

LETTERS

Clarifications and corrections from the Board of Education

Dear Editor,

The Board of Education wishes to correct matters of fact that appear in a paper, *The Practitioner/Educator Divide — Bridging the Gap*, presented by Malcolm Traill at the ALIA 1st Biennial Conference, Perth, 3 October 1990, and printed in the proceedings.

These facts are contained in a section of the paper relating to the mechanics of accreditation.

- *'The panel is tempted to accredit for longer and longer periods'*. The maximum recognition period is 7 years.
- *'The hurry to complete the visit can lead to inaccuracies, and at best a cursory look at the courses, despite the best will of the panel'* and *'There is little chance for schools to answer criticisms'*. Panel visits are planned in conjunction with the school. Considerable documentation is forwarded to members of the panel in advance of the visit and are studied in detail by the panel members. Reference is made to this documentation during the visit and clarification of matters of interest is undertaken during the visit in discussion with administration of the institution, heads of departments, lecturing staff, students, and course advisory committees. Inspections of facilities — office accommodation, teaching areas, equipment and resource support are also undertaken.

The report from the panel is forwarded to each school with an invitation to respond. Inaccuracies of fact are noted and filed with the original report, to form part of the profile of that school. The situation at each school is then monitored through the mandatory annual course return mechanism.

- *'ALIA has little power to enforce changes that are recommended'*. If changes are required within a set time frame, recognition is limited to that period, e.g. 1, 3 or 5 years. If changes are not achieved, recognition may be removed.

- *'The only deterrent — the refusal to accredit a course — has never been used'*. **Several courses have not been recognised.**

- *'There is an urgent need for a national survey of future labour market needs'*. Such a study is in process in 1990 with two projects. One, the examination of job advertisements relating to library and information studies in daily newspapers in each State on certain common dates, and the other the Graduate Destination Survey was distributed in August to all 1989 graduates.

The Board is pleased that matters of education are raised and debated in the profession, but is concerned that authors can voice inaccuracies, apparently without any verification of their views from the Association, or the Board.

Fay Nicholson

Results back from survey of librarians

Dear Editor,

Last May I conducted a General Council endorsed survey of librarians in order to gain information concerning their views about their professional association, ALIA. Both current members and former members received questionnaires. The purpose of the survey was to determine the validity of Mancur Olson's theory of collective action in the context of voluntary professional associations on the basis of a study of ALIA. The study sought to address the following questions:

- Do individuals join voluntary professional associations in order to obtain 'selective incentives' only available to members rather than merely obtain the collective good?
- Do non members discontinue their membership or not join because the perceived value of 'selective incentives' only available to members do not exceed the cost of the membership?
- Do the answers to the above questions support the classical pluralist theory of collective action or Olson's theory?

	Members	Non-Members
Surveys sent	100% (N=646)	100% (N=364)
Returned	72% (N=465)	48% (N=178)
Undeliverable	3% (N=22)	4% (N=15)
Adjusted return rate	75%	52%

Through your 'letters' column in *inCite* I would like to take the opportunity to thank all the participants who kindly found time to complete and return the survey questionnaire. In

particular I would like to express my gratitude to all those people who added words of encouragement to the questionnaire, they were well received indeed. Also to those individuals who made an extra effort to clarify the information being provided on the questionnaire, or to point out the error of my ways, thanks, the extra data was indeed useful.

I have almost completed the analysis of the data and the study should be in examinable form soon.

Alex Cutts

Suggestions for our library automation?

Dear Editor,

The Central Library of the Queensland Department of Primary Industries is keen to automate its interlibrary loans system. We are a large special library and service about 3000 interlibrary loans a year. So far the only system we are familiar with is QUALLS. Are there any libraries in Australia who are contemplating or have undergone this automation exercise?

They system we envisage would have the following possibilities:

- Run on UNIX, a PC or both;
- Incorporate electronic mail;
- Capture location information. This means that once a title (book or journal) has been successfully located the system will store that information and reveal the location at a later date when/if the same title is requested again.
- Provide access to data generated by loans that is impossible to collect from a manual system.

This is the ideal but we are interested to hear from any library, large or small who use, or have knowledge of, an automated system for interlibrary loans.

Please contact Robin Galagher, Queensland Department of Primary Industries, Central Library, GPO Box 46, Brisbane, 4001, telephone (07) 239 3124, fax (07) 239 3128.

Robin Galagher

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NATIONAL

- 29 JANUARY 1991.** DIALOG UPDATE for Dialog users. Hilton International Sydney. Contact: Insearch/DIALOG, PO Box 123, Broadway, NSW 2007 (02) 212 2867.
- **30 JANUARY-1 FEBRUARY 1991.** Information Science Section. 'Information online and on disc 91': 5th Australasian Conference and Exhibition. Hilton International, Sydney. Contact: Wael Foda, Australian Convention Management Services, (02) 332 4622, fax (02) 332 4066.
- **9-12 JULY 1991.** 6th National Library Technicians Conference. 'Bringing the pieces together: communication, change and consolidation'. Manly Pacific, Sydney. Contact: Jean Bailey (02) 692 4691.
- **1-5 SEPTEMBER 1991.** Achieving Excellence. 4th Asian-Pacific Special and Law Librarians Conference with 9th Biennial Health Librarians' Conference. National Convention Centre, Canberra. Contact: Conference Organiser, Gail Hawke, Capital Conference Pty Ltd, PO Box E345, Queen Victoria Terrace, ACT 2600, (06) 285 2048, fax (06) 285 2334.
- 29 SEPTEMBER-3 OCTOBER 1991.** Australian School Library Association Conference. 'Treat yourself: professionally — the Future, Technology, Literature and Education'. Leura, NSW. ASLA XII. Contact: June Wall, Box 89, Wimallee, NSW 2777, (047) 51 5137, fax (047) 54 3562.
- **29-30 NOVEMBER 1991.** Cataloguers' Section. 9th National Cataloguing Conference: Cataloguing for Online Access. Keynote speaker: Michael Gorman, Ormond College, University of Melbourne. Cost: TBA. Contact: Margaret Waller (03) 669 9049 or Stephen Gillespie (03) 660 3108, fax (03) 663 3047.

INTERNATIONAL

- 8-11 JANUARY 1991.** Association for Library and Information Science Education Annual Conference. 'Exploring Elements for Education Excellence: experience, expectations, enhancements, evaluation.' Contact: Daniel Callison, ALISE Publications Officer, School of Library and Information Science, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN 47405.
- 15-18 JULY 1991.** The Second International Information Research Conference, Churchill College, Cambridge. Contact: Karen Merry, Multi-Media Information Conference, The British Library R & D Department, 2 Sheraton Street, London, W1V 4BH, United Kingdom, 071 323 7050, fax 071 323 7251.
- 23-27 JULY 1991.** IASL Conference, Everett, Washington. Tours to follow (including Alaska). Contact: Lalita Brond, IASL Director, Australasia, 5/16 Tennyson Street, St. Kilda, VIC 3182, (03) 534 1582.

● Activities organised by ALIA Divisions

Fryer Library, University of Queensland

5 November-16 November 1990: manuscripts will be unavailable. No evening openings. Service otherwise as usual.

19 November 1990 - 2 January 1991: the library will be closed. Enquiries: (07) 377 2329 ■

WHO'S WHERE

Conspectus officer appointed

Margaret Henty has been appointed to the newly created position of Conspectus Officer at the National Library of Australia. This position is being funded jointly by ACLIS and the NLA for an initial period of 15 months, after which the NLA will take full funding responsibility for the position.

Prior to taking up this appointment, Margaret was Research Officer at the ANU library. Earlier this year, she was Executive Secretary to the Working Party on Library Provision in Higher Education Institutions (the NBEET Review).

Margaret is already planning a series of meetings with ACLIS State and Territory based Conspectus Committees, and developing an Australian version of Conspectus. She can be contacted at the NLA on (06) 262 1157. ■

...a late item...

Dear Editor,

In your editorial comments on the Parliamentary Standing Committee for Long Term Strategies for Australia as an Information Society (*inCite* 29 October) I noted that you claim that ALIC failed.

I do not remember that you, Peter Judge, as a member of ALIC, ever suggested that we were proceeding in the wrong direction, or proposed a different approach to the problems we were attempting to address.

There is such a thing as collective responsibility. As a former chairman I do not wish to be defensive about ALIC, but you might, at least, have given it some credit for moving the

Melbourne University's management school attracts Marianne Broadbent

Marianne

Broadbent is leaving RMIT at the end of 1990 to take up a new position at Melbourne University's Graduate School of Management. In January 1991, Marianne commences as Program Manager for the Graduate School's Key Centre for Strategic Management.

Marianne has been Head of the Department of Information Services since July 1987, after commencing at RMIT in January 1982 as a Lecturer and being appointed Senior Lecturer in May 1983. In October 1990, Marianne submitted her doctoral thesis, titled *The Alignment of Business and Information Strategies*, to Melbourne's Graduate School of Management.

The position of Head of the Department of Information Services is expected to be advertised late in 1990 or early in 1991. In the interregnum, Barry McIntyre will act as Head of the Department. ■

debate forward and for preparing the ground for what has followed.

Laurie Brown

Peter Judge replies: I actually wrote (*inCite* 17, p 4) that ALIC 'failed to give much practical advice to governments and was considered by the profession to be incapable of dealing with the burning issues of the day'. I stand by this, but I would not duck my share of any collective responsibility.

However, I also chaired two ALIC working parties seeking new directions for its activities, introduced as an agenda item at each of its later meetings the identification of issues then facing the profession, and wrote ALIC Working Paper No. 1 (and only) on *Public Sector/Private Sector Interaction in Australian Information Policy*. ■

What on earth is GNAB?