ideas for projects that I get from e-lists and *InCite* because of course it's easy to

maintain contact with people in a small town even when you are not actually 'working'. In the same way it would be possible for retired members, who may have a bit of flexible time available, to perhaps become 'e-mentors' to those working on new projects or involved in study.

Earlier in the year at a Rotary conference I heard of a possible volunteer opportunity and thought that it might be good if these sorts of openings could be included in the 'clearinghouse' suggested in the article. This particular one was a two-week trip to a village in PNG to reorganise a school library which had been devastated by the tsunami. This would probably suit lots of others to a 'tee', if they but knew about it. So including these opportunities from service/church/qango groups would be a really valuable service, I think.

I wish the working party all the best in their deliberations; this seems like a great project for ALIA.

**Val Hooper
Nanango QLD**

Your letters on any issue of relevance to the library and information sector are welcomed. Opinions expressed in the magazine are those of the authors and not necessarily the official policy of the Australian Library and Information Association. All letters should be addressed to the *InCite* editor and may be e-mailed to incite@alia.org.au, or faxed to 02 6282 2249, or posted to: Your voice, ALIA, PO Box 6335, Kingston 2604. Letters will be accepted for publication until the 10th of the month. Please include your name and postal address.

WANTED: AUTHORS A letter from the (ALJ) Editor

As it says on its back cover, the *Australian Library Journal* 'supports the Association's Objects by documenting progress in research and professional practice and stimulates discussion on issues relevant to libraries and librarianship'.

Under my editorship it will continue to do this, but differently. You may have noticed that the journal has been redesigned to 'open up' its contents, to make it more attractive to a broader cross (and not-so-cross) section of readers — especially younger readers. It competes for attention in a digitally soaked, time-pressured world. Whilst I can change the format, I can't write all the content.

This is where you come in, dear reader. Or should I say, dear writer? Have you thought of writing an article for your journal? Guaranteed to impress your

family, generate pleasant feelings of accomplishment and contribution, shows you care about your chosen profession, and looks great on your CV.

Articles are welcome on any topic supporting ALIA's Objects (how broad is that?), and an invitation to contribute appears on page 11 of the February 2007 issue of *Australian Library Journal*. For further information please email me on ian.mccallum@alianet.alia.org.au or call me on 02 6257 9177. Thanks — I look forward to hearing from you.

Ian McCallum

