

ALIA and international relations

General Council decided in 1993 to review the ALIA International Relations Committee (IRC), which had been inactive for many years, and at the first General Council meeting in 1994 agreed to reconstitute the IRC, decided on a broad mission statement and on the committee's membership. It also decided that the various specialists on the committee were best equipped to recommend to General Council appropriate and specific objectives and terms of reference for their future activity based on the agreed mission. This was an innovative and very sensible way to establish a working committee and resulted in the committee gaining approval of their terms of reference by the end of 1994.

of APSIG (the Asia Pacific Special Interest Group). Virginia Walsh, as Executive Director of ALIA, is an ex-officio member.

The terms of reference of the IRC are fairly broad and this has allowed the IRC to develop an action plan of specific objectives for 1995, and these are:

1. To provide information to ALIA members on international library issues.
2. To maintain active involvement with international and national library associations.
3. To encourage and coordinate the international activities of ALIA Divisions, conferences and professional development programs.
4. To coordinate ALIA's involvement in related organisations.
5. To provide input to general inquiries and policy forums on matters of international concern to the library and information sector.
6. To provide regular reports to General Council on activities that have an international focus.
7. To promote the international activities and skills of ALIA members.
8. To promote the opportunities for ALIA members to be involved in international activities.

The IRC has met twice in 1995, in Canberra, and has established or is exploring a number of new initiatives, and is developing a monitoring process for all associated activities. This brief article is the first action on one of these initiatives — the IRC agreed that it should establish a Publications Schedule and contribute or solicit ap-

propriate columns to *inCite* on a bi-monthly basis.

Some of the notable initiatives that are being investigated by the IRC or are in process can be summarised as follows:

Asia/Pacific library professional development program

A proposal is being developed seeking federal government support, in partnership with ALIA, to establish a new program that will enable individual library and information professionals to work on an approved project, in a developing country in the Asia Pacific region. The program proposal bears some similarity to an existing USA activity called the Library Fellowship Program funded annually by the United States Information Agency and administered by the American Library Association — a very successful and high-profile professional program.

Asia fellowships program

This is an existing program funded by the Federal government. It is designed to provide three month placements in specific Asian countries. The projects are identified and carried out in association with a professional association of relevance to the awardee's profession and the association is expected to assist the awardee with all program facilitation. As more information become available it will be published in *inCite* and in the APSIG newsletter.

Database of grants and programs

The National Office is attempting to combine listings of library-based key Asia-related Government programs and programs from agencies such as the World Bank, Asian Development Bank and the British Council.

Publication exchange

The National Office has implemented this and there are now a number of Library Associations with whom we currently exchange publications. The publications are held in the National Office for the use of all members on request or when visiting Canberra.

There are many other issues that have been discussed and acted upon by the IRC and those briefly discussed above are merely a sample. Full notes of the meetings are available on request and it is hoped that the notes of the meetings will be available shortly via ALIANet.

Bill Linklater



At the IRC meeting were (left to right) Virginia Walsh, Bill Linklater, Anthony Ketley, Robyn Stokes, Carolyn Cherrett and Dr Helen Jarvis

The membership of the committee is Bill Linklater (elected by the IRC as Chair for 1995), Warren Horton, Helen Jarvis, Anthony Ketley, Robyn Stokes and Virginia Walsh.

Bill Linklater, Helen Jarvis and Robyn Stokes are the three nominees of General Council and were elected to the Committee by General Council. Warren Horton is on the Committee ex-officio as the Australian Member of the IFLA Executive Board, and Anthony Ketley has a place on the committee ex-officio as convenor



HINTON
INFORMATION SERVICES

Global Info Centre Australia

Hardcopy Document Supply Service for

Engineering, Defence, Aerospace & Manufacturing

◆ US MilSpecs 48hr Service ◆ Competitive Prices

◆ International Industry Standards ◆ Fast Turnaround

FREE-CALL 1 800 062 299 FREE-FAX 1 800 817 716

Email: HINTON@INTERCONNECT.COM.AU Locked Bag 7, EASTWOOD NSW 2122