

LETTERS

Bouquets both ways

Dear Editor,

I wish to thank your association for the Australian Library and Information Association 1989 Student Award, presented to me recently at the Hobart Technical College.

I am sure membership of ALIA will prove very valuable to me and I hope I am able to make some positive contribution to the association.

At a time when Tasmanian Library Technicians are struggling to gain recognition of our qualifications, ALIA's public support of Library Technician training in this state is very much appreciated.

Fritha Neilsen

Bev Kirby's Frontline strikes more cords

Dear Editor,

In the June issue of *incite* I was interested in the Frontline article written by Bev Kirby. As a library technician I have often noticed positions vacant advertisements for librarians state 'appropriate qualifications needed and to be eligible for professional membership of the Australian Library and Information Association'. This is not usually stated when a library technician position is advertised but I feel should be encouraged.

As a qualified library technician I was disturbed to find that the librarian I worked with in my previous position was not aware that library technicians were eligible to join ALIA and when I resigned she replaced me with a nurse!

If ALIA is to gain membership and strength more library technicians should be made aware of their eligibility and membership fees reduced. This would encourage many library technicians to join and support the Association.

Barbara Fountain

Dear Editor,

It was with a growing sense of interest that I read Frontline in the *incite* of 11 June 1990.

Bev Kirby, I could not have said it better! ALIA must represent people not institutions. I remember some years ago when I was the secretary of the then Medical Librarians Group in Queensland, we found it difficult to obtain enough personal members of ALIA to be elected as committee members. Medical librarians were not prepared to pay to join the professional Association when their employer paid for their library to be an institutional member. They received *incite* and in those days the *ALJ*, so were informed of Association happenings and were able to attend events organised by ALIA without paying or more importantly making a commitment to their professionalism.

Many professional associations will not allow non-members to attend conferences, and as a member of the Association for a number of years I applaud this rule. I know that members get discounts, but as most librarians conference fees are paid for by their employers, this is hardly an issue.

ALIA will never be strong enough until most librarians & library technicians are members. ALIA can then truly say it represents librarians & library technicians.

Denise Bird
Secretary, Special Libraries Section

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Should the public pay?

Dear Editor,

No joint statement on public libraries? The Public Libraries Section (NSW Group) Committee is disappointed that ALIA and ACLIS have stated 'that the two organisations were unlikely to produce an agreed statement on Public Library Services and that ACLIS is to develop a set of guidelines for charging for library services ... (inCite, 11 June).

We are busy in NSW with getting together an action plan to combat the latest user pays threat — a membership charge for all use of public libraries (not just for loans). This is a proposal in the recent report on Local Government Rating (Oakes report) and is getting a mixed reception. The Library Act for NSW is under revision, and proposed amendments include core services and value-added services.

Surely it is possible to protect equity of access and core services and allow for some degree of value added services (for example, an online service targeted at local business) in the same statement?

Glenys Murray
President, Public Libraries Section
NSW Group

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INC 11/57

Public library charges and the summit revisited

Dear Editor,

The review of the Australian Libraries Summit resolutions reported by the Director-General (inCite, 11 June) contains information which is important to all public librarians, especially with the impetus given in NSW by the proposal for membership charges contained in the recent Oakes' report on Local Government Rating.

It seems strange to me that a small group of eminent librarians are able to make decisions directly affecting the future of public libraries without representation from public librarians. The respected and experienced public librarians from NSW who attended the Summit did not know the review was to be held in April — the first they knew was a brief summary of resolutions supplied after the meeting. ALIA — Public Libraries Section (NSW Group) was not consulted.

Anyone who is currently managing a public library will be appalled that a decision was not made to compromise and develop a joint statement on Public Library Services. I am aware of the difficulties but it is necessary to have a statement emphasising equity of access and protecting core services — membership, loans, basic information service et cetera but also allow for the development of value added services. The admission that the two organisations were 'unlikely to produce an agreed statement ...' is just not facing the facts and the need for cooperation. There are going to be value added services — most NSW Councils have already agreed to this. What is important is to give way a little and protect, by a strong policy statement, the core services to which I have referred.

The statement by the ACLIS President that the present ACLIS *Guidelines for public library funding* were not 'necessarily threatening' and were designed for use by those 'authorities that felt they would be useful' must be questioned. Some Local Government authorities will seize on any support for charging. The proposed new guidelines 'for the charging for library services..' are to be developed by Dec. 1990.

Please ALIA and ACLIS try again to reach agreement on a joint statement — this year.

Diana Oliver
Sutherland Shire Council



IBBY REPORT

The Hans Christian Andersen Awards for 1990 have been announced by the IBBY International Jury. The award is given to a writer and to an illustrator for the whole stream of their work, which in the opinion of the judges has made a lasting contribution to literature for young people. Eighteen countries submitted nominations. The awards, known as 'The Little Nobel Prizes for Children's Literature' are the most prestigious international prizes in this field.

The award for writing will go to Tormod Haugen of Norway. The award for illustration will go to Lisbeth Zwerger of Austria.

The 1990 IBBY Honour Diplomas have also been announced. Each IBBY National Section is invited to nominate one book in each of the three categories — writing, illustration and translation — which will automatically receive this diploma. The book must be of outstanding quality, must be representative of the nominating country and must have been published no earlier than 3 years before the awards are made.

The IBBY Diploma for writing will go to *Myplace* by Nadia Wheatley and Donna Rawlins. The IBBY Diploma for illustration will go to *Where the forest meets the sea* by Jeannie Baker.

All awards will be made during the 22nd IBBY Biennial Congress in September 1990 at Williamsburg, USA.

It is a great honour for Australia that an illustration from Jeannie Baker's book *Where the forest meets the sea* has been selected by IBBY to appear on the cover of the booklet documenting the awards.

At the 22nd Congress in Williamsburg, Australian IBBY has been invited to mount a 2-hour seminar which will help to highlight the 1990 International Literacy Year. The topic is 'Reading and Children's Literature as a Discipline in Teacher-Training Institutions'.

Ena Noël
Australian National Section of
IBBY