

# P.D.Q.

## Professional Development Questions

**M**uch to my chagrin, I have found since my column saw light of day two issues ago, that only members like me, and our esteemed Editor, of an age described delicately in the best circles as 'uncertain', have any idea of the meaning of PDQ. At least it is listed in David Jones' *Australian dictionary of acronyms and abbreviations*. But for many dear readers, the column title is at best dully worthy, and not even factual at that. Any suggestions? Apart from kudos, the best suggestion will win a tasteful and unique commemorative token of our gratitude and esteem.

Several members have commented lately on their high expectations for the federal government's Training Guarantee Scheme. This scheme, which began operating this financial year, is designed to ensure that all employers provide 'structured training' for

their employees. Each employer must either spend 1 per cent of the payroll on training (increasing to 1.5 per cent next financial year), or contribute that amount to the government for industry-supervised training schemes.

A background survey showed that an amazingly high number of Australian employers (60 per cent) do not spend any money at all on training. In comparison, other western countries such as France, United Kingdom, West Germany and Sweden do provide significant training. Through the scheme the government hopes to increase the efficiency and competitiveness of Australian industry in the long term. Librarians should be part of the workforce to benefit from the scheme.

However, this columnist wonders whether librarians tend to be employed by firms which are already committed to training. How many ALIA members will not receive training this year worth 1 per cent of their salary? Do let me know.

Carol Kenchington  
Professional Development Officer

# LETTERS

## Dear Editor,

Congratulations to Kay Poustie, WA Branch President for a timely and relevant editorial in *inCite* 12, 13 August 1990.

Kay highlights three critical areas in the library and information profession for the 90s; ALIA's role; cooperation between the members, presenting a unified professional viewpoint; and the individual's professional profile within the employing institution.

As members of a changing profession we need to be flexible and able to change our practices to meet new challenges; we need to be aware of issues which will affect our professional role and the way in which the changing demands of our clientele can be met; and we certainly should be *sharing and listening and using our united talents...* and... *raising the consciousness of the community to the skills of the information professional in this the information age...*

The 1990/91 Strategic plan will provide a focus for identifying ALIA's role as an association, representative of, and representing its members. This strategic plan should not be static but one which through input from all members reflects the proactive role that the members are playing, and should continue to play, in the community through the 90s.

It was indeed timely that after reading Kay's comments about not *defining ourselves as 'types' of librarians* (and we all do that) and while probing the issue of accountability as part of South Australia's contribution to the 1990/91 Strategic plan, that the 15 April 1990 issue of the *Library journal* came across my

LETTERS continued next page...



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# WHO'S WHERE

**Neil McLean** is the new Associate Librarian (Management Services) at Macquarie University.

Neil's early library career was as a trainee librarian at the Hatfield Polytechnic, where in due course he became Deputy Polytechnic Librarian in 1974. He was appointed Head of Library Services at the Polytechnic of Central London (PCL) in 1979, remaining there for 10 years.

He has long advocated the application of information technology in academic institutions. He established a strong research program at PCL in the field of information technology, beginning with the formation of the Library Technology Centre (now the Library and Information Technology Centre) in 1982.

In the latter stage of his career at PCL he was very involved in a range of projects sponsored by the European Economic Commission, most of them aimed at developing the information services market in Europe. He was successful in raising over \$2 million in research funds between 1982 and 1989.

The post at Macquarie University has resulted from a restructuring of senior management. It embraces the management of human resources, collection management, systems, budget control and general library administration.

**Glenda Rowsell** has recently been appointed Training and Support Executive at Datatrek (Australasia) Pty Ltd, Sydney.

Glenda has held a number of positions with NSW TAFE Library Services, most recently as Information Services Librarian at Sydney Technical College.

She will be responsible for Datatrek's software support and customer liaison.



**Frances Roberts** (Turner) has been appointed to the position of Deputy Librarian at the Northern Territory University. Frances was formerly Reader Services Librarian (Coburg campus), Phillip Institute of Technology, Melbourne. She has also worked at CSIRO Central Library, National University of Malaysia (Kuala Lumpur), La Trobe University and University of Sydney.



**Frank Willems** has been promoted to the position of Acting College Librarians with the Catholic College of Education Sydney from June. Previously Frank was the User Services Librarian with the College.



**Gayle Villaume**, BA (LS), GDCM, ALIA, RMAA, has accepted the position of Managing Director of SAZTEC Information Services Pty Limited, following the retirement of Garry Bruce.

SAZTEC is an international leader in the use of computer technology, providing a range of value added services in Library Conversions and Records Management.