Your voice

Exploding the myths...

We are all challenged in many ways and I guess we will continue to be challenged as the new millennium approaches. I have to agree with all those in the library industry who are currently fighting library stereotypes, and applaud those that have openly done so with their letters to *inCite*.

As soon as I saw those Australian Library Week posters I knew which one I would rather identify with. When I read about the Western Australian library calendar I wanted to buy one.

Last year our TAFE Institute of over 100 years staged a final review as a restructuring process to thrust us into a new entity. As soon as the review was announced I knew that the library had to be there, even though I did not know what we would do. An extremely small group of library workers took up the challenge to participate in the review and represent the library. It was our chance to remind all staff that we play an important role in the educational process. One day, after an extremely long and boring meeting, I knew we had to present our teachers and administrators with an entirely different view of the library. Yes, we would have to be bold and daring and do the outrageous. I could not believe my luck when amidst my daughter's obscure CD collection she was able to find a song about librarians — lonely librarians, with the heart of Danielle Steel and the mind of Sharon Stone, to be exact. I will not bore you with the rest, just to say our act was a roaring success, and staff are still asking for Sharon!

We did what we set out to achieve: we now have a permanent place in the minds and hearts of our staff; we exploded the myths and stereotypes of library workers; and we had fun.

Leanne Vincent
Bridgewater, Tas

Profile matching facility not so unique

In the August issue of *inCite* the Automated Profile Matching facility developed by Sanderson Computers for the Braille and Talking Book Library is described as 'unique'. Altarama Systems would like to point out that this is not, in fact, unique.

Our Aurora library management system also includes an automated profile matching facility which records readers' preferences and reading history to enable stock to be automatically selected for the readers. This has been in use at the Royal Blind Society of New South Wales Library since late 1997.

Shirley Foster
Altarama Systems Pty Ltd

Developing a vital and comprehensive peak body

What a disappointing denouement to the promising enterprise of the Leadership Committee. Here we had a thriving process which showed great promise of developing a vital and comprehensive peak body.

A new representative association needs the focus, strengths and talents of both ACLIS and ALIA, each in their own right merging as equal partners. Size and assets are in this case no measure of relative value.

It is understandable that the suggested accelerated timetable may have needed to be slowed a little, but overall I regard the ALIA General Council as having made a poor choice in drawing back from the energising process advanced by the Leadership Committee. Why such timidity?

Margaret Compton
Rockhampton, Qld