



Defending the indefensible

Thank you Race Mathews (*InCite* 20 March 1987) for giving us your perspective of the funding imbroglio in which Victorian public libraries find themselves. Defending the indefensible is not easy, is it? Robbing Peter (public lending libraries) to pay Paul (State Library of Victoria) has yet to solve a problem. Particularly when Peter does a different, albeit complementary, job to Paul. That's lesson number one.

Lesson two. Those local authorities which are contributing only a pittance to their libraries will not be bludgeoned into doing so by the State Government abdicating its leadership role. The consequence of libraries becoming the meat in a political sandwich is already undermining their key role in national information provision.

Lesson three. You and your Ministerial colleagues in other states should work with us to educate Local and Commonwealth Governments to their responsibilities — but only, *please*, in a context of sustained State Government support for libraries. It's not as though libraries consume more than a drop in the State Government's budget and who can show any area of State Government expenditure which has a better return for the people of Victoria as a whole. Let's try co-operation. We both, after all, have a fundamental commitment to a dynamic public library system to sustain a productive, informed, educated and democratic Australia. Haven't we?

Alan Bundy

Supplemental Charter

The Note signed Jenny Adams, Director in *InCite*, 3 April 1987, confirms my worries, does not explain them away. She states 'Council decided . . . to seek a Supplemental Charter in order to make the necessary changes to the name, objects and other matters . . . which were decided on . . .' but changes can only be decided on with finality by the vote of the membership.

The *de facto* implementation of any change pre-empts the members' decision, treating them with (I am confident unintended) contempt.

I am not arguing in this communication for or against any of the contemplated changes. The Association's name is the particular matter on which I have observed misuse. The registration of the name Australian Library and Information Association seems to be a circumvention of the Charter's requirements, and proper procedures must be followed in all matters.

What's the hurry? Why this behaviour?

Wilma Radford

Trading places

I write to support Wilma Radford's views (*InCite* 3 April), and to express my dismay at the suggestion that the LAA should 'trade' as ALIA.

The LAA is not a slightly shady business but a professional association. There was a time when some of us rather hoped that it also represented a scholarly and learned profession.

'Trading' is not the main business of our Association - association is.

When the decision to alter the name has been duly made and ratified we must of course accept it, but let us make the changes according to the charter and with dignity. For the Council to seek ways around the charter smacks of sharp practice and is unworthy of a professional association.

Professor Jean P. Whyte
Chairman

Graduate School of Librarianship
Monash University

IFLA Priorities

I note with interest recent correspondence from Marina Garlick and Barrie Mitcheson regarding the Association's priorities and expenditure on IFLA.

I seem to recall that members were promised some 18 months ago an indication of the projected expenditures and incomes from the conference. If this has appeared, I have missed it, seek Mr Mitcheson's indulgence, and ask him if he would not mind summarising the Association's expenditure hitherto, including attendance at IFLA conferences, and indicating from what heads in the Association's budget these expenditures have been drawn.

Like Marina Garlick, my inquiry is provoked by a growing sense of unease about the Association's priorities, particularly as they relate to the Australian Library Journal, since I am reliably informed that the decision to curtail its distribution was based on economic premises.

John Levett
Editor

Australian Library Journal

Note: The decision to require members to subscribe to ALJ was not based on economic premises but rather on a desire expressed by a majority of submissions to the Corporate Plan & Review Committee to have more flexibility in the membership package.

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