

Your voice

Truly professional librarian

The headline in the *inCite* October 1997 edition read 'Alice Springs farewells first librarian'. The article brought back fond memories of Alice Springs and in particular Joy Brucek as the librarian of the Community College of Central Australia.

When I came to the College to take up my position as a computer lecturer in 1983 I was better prepared for the computer side than for the teaching resources side of the job, but Joy immediately came to my aid. What I admired then, and what I admire even more now, is the professionalism and the efficiency with which she took up the task without much input from this awkward Danish computer programmer.

Joy took a personal interest in the borrowers and her collection. One story, which I have never had the opportunity to verify, deals with an American who was employed at the Joint Defence Base at Pine Gap. At the end of his contract he returned to the United States with one of the books from the library.

When he came back on a new contract a couple of years later and visited the library, Joy immediately recognised him and during the conversation said '...and did you bring our book back' — or words to that effect.

During the time she was in charge of the college library, Joy was involved in the initial projects related to establishing data communication links to other libraries. I can remember her sitting at the computer in the library at the old Anzac Hill campus, reading what I now realise must have been Marc records from The National Library of Australia. I am sure they did not mention data communication and online access in her initial library education!

I have always seen Joy as an example of a professional librarian, and now that I am a graduate library student myself, I have come to even more appreciate the professionalism and resourcefulness she demonstrated during the time I knew her. I feel we can all learn about current awareness strategies and taking up the chal-

lenge of new things' from the librarian who came to Alice Springs in 1953 with 2000 books.

Vagn Gudiksen, Mt Gravatt

Information packaging

As I proceed with my thesis on dairy farmers' ability to use published abstracts, I come up against the question of information packaging. Very little appears in the library literature but it is well known in agriculture. The client requests information, the extension officer or consultant searches for it and then presents to the client the amount of material that s/he can conveniently handle in the time available and if necessary condensed to a level appropriate to the client's prior knowledge of the field.

I have heard that librarians in big companies condense or package information for senior management. One would assume that there would rarely be a problem with the level of expertise. I am more interested in situations where the essentials of research

information have to be communicated to practitioners working at the skilled trade or technician level. It would be useful to compare notes on this type of 'information packaging' with what I have been able to discover both about traditional agricultural extension and the newer types of information service to farmers.

I would be interested to hear from any colleague with experience of 'information packaging'. I can be contacted on 03 5862 1783, or by mail at 66 Paterson Street, Numurkah 3636.

Shirley Cohen, Numurkah

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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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to you

PS: please visit
us at VALA

our best wishes
for the

Festive Season

and for

the New Year

