# Your voice

Dear Editor,

I was disappointed that your "Round-up" on Page 12 did not include any reference to the hundreds, possibly thousands, of teacher-librarians in schools throughout Australia, some of whom are involved in research at a masters or doctoral level. There is a project focusing on distance education which is a very worthy subject, but the research was focused on distance education support for students in the public library system.

I am finalizing my thesis prior to submission in the Doctor of Education program at University of New England and could have submitted a précis of my research into children's book awards in Australia and I am sure there are others following post-graduate studies as well. I registered my studies with the CPD section of ALIA so I should be on record. This note, however, is not about me but rather about the lack of coverage of a branch of ALIA that I am passionate about. I am part of two local teacher librarian networks in my region and I am continually encouraging people to join ALIA but always I am asked what ALIA would do for them – I tell them about *inCite*, the professional knowledge to be gained, the online PD links, etc… but most don't see ALIA as a professional body for teacher librarians. I hope they don't see the June *inCite* or their view will be confirmed!

Cheers,
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Dear Heather,

Thank you for your letter. I'm very pleased you wrote, because you raise an issue that we often hear, here at *inCite* headquarters, but rarely have the chance to address: the content of *inCite*.

What many readers may be aware of, but not really understand, is that the vast majority of *inCite* content – and all of the feature content – is member driven. We are only able to publish what we receive as contributions. So when we hear "you've ignored (in this case, Heather, it's Teacher-Librarians, but this is certainly not the only group that has raised this issue)", to us, it is more that the group hasn't seen the value of promoting themselves to the profession and beyond by contributing to *inCite*.

This year we made a concerted effort to make the feature themes as broad and wide-ranging as possible, to make sure that every member of the LIS profession can not only find value in the pages, but also participate in the creation of that value.

To conclude, and to misquote, I urge each and every one of you to think not of what *inCite* can do for you, but what you can do for *inCite* – and advocacy for your profession.

For more specific information on ALIA's work for school libraries, please see Sue's Directline, page 5.

Kind regards,
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ALIA Publishing Manager
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## CROSSING OVER

Dear editor,

No research is done in isolation from libraries, or other repositories of research data, but research relating to librarianship is not only about libraries. Spare a thought for related areas of research.

I am grateful for the recent *inCite* which focused on research and education. It contains much useful information about research by students and librarians, and projects being undertaken by academic staff in librarianship departments.

What it lacked was any mention of research which transposes the values and principles of librarianship into other spheres. Many will be aware that all Australian academics are obliged to demonstrate that they must work across disciplinary, national, and institutional boundaries. Narrow niches are passé and solo endeavour is discouraged. In my case the Centre for Organisational and Social Informatics is my platform (**http://www.infotech.monash.edu/research/centres/cosi/**).

The 'national interest' demands a broad perspective. At Monash University the wide view includes the nomination of 'social inclusion' as an important theme – one very familiar to the bulk of librarians and information managers, in daily reflective practice, if not in research per se.

What is the link between our projects outside library walls and guiding library principles? If we reflect on the core ideals of our profession, the sources of inspiration are easy to find. Some include: promotion of the free flow of information and ideas through open access to knowledge; connection of people to ideas; maximising the human benefits of technologies; commitment to literacy; respect for diversity of all peoples; and problem-solving and teamwork.

Good research of any kind feeds into our teaching and learning, improves our lives, enlightens our normal practices, and informs our strategy. Let's take credit for the fact that we are capable of reaching beyond traditional boundaries.

All the best,
Associate Professor Graeme Johanson,
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We welcome letters from members on any issue of relevance to the library and information sector. It is important to note that the opinions expressed in Letters to the Editor are those of the authors and not necessarily the official policy of the Australian Library and Information Association.

Deadline for letters is available on the website and they should be no longer than 250 words. Please include your name and postal address as anonymous correspondence will not be reproduced.

## CORRECTION

In the May 2010 issue of *inCite* the author of the article *PD or not PD – there really is no question* is Paul Kloppenborg. We apologise for the misspelling.