



## FID/CR

I have agreed to serve a further term (1985-1988) as the Australian representative on the Federation Internationale de Documentation Committee on Classification Research (FID/CR).

In that capacity I receive copies of the FID/CR News (reprinted from *International Classification*), notices and minutes of meetings, information on forthcoming conferences and publications, and the like. Anyone who would like to receive copies of these documents should write to me and I will place them on my mailing list.

Australia has a respectable record of classification research (classification is broadly defined by FID/CR to include indexing), and it would be useful to have more Australians at FID/CR regional and international meetings.

Future meetings are scheduled as follows:

1. FID/CR Regional Meeting in India, November 1985, in connection with the International Conference on Ranganathan's Philosophy in New Delhi from 11 to 14 November.
2. FID/CR Regional Meeting in Canada, September 1986, in connection with the 43rd FID Conference and Congress in Montreal.
3. 5th International Study Conference on Classification Research in 1987, with dates and location to be determined.

Anyone who will be present at these gatherings and who would be interested in representing Australia at FID/CR meetings, please let me know and I will supply further details.

John McKinlay  
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## Wider distribution needed

I have recently been shown a copy of a Board of Education paper entitled *Professional Membership — a review of Association policy*, the covering letter for which dated March 1, from the Assistant Executive Director, states that 'the Board is seeking the views of Divisions, members and other interested parties on these proposals. Comments should be forwarded to the Assistant Executive Director by Wednesday May 15.'

The paper came into my hands almost accidentally this morning (Monday May 6), and it was the first intimation I had had that the Board was actively considering the questions of a 'currency component' for new applicants for Associateship, and the widening of the eligibility criteria for it, so as to allow the admission of qualifications from fields other than librarianship.

All of which is proper and reasonable. What is not so, is the fact that our normal channels of communication, i.e. circulation of the paper to *Divisions*, do not ensure that the paper will be seen, much less discussed, by all interested members. If the Association wishes to have such papers considered by the membership at large, some more effective system of distribution needs to be found. I am loth to suggest publication in the *ALJ*, since it lacks a necessary currency, being a quarterly journal; *InCite* would be more appropriate, either within the normal columns, or as a series of occasional papers. If the Board of Education, or any other of the Association's many subsets, wants informed contributions from the membership — and I am sure this is what is sought — then the membership must be given the same opportunity to peruse and reflect as is extended to the members of the Association's Divisional Councils.

John Levett  
University of Tasmania

Mr Levett would have been aware of the Board of Education's discussion paper if he had been reading *InCite* carefully. The Board's proposals were outlined in Vol 5 no 21 of 14 December (p6) and it was noted that discussion papers were to be prepared and circulated. Vol 6 no 1 of 8 February (p9) advised that the papers were now available from the Assistant Executive Director. As there have been some requests for further time to comment, the closing date has been extended to 28 June. The Board looks forward to hearing from Mr Levett.

Sue Phillips  
Assistant Executive Director

## Support the NLA

I was pleased to see the President of the LAA, Ron Davis, (*InCite*, 5 April 1985 p 6) so quick to comment on the damage done by the fire in March at the National Library. I'm sure we all heaved a sigh of relief on discovering the damage to the library's collections was minimal.

Mr Davis refers to the library housing the largest collection of Australian literature in the world. It is often not appreciated in the library community, that the collection also includes a vast array of visual, sound, map and manuscript records. With 1988 looming, and in the light of the recent fire it is opportune to reassess these resources and their housing in the overall operation of the National Library. Of late priorities for their maintenance, staffing and development have not been high.

I am thinking of starting a support group to attempt to harness public support for the library. If anyone is interested in writing to me I would be delighted to hear from them.

All members of the LAA must surely agree with Ron Davis's hope that the fire will provide the impetus for even greater government and public support for the development of the nation's library and information resources.

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National Workshop on ABN and Non-book/Teaching Resource Collection Materials 26-27th November 1984. \$25.00. Compiled by Margaret Nicholas.

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