

Your voice

A big thank you to the conference committee...

Thank you to Marion and committee for a wonderful experience in Canberra. My first Library Technician Conference will always give me happy memories of friendly people, interesting speakers and the beautiful city of Canberra. I never realised that there were so many library technicians and that their positions were so diverse.

It made me proud to be a library technician to see what other technicians are doing. So much so that I sent off my membership form (plus cheque) to ALIA yesterday.

Thanks again... and I'd like to see all of you (maybe not the dog) in Perth in 1999.

Patricia Dean, Perth

Ed: For those of you who missed the conference, a local dog made a brief, and uninvited, visit to the

conference exhibition — I guess he just had to know what library technicians were all about!

Helping retired members

Regarding your editorial response to 'Help for retired members' (*inCite*, August, p5). Three cheers for the ALIA General Council. Hooray! Hooray! Hooray!

**Brian Gordon,
Henly Beach South**

Single, peak body

I would like to thank Kerry Smith for her letter of 12 September, 'One organisation for library representation'. While I am delighted to see that ALIA and ACLIS are forming a single 'peak' body for library representation, I am puzzled why you refer to a single peak body when, as far as I know, no attempts have been made to merge ALIA and ACLIS with ASLA. I would have thought there would be enormous politi-

cal benefits in such a merger, yet it doesn't seem to be on the agenda.

**Stuart Ferguson,
Wagga Wagga**

Work for the dole

I am not sure if the 'work for the dole' scheme of the federal government has received coverage in *inCite* as I have not been reading it from cover to cover.

It would be good if the National Library of Australia could employ persons under the scheme. A very useful job would be to have a worker with a pen and ruler employed to underline the periodical titles in every entry in the proof copies of monthly and annual editions of APAIS.

This would make the printed APAIS easier to use, and easier to explain to the uninitiated. To prevent the worker[s] going blind and insane, they could do something completely different every second hour of the day.

It would be good also if the

Library's own interesting periodical, *National Library News*, could be indexed in APAIS.

In 1996, for instance, the articles 'Television in Australia: 40 years on', published in *National Library News*, would have been interesting to a wide audience; and as important as many of the articles indexed from the Saturday newspaper colour supplements. Indexing *National Library News* in APAIS would make the students of Australia more appreciative, and more active users of the National Library.

Keith Gaymer, Dapto

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 02 6282 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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