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Feedback to your Board of Directors

Board members welcome your comments and feedback. Please feel free to contact a Board member at any time.

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Libraries – perceptions and new connections

By the time you read this issue of *inCite*, the ABC series *The Librarians* will have come and gone. It was a bit of a change for libraries to be the focus of a television show. Different to doctor and lawyer series possibly only in the context. Human interest is the theme that holds public attention and there were certainly varied characters in the series.

Library staff have been portrayed in the media in films, television and radio for many years. Who could forget Rupert Giles on television's *Buffy The Vampire Slayer* portraying a stake-wielding librarian. GraceAnne A. DeCandido, US library educator and writer, suggested that Giles 'has done more for the image of the profession than anything in the past fifty years, with the possible exception of Katherine Hepburn in *Desk Set*'. Giles even appeared on the cover of *American Libraries* magazine.

While the ABC's *The Librarians* didn't significantly challenge stereotypes, or provide a poster woman or man for a cutting edge information professional, it did make libraries, librarians and library technicians a discussion topic on radio and television.

My personal favourite library movie is *The Librarian: Quest For The Spear*. Released in 2004, it begins in the New York Public Library with the selection of a librarian to manage a treasure trove of humanities' greatest secrets. Noah Wyle, possibly better known to you as Dr John Carter in *ER*, plays the role with his tongue firmly in his cheek. The plot is a sort of 'Indiana Jones' version of libraries exploring the world for great treasure, with the obligatory bad guy and lots of action. A great line from the film is, 'What is this? Slap a librarian day?' In 2006, the next instalment was released, *The Librarian 2: Return to King Solomon's Mines*. Not quite as exciting but good for a rainy weekend.

Some of the themes in *The Librarian: Quest For The Spear* that resonated with me were the enthusiastic quest for new knowledge and resources, a sense of adventure and need to work in a team. If you want a pleasant evening with an entertaining view of libraries, do watch this movie.

At the American Library Association conference this year a new movie, *The Hollywood Librarian*, was screened. It has been very well received by the library community. Information about the film can be found at <http://www.hollywoodlibrarian.com/>. We are hoping that there might be a screening next year in association with the ALIA Biennial

Conference. And you can buy t-shirts and bags with the 'Hollywood Librarian' logo too.

In the meantime perhaps we should consider a library competition on YouTube? If you have any thoughts about promoting the profession do contact a Board member.

ALIA is continuing to work on promoting the profession and we are absolutely delighted with the work being done by a Victorian working party chaired by Chris Kelly, Hume Global Village Learning Centre Library Services. The working party has a grant from ALIA for the national project which will include the design and development of promotional collateral and a website on LIS careers for secondary students and their career teachers.

New connections: Facebook

Taking on board the need for us all to be familiar with Web 2.0 technologies, I set up ALIA's Facebook group on October 18 at 3:11am. I was astounded to see that by the afternoon there were 18 members. On 12 November there were 69 members and it was still a growing community. I was thrilled to see how active all our ALIA members (and those who affiliate with ALIA) were. They are part of intersecting networks, friendship groups, work groups and other communities (thanks Rebecca for leading me to the quilting group).

Through Facebook I've been in touch with professional colleagues that I haven't seen for years, have had fun with other colleagues and been able to see other groups grow, such as the ALIA ACT Lib Techs group.

Web 2.0 offers great opportunities. Ann Beaumont from the State Library of Victoria said in her keynote address to the ALIA National Library & Information Technicians Conference that we need to play with blogs, wikis and other technologies in order to be able to learn how we can use them to connect with users and to enable users to connect with other users in the twenty-first century. So do learn to play, to play to learn through Facebook.

The ALIA 2008 Biennial Conference, **dreaming08**, is on Facebook, as is the Aurora Leadership Institute.

If you are interested in using Web 2.0, whether you are doing the 23 things (an online self-discovery program for Web 2.0 and Library 2.0 see <http://plcmlearning.blogspot.com/>) or not, do join the ALIA community on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=7870820836>. See you online!