14/5 Clients, services and quality. Uni of NSW, School of Information, Library and Archive Studies. Contact: Maureen Henninger, ph (02) 9385 3589, fax (02) 9385 3430, M.Henninger@unsw.edu.au.

26–30/5 Introduction to the management of recordkeeping systems. Uni of NSW, School of Information, Library and Archive Studies. Contact: Maureen Henninger, ph (02) 9385 3589, fax (02) 9385 3430, M.Henninger@unsw.edu.au.

QLD

• **21/3 Qld Cataloguers Section.** *Indexing and abstracting periodicals.* Trainer: Alan Walker, Indexer. QUT Gardens Point Campus Library, Room 771. 9.15–4pm. Cost: $65 ALIA members, $80 non-members. Contact: Nathalie Schulz, ph (07) 3875 5242, n.schulz@ins.gu.edu.au

• **10/3–8/12 Qld Library Technician Section meetings.** State Library of Qld, Metway Theatrette, 5.30pm. (10/3; 14/4; 12/5; 16/6; 14/7; 11/8; 8/9; 13/10; 10/11; 8/12). Contact: Ailsa O'Donnell, ph (07) 3259 3025, fax (07) 3259 3084.

25/5 Redcliffe Library Reunion. All past employees of the Redcliffe City Library are invited to attend a reunion. We are keen to hear old stories and tell a few new ones. Contact: Fiona Miller, ph (07) 3283 0219

SA

19/3 Copyright workshops for libraries and information services, given by lawyers from Australian Copyright Council. Contact: ph (02) 9318 1788, fax (02) 9698 3536, URL http://www.copyright.org.au.

16–17/4 Insearch/Knight-Ridder Information Seminars. Introductory DIALOG (16/4), Hot Business Topics (17/4 am). Adelaide contact: ph (02) 9212 2867, krinfo.aus@uts.edu.au

TAS

• **12/3 ALIA Northern Areas Regional Group.** *Tour of the new Newstead College Library.* Venue/time: Newstead College Library, 5.30pm. Contact Andrew Parsons, ph (03) 6335 4738, fax (03) 6335 4821, a.parsons@corp.amc.edu.au.

VIC

• **3/3–8/12 ALIA Vic Special Libraries Section Committee meetings.** Venue to be advised, 5.30pm. (3/3; 14/4; 12/5; 2/6; 14/7; 11/8; 8/9; 13/10; 10/11; 8/12). For further information contact: Anne Sedgley, ph (03) 9616 8011

Special librarian to speak at conference

***On the edge,* 7th Asian Pacific Specials, Health and Law Librarians' conference, Perth, 12-16 October 1997**

Elizabeth Bole Eddison is co-founder, chairman of the board, and vice-president of Inmagic Inc, a computer software company with which many of us are familiar. She has a broad area of expertise in information management, and is a dynamic and inspirational speaker.

After living and working in many different countries in South Asia and South America, she finally settled in Lexington, Massachusetts, with her husband and children. Betty received her masters of science from Simmons College Graduate School of Library Science in 1973. Betty is a highly sought after speaker and we are fortunate to have enticed her to Perth — Australia is one of the few countries to which she has never been. We could not have managed it without the generous support of our sponsor Triad Data Magic, who also distribute InMagic

Betty has been a member of the Special Libraries Association in the United States since 1972, and has served on many of its committees over the years. Among her many activities in the library and information area are membership of the board of trustees of Cary Memorial Library in Lexington, the board of directors of the National Information Standards Organization, the editorial advisory board of *Database* magazine and the board of advisers of the International School of Information Management.

We look forward to Betty's contribution to the conference with great anticipation. The conference brochure is due out soon, but if you have further queries about the conference contact Motive Conventions, GPO Box Z5237, Perth 6001, telephone (09) 322 2666, fax (09) 322 1417, e-mail edge97@portia.murdoch.edu.au and check the conference home page at http://wwwlib.murdoch.edu.au:80/edge/edge.html for new developments.

The challenge of university library leadership...

Vicki Williamson, university librarian,
Curtin University of Technology, Western Australia

Towards the end of 1996 a rare opportunity came my way — I got the chance to 'get her hands dirty' and work in private industry, outside of a library-specific role, and take up a one-month senior executive placement at NEC Australia.

The experience reinforced some basics about organisational leadership and management. Summarised and translated into the academic library context, the lessons I learned read something like this:

• Never under-estimate political agendas.

• Remain client focused.

• Position the library into the wider organisational context.

• Network actively and make sure the key decision makers understand and appreciate the role of the library.

• Demonstrate and articulate how the library adds value to teaching, learning and research processes.

• Keep abreast of developments within the parent institution and the wider community.

• Market and promote your library's resources and service.

• Communicate in a variety of ways.

• Remember process is important, but focus on outcomes.

• Planning is important — but keep it simple and understandable.

Devote some time and energy to answering these simple questions:

• What is important to us and what actions and behaviours are unacceptable to us?

• What business are we in and what would we like to be seen as? (mission)

• What do we hope to achieve in order to be successful?

• How will we measure our progress towards achieving our objectives? (performance indicators)

• Staff are the key to organisational success. Keep them informed about progress, consult them about change and work together.

• The leader is judged by their achievements. Be professional and make sure your actions match your words.

If we thought we had experienced a time of change in libraries over the last decade, and if the experience of private industry is anything to go by, then as they say, 'we ain't seen nothing yet!'. Being a leader is more than challenging — it's a question of survival!