• **12–16/10 7th Asian Pacific Specials, Health and Law Librarian's conference and exhibition — Perth.** *On the Edge.* Venue: Duxton Hotel, Perth. Contact: Motive Conventions, GPO Box Z5327, St Georges Terrace, Perth 6831, ph (08) 9322 2666, fax (08) 9322 1417, edge97@portia. murdoch.edu.au.

• **9–12/11 Public Libraries section and Reference and Information Service section conference.** *Creating tomorrow today: can you imagine...* Venue: Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre. Contact: Kelly Flynn, Conference Secretariat, PO Box 1280, Milton 4064, ph (07) 3369 0477, fax (07) 3369 1512, pubr97@sunray. im.com.au.

• **13–14/11 WA Public Libraries section.** *WA Public Librarian's study tour — following the PUBRAISS conference.* Proposal — various public libraries in and around Brisbane. Time/cost: TBA. Contact: Patricia Walker, ph (08) 9399 0125, fax (08) 9497 7014, armlib@ iinet.net.au or Duncan Furphy, ph (08) 9411 3494, fax (08) 9434 2577.

• **8–9/12 ALIA Information Literacy Taskforce National conference.** *Information Literacy — the profession issue.* Canberra Institute of Technology. Conference will explore Information Literacy as the foundation of accreditation processes, initial training and continuing education programs. Contact: Irene Doskatsch, ph (08) 8302 6219, fax (08) 8302 6699, irene.doskatsch @unisa.edu.au.

All *inCite* **Events** are limited to 40 words maximum and must include: *date, name of Division, title of event, theme and key speaker (if relevant), venue, time, costs, and a contact name with phone and fax numbers.*

ALIA divisions should mail or fax details of forthcoming events to the address shown below, or use our website electronic form on ALIAnet.

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• *bullets indicate activities organised by ALIA Divisions*

And the
winners are...

ALIA Awards for Innovation in Victoria 1997
proudly sponsored by Freelance Library and Information Services

Cheerful winners of the ALIA Awards for Innovation in Victoria (l–r) Nola Smolders, Jon Breukel, Lisa Belkin, Meg Paul (FLIS) and Richard Holt

Information Access Group
Lisa Belkin, CSIRO

The Information Access Group was formed in 1992 to help select a replacement OPAC and to consider datasets other than the traditional catalogue data for access throughout CSIRO. Dr Colin Ward, former deputy chief, CSIRO Division of Biomolecular Engineering writes of the Information Access Group:

'... Given the demands of research and management we depend upon the leadership of library and information professionals, through groups such as the Information Access Group, to help steer information usage in accordance with the latest and best methods available. The Group have demonstrated clever uses of technology, excellence in teamwork and economies of scale through the achievement and implementation of corporate dataset deals.'

Port Phillip Library Service home page
Richard Holt, Port Phillip Library Service

As the first public library in service in Australia to be subjected to competitive tendering, Port Phillip's image within the community in the immediate post-competitive tendering phase was not a positive one. Community fears of reduced service levels were allayed in part by the technological innovations which were introduced in the first year of the contract. The Port Phillip Library Service home page offers a number of features that are distinctive, namely:

• guides and signposts — such features as the on-line Internet tutorial designed by Richard, to alert parents about ethical issues and with clear search tips;

• commitment to library users;

• publicity for local events.

The page is a model of innovation and excellence, delivering the highest quality in content design and currency of information.

Parliament of Victoria on the Internet
Jon Breukel, Parliamentary Library

The aim of the VicHansard database is to enable Victorians, and in particular, those who are heavily-reliant on parliamentary information, to be able to search through the entire full-text of the Victorian parliamentary debates for any words or phrases which any member of parliament has said either in the Legislative Assembly or Legislative Council from 1991 to the present. In designing the system Jon was aware of the need to be able to search across the major parliamentary procedures and therefore designed the system specifically with the aim of enabling users to search directly under ten major parliamentary activities. The format is as simple as possible and the powerful Titan/ Express software has meant that enquiries are executed very quickly.

Headstart program
Nola Smolders, John Paul College in Frankston

The aim of the Headstart program is to give selected post-Year 10 students, who are at risk of not coping with and/or completing the VCE because of a lack of research and organisational skills, a Headstart by having them undertake an intensive three day course on Research and Organisational Skills so that they would feel confident and supported to undertake research in their Year 11 studies. For three days the students worked closely with the project staff, brainstorming, listening, watching, experimenting, trying, achieving. In very small groups and with much support they searched the catalogue, the Internet, newspaper and periodical indexes, both print and electronic. They watched and searched, were helped immediately they needed it, learnt to take notes, created bibliographies, drafted and processed their reports. Then finally came the support staff conference with them, sharing results and evaluating the program. ∎