

# Information literacy in the LEARN network

Clare Murphy, Torrens Valley Institute of TAFE; and  
Joan Doyle, Adelaide Institute of TAFE

The provision of information literacy programs for staff and students has strong support within LEARN (the network of TAFE SA Learning Resource Centres). The Learning Resource Centres (LRCs) throughout South Australia offer a range of programs that are tailored to suit the curricula of Institute vocational teaching programs and the needs of students and staff.

As the largest institute in TAFE SA, Adelaide Institute offers a wide variety of programs. There are two core sessions — 'LRC orientation' and 'Use of the catalogue' — that are attended by the majority of students, and the more advanced sessions which target special collections, electronic databases, referencing techniques, as well as research and report writing skills. The information literacy program has the use of two open-plan teaching areas in the learning resource centre, and is staffed by the equivalent of two full-time lecturers.

Resource centre staff are supported in their provision of information literacy programs by the LEARN Information Literacy Group which has a representative from each of the ten TAFE SA Institutes and one from LEARN Services (the ABN Unit and the Open Learning Information and Materials Clearinghouse). The group has been closely involved in several key projects including:

- the TAFE SA funded project which resulted in the publication of *Keys to information literacy: a toolkit for TAFE Learning Resource Services* (Jackson & Doyle, 1996);
- a Department of Employment, Education, Training and Youth Affairs-funded project on *Teaching and learning the key competencies in vocational education and training* (Jasinski, 1996) where several LEARN members had responsibility for a project about the key competency 'Collecting, analysing and organising information'.

Group members collect information literacy articles for dissemination to interested LEARN staff and keep each other up-to-date on relevant information from within their Institutes and beyond.

We will shortly begin planning a workshop on information literacy for circulation desk staff in learning resource centres who are often the first people approached by students and staff wishing to access information. This workshop will follow a series of well-attended workshops offered for resource centre staff in 1996 and early 1997 in which the Information Literacy Group:

- facilitated a panel session about selected information literacy programs offered within the TAFE, school and university sectors in South Australia, with particular emphasis being placed on how information literacy skills can be integrated into the course content;
- provided participants with an overview of the structure and contents of *Keys to information literacy: a toolkit for TAFE Learning Resource Services* (Jackson & Doyle, 1996);
- organised a guest speaker to conduct an interactive session on how to market information literacy programs to vocational program teaching staff;

- organised a guest speaker to present a session on goal setting and action planning;
- asked workshop participants to talk about an initiative they are taking, or are planning to take, with regard to information literacy programs offered through their resource centre and asked participants to review these initiatives with other participants six months later;
- offered an interactive session on using Internet search engines to conduct effective and efficient searches for information; and
- brainstormed ideas on how staff can support the development of information literacy skills among students learning through the flexible delivery of courses.

The success of these staff development workshops means that the Information Literacy Group will need to consider how to offer similar workshops for other LEARN staff, while maintaining the sharing of information and ideas among past workshop participants who are keen to continue their liaison. Through the professional development activities we offer, our group is developing and maintaining the information literacy skills of LEARN staff so that they are better able to facilitate the development of these skills by TAFE SA students and staff. ■



Australian  
Library and  
Information  
Association

## General Council

### Call for nominations

Nominations are called for Australian Capital Territory, New South Wales, Northern Territory, South Australia and West Australian General Councillors. Nominees must be financial members of the Association at the time of nomination, however they need not be professional members.

ALIA General Council consists of the president, the vice-president, the chair of the ALIA Board of Education, the immediate past president of the Association and one member elected by each branch. In 1998 the president will be John Shipp and Kerry Smith will be immediate past president.

The executive committee consists of the president, the vice-president, the immediate past president, two members of ALIA General Council, and the chair of the ALIA Board of Education.

Terms of office for the Australian Capital Territory, New South Wales, Northern Territory, South Australia and West Australian General Councillors end on 31 December 1997. New General Councillors are to be elected by the members of the Association to hold office from 1 January 1998 to 31 December 1999.

Nominations must be in writing, be signed by 2 financial members of the Association and include the consent in writing of the nominee.

Nominations close at 5pm on 1 September 1997 and should be sent to the executive director, ALIA, PO Box E441, Kingston, ACT 2604, e-mail: [enquiry@alia.org.au](mailto:enquiry@alia.org.au)

Further details are available from the ALIA executive director, or from <http://www.alia.org.au/nominations/general.council.html>

Also see the divisional nomination form, inserted in this issue of *inCite*.