

# DIRECT LINE



Sue Kosse, Executive Director

## Library technicians and the Association

This issue of *inCite* is focusing upon a specially trained group of people in library and information services: library technicians. They form a group possessing unique skills and knowledge, with a substantial contribution to make to the development, provision and promotion of library and information services.

The Australian Library and Information Association has long encouraged the establishment of library technicians positions in libraries, through the promotion of accredited courses of formal training. Moreover, the Association's decision to change its name from Library Association of Australia to Australian Library and Information Association, and its move to widened eligibility criteria for membership, has been in response to its recognition of the increasing number of specialists working in library and information services, of which the library technicians are one important grouping.

As a result the Association has established a special category of membership for library technicians: Library Technician of the Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA Tec), and it has actively encouraged library technicians to join the Association. The establishment and subsequent growth of the Library Technicians Section and its State Groups under the umbrella of the Association, have given library technicians the opportunity to focus upon the needs and concerns particular to their places of work and chosen career.


This Section enables and promotes communication among library technician members through its State Group meetings, newsletters, workshops, seminars and its very well supported biennial conference. The Section also actively recognises outstanding achievements by its members through the Library Technician of the Year Award.

The Section is also closely linked

with the wider structure of the Association through the representation of the State Groups on Branches, and through elected representation on the Board of Education. *InCite* provides library technicians with the opportunity to talk to each other, and to other members of the Association, on a regular basis through the 'Feedback' column. This special issue of *inCite* provides a concentrated focus; but the regular column shows library technicians and their Section are an integral part of the fabric and structure of the Association; and their activities support the objectives of the Association.

A career as a library technician is actively promoted by the Association through the identification of the aims of work in library and information services which can be undertaken by library technicians and through the promotion of the need for formal courses of training and ongoing development courses. Through the advisory capacity of ALIA's Industrial Information Officer, the award restructuring and structural efficiency principles and the recent Training Guarantee Act have challenged the career prospects of library technicians as they currently exist; and they also, through skills audits and the establishment of competencies, provide the opportunity for more clearly defined career prospects for the future.

The Board of Education is actively concerning itself with the whole continuum of training for library technicians: first formal courses of study; ongoing training requirements, and articulation to, and from library technician courses.

There can be little doubt, that the need for, and career prospects of library technicians will continue to grow. This will happen inevitably because as library and information services are becoming more complex, and organisations are recognising the value of effective use of information, so the need for an increasing range of specialist trained personnel in library and information services grows. The Association and its library technician members are working together to ensure that competent library technicians are available to meet these needs. 

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## ALIA

(Library Technicians Section)

### Notice of Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the ALIA Library Technicians Section will be held at the Que Club, 90 William Street, Perth, on Monday, 1 October at 6.30 pm.

#### Agenda

1. Notice of convening meeting
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of the 1989 AGM
4. President's Report
5. Treasurer's Report
6. State and Territory Reports
7. Amendment to the Constitution
8. General Business (see below)

#### Rules of Meeting

1. The only terms that may be raised under General Business are those of an informal nature, or those that are within the scope of the business already laid down. Motions of a substantial nature relating to items not covered in the notice will not be allowed.
2. If any item of urgency arises which is not within the business of the meeting the Chairperson has the power to accept it without notice, or rule that due notice must be given.
3. When addressing the Chair, the person desiring recognition will properly identify themselves, giving their name and library. Only Section members may speak.
4. Debate shall be limited to 3 minutes for each speaker, no speaker may have the floor twice on the same question until all who wish to speak have spoken.
5. The Chairperson's rulings on procedural matters may not be debated. The reference for rules will be Joske's *The law and procedure at meetings in Australia and New Zealand*, 7th ed., 1982.