



WHAT DOES 'CONNECTING' MEAN TO YOU?

Connections. It's a word that clearly means different things to different people. When we launched the theme for this issue, we didn't put any definitions around it - and in the following pages you will find all sorts of connections to consider. Your colleagues have a special place in their hearts for connections with overseas libraries, making the past more accessible to us and for making the most of specific materials to reach audiences such as young readers. And some of us are sneaking some serious fun into developing our personal professional networks with jaunts on motorbikes and sporting suspect millinery

for no good reason whatsoever.

Thanks to all our contributors in the following pages for some hard work over the Christmas break to bring you these stories – and special thanks for their contributions and support must go to Marie Sexton and the Australia Pacific Special Interest Group, a clearly indefatigable team who offer their insights into the best ways to connect with, and successfully support, overseas colleagues and communities.

YOUR VOICE

Connected for life: retired professionals stay in touch

As a member of ALIARetirees, and having formerly lived and worked in the UK, I made contact with the Retired Members Guild (RMG) of the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals in the UK (CILIP) and now pay a small annual fee (£10) which entitles me to quarterly issues of their publication *Post-Lib*.

I have found it most enjoyable to read of the activities of the RMG and snippets of information about librarians past and present, many of whom are still familiar names to me and no doubt many others who started their careers in the UK.

The group arranges visits to libraries of interest throughout the country and sometimes to Europe, and I know some members visited Australia some years ago. Of course it is more difficult for our retirees to arrange such visits because of the tyranny of distance, but where possible retirees in each state do organize some activities.

Bob Usherwood, Editor of *Post-Lib*, may be familiar to some. He lives in Sheffield, my home town, and has been active in the UK profession for many years, and his editorials are always thought-provoking.

There have been articles about librarians working at Bletchley Park, the centre of Allied code-breaking during WW2, which stimulated more memories from Norman Horrocks, who sadly died recently in Canada, and who also worked in Intelligence.

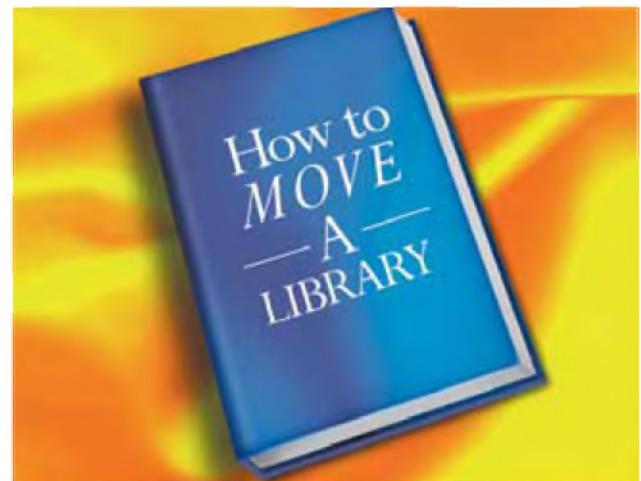
Another interesting story was about Clement Attlee who was President of the then Library Association in 1959, which was probably a surprise to many, including me! He retained an interest in the arts and literature which he considered "not as luxuries, but essential components in the reconstruction of post war Britain". This also prompted some interesting responses from others familiar with that period.

Articles also cover current topics of interest such as 'Next Gen' librarians, and 'This Gen' librarians, issues that are all too familiar here.

I enjoy taking a trip down memory lane when I receive my copy in the mail even though my library career in Australia has been very rewarding, and would like to encourage others to retain a connection with the profession overseas, even after retirement!

Pat Gallaher
gallaherp@westnet.com.au

Editor's note: ALIARetiree Pat Gallaher's letter was prompted by our international engagement issue of *inCite*, December 2010. Meanwhile the ALIARetirees group is also developing a WIKI resource detailing some of our profession's great achievers, amongst other activities designed specifically to 'stay connected'. For more information: www.alia.org.au/groups/retirees/



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