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Author Denis Waitley has a new book out, *Empires of the mind* (ISBN 1863738746), which discusses aspects of self-leadership. One section stresses the importance of being driven by a pride and passion for what you do from within yourself.

We all have a self-generating enthusiasm mechanism within us. What determines whether we choose to devote it to one part of our lives, say a hobby and restrict it from another, perhaps the workplace? Or alternatively, what ensures that we share our passions between home, workplace and hobbies?

My guess is that a welcome sense of 'belonging' often triggers the self-leadership that Waitley refers to.

For librarians, ALIA plays a major role in inculcating the pride and passion that comes with being part of the profession. As well, ALIA provides us with a professional history that complements the diverse institutional histories of the many libraries and parent institutions which employ us. This sense of knowing where we've been is an essential ingredient in enriching our professional lives, providing us with a strong sense of place and fostering greater understanding, and unity, between us as sometimes distant but always definite colleagues.

Waitley quotes the actor Edward James Olmos: 'A job is something you do for money. But a career is something you do because you must do it. You want to do it, you love doing it, you're excited when you do it. And you'd do it even if you were paid nothing beyond the food and basics. You'd do it because it's your life.'

With Waitley's book still fresh in my mind, I came across an old

copy of *Who's who in Australia* (1974) during an office clean-up. At the same time, my eye caught the current copy of the *ALIA Handbook*, issued a few months ago, on my office bookshelf. I ended up spending the next half-hour giving myself a fascinating tour of part of our library hall of fame. Selecting names at random from the honours and awards section of the *Handbook*, I referred to my 21-year-old volume of *Who's who* and inspired a much better appreciation of the adventure, challenges and career diversity that librarianship offers to us if we are prepared to agree with Edward James Olmos on the distinction between a job and a career.

I then rang a librarian friend who sometimes good-naturedly chides me on my lack of ALIA history. I told him I had a 21-year-old copy of *Who's who* in front of me and said if he could name five librarians in it within five minutes, I'd give him a nice prize. He rallied to the challenge (after first enquiring if I really had nothing better to do with my time) and quickly rattled off five names ... all five of which were in there, but only two were names I had in mind! As we subsequently went through the entries in the book for all eight names, we even came across a snippet of history concerning my friend's institution which surprised him!

I'm deliberately not naming names here, because I'm hoping I can inspire you to explore the *Handbook* yourself.

You will soon find that as part of the expanse of people, issues and structures that come under its umbrella, our Association has a rich history of career librarians and dedicated lay people who have collectively made us what we are today. But history is neither stagnant

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nor finite. We are tomorrow's history and it is important that we continue the example of those who have given us the rich experience which has brought us this far.

We can do this in two ways.

We can ensure that we continue to give recognition to those who deserve it, and in so doing, encouragement to the rest of us. We have a fine system of awards and honours for precisely this purpose. As members, it is important that we be aware of these awards, and that we use them for acknowledging superlative contributions to librarianship. We must respect the professional rigour that is attached to the nomination process; these awards are not given out lightly so it stands to reason that the supporting nominations must be thorough and true to the spirit of the award. If you have a worthy candidate you'd like to nominate for an award, I hope you see this required rigour as a challenge to the nominator, not a disincentive to nominate.

The other way we continue the example of our history is to take a page from Waitley's book... 'Be inspired to learn as much as you can, to know as much as you can, to gain skills as much as you can, to find a cause that benefits humankind.'

'By always doing what you love, loving what you do, delivering more than you promise, you'll always be underpaid — which is how it always should be,' says Waitley.

Perhaps, but then I suppose it comes down to your definition of 'underpaid'.

I can show you a list of librarians who love their profession and delivered more than they promised and in the process were paid the highest honour that money can't buy. ■