

Your voice

Help for retired members

I would like to add to recent correspondence suggesting reduced or nil membership rates for retired people.

I am an Associate member who will not be renewing membership in 1998. As I joined not long after matriculating at age sixteen and studied subsequently, I have over thirty-five years continuous membership.

I retired (on medical grounds) in 1994. I have always been keenly interested and involved in my profession, (I started the Australian Serials Special Interest Group newsletter) and have retained my membership since forced to give up paid work. I like to be alerted to developments through *inCite*. I still do librarian type things like suggesting acquisitions to my local library system and to the Multiple Sclerosis Society of Victoria library, and am a member of the ALIA Disabilities Interest Group.

I suggest people who are retired medically or who have long membership be given special consideration in the matter of fees. The fact is, retirement through medical disability brings with it all sorts of extra costs. Being limited in what I can now do, there are

some new special needs and the necessity to pay others for activities I can no longer do myself. This is costly and may become more so if the disease progresses. Add to that the prematurely shortened receipt of previous income level, and one thinks more carefully about expenditure.

So while I retain interest in my profession, I can no longer justify the expenditure of the \$73 involved each year.

I therefore ask ALIA to introduce a special nominal membership fee for long-term members who are medically retired, soon!

Pearl Champion, Victoria

We are delighted to inform our readers that at their July 1997 meeting, the ALIA General Council established two new categories of membership for retired members of the Association, with considerably reduced fees. Details of the criteria and fees associated with these new membership categories will be published in inCite very soon.

Editor

Joint use libraries — national survey

I am undertaking the first national survey for twenty years of joint use libraries with public library provision. A full

list of the 116 joint-use libraries or branches I have identified for the survey is available. If you are a joint use library providing public library service and have not received a copy of the questionnaire, contact Alan Bundy, University Librarian, University of South Australia Library, Holbrooks Road, Underdale 5032, ph (08) 8302 6260, or fax (08) 8302 6756.

Of interest is that joint use libraries now represent about eight per cent of the total of static public library outlets in Australia.

Alan Bundy, University of South Australia

Australian Library Week a great success?

I was overseas in April and May and since returning, in what little spare time I have, I have done a bit of checking on the 'great success' of Australian Library Week in Victoria.

So far, an absolute print-media blank, total failure! especially, in view of the network theme in the immensely popular computer supplements in *The Australian* and *The Age* — not a mention, nor anywhere else in *The Age* from 4–11 May, not even a letter-to-the-editor from ALIA.

So much for the 'successful live launches' of web pages (June p14, *inCite*). My local library organised an excellent program, but there was not a line of notice in the two local free newspapers.

Colin Watson, Victoria

Overall, media coverage of ALW97 was very good, with an independent media analysis (commissioned by ALIA and carried out by Media Monitors) indicating that Australian Library Week attracted the equivalent of about \$73 000 worth of free advertising. Of interest is the fact that much of the 1997 newspaper coverage came in the smaller, regional papers, and that there was significant exposure on radio and television, thanks in part to a video compilation distributed to all television stations in Australia. We are aiming for an even greater exposure of libraries leading up to Australian Library Week 1998 — Libraries: pathways to knowledge, 3–9 May 1998. Editor

Your voice

Your letters on any issue of relevance to the library and information sector are welcomed.

All letters should be addressed to the inCite editor and may be e-mailed to incite@alia.org.au, or faxed to 06 282 2249, or posted to: Your voice, ALIA, PO Box E441, Kingston ACT 2604. Please include your name and postal address with your letter or e-mail.

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