

Seminar on lifelong learning

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The opening event of Adult Learners Week, 5–11 November, was a Seminar on lifelong learning convened by Adult Learning Australia. Nearly forty participants in the seminar represented a broad spectrum of interests including the education industry, government, trade unions, training authorities and business. ALIA was invited to represent the library sector. The breadth of representation was indicative of the span of interest in lifelong learning which encompasses formal adult education, vocational and workplace training, as well as informal learning. The broader view of lifelong learning now incorporates economic as well as social and cultural considerations.

The purpose of the seminar was to start the process of developing a national policy framework for lifelong learning as it was felt that the absence of such a policy hinders collaborative action towards the establishment of a learning culture in Australia. The policy challenge was defined as 'how to integrate the three overlapping sites of lifelong learning — learning in and for the workplace; learning in and through formal and informal education and training; and community based training.

The day was structured to have short presentations followed by group discussions. A presentation by Philip Candy, the deputy vice-chancellor of Ballarat University struck a particular chord with the dilemma faced by libraries. He reasoned that the divide between state and federal level of government

bedevils national policy development in Australia. 'The fragmentation of policy context spans broad areas of education, arts and culture'. Librarians are no strangers to the difficulties caused by this policy fragmentation in seeking to have national level development and ownership of public library issues in Australia.

Public libraries have always supported lifelong learning. This role is articulated in the *UNESCO Public Library Manifesto*. Yet at the seminar it was interesting to note that the role of libraries did not feature naturally in any presentations or discussions. It illustrated the need for libraries to be more active in demonstrating and promoting their contribution to lifelong learning if they are not to be forgotten in the discussions.

Lifelong learning is garnering many interest groups as it develops as a vehicle for delivering skills for an information dominated society. It is not going to be enough for libraries to rely on the fact that they have the resources to support lifelong and informal learning. Librarians will need to be more proactive in seeking to collaborate and partner with other providers of lifelong learning in the community to ensure their legitimate place in policy development and any national initiatives which are developed.

The results of the presentations, discussions at the seminar and preliminary papers will be available at the Adult Learning Australia website: <http://www.ala.asn.au/>. ■



9332 2900, fx 08 9332 2911, promaco@promaco.com.au URL <http://www.promaco.com.au/conference/1999/alia>

28–30/11 OzCHI99 conference: *Interfaces for the Global Community*. Topics include: design and effects of computer interfaces on users. Charles Sturt University, School of Information Studies, Wagga, NSW. Contact: Jan Scott, ph 02 6933 2791, jscott@csu.edu.au URL <http://www.csu.edu.au/OZCHI99/>

• **3–5/12 ALIA Information Literacy SIG and University of SA Library joint conference.** *Concept, challenge, conundrum: from library skills to information literacy*. Keynote speaker: Professor Ken Haycock. Uni South Australia, City West Campus. For further information contact: Irene Dorskatsch, ph 08 8302 4447, fx 08 8302 4754, irene.dorskatsch@unisa.edu.au Stop press: The conference has been extended by half a day.

3–7/7/2000 21st Conference of the International Association of Technological University Libraries. *Virtual Libraries: Virtual Communities*, hosted by QUT Library, Brisbane, Australia. Well known overseas/local speakers. Contact: Barb Ewers b.ewers@qut.edu.au For regularly updated information see: <http://www.lib.qut.edu.au/IATUL>

• **24–26/10/2000 6th ALIA Biennial conference.** *Capitalising on knowledge: the information profession in the twenty-first century*. National Convention Centre, Canberra. Conference organiser: Conference Solutions, Brigitte Gunn, ph +61 2 6285 3001, fx +61 2 6285 3001, alia2000.conference@alia.org.au <http://www.alia.org.au/conferences/alia2000/>

15–18/10/2000 LIANZA Conference for 2000. Christchurch Convention Centre. Conference convenor: Gail Pattie, deputy university librarian, Uni of Canterbury, Private Bag 4800, Christchurch New Zealand, ph +64 3 364 2055, fx +64 3 364 2007, g.pattie@libr.canterbury.ac.nz

Nominations called

Nominations are now called for the following position on the Information Science Section National committee and the New South Wales committee:

president

secretary

treasurer

committee members (6)

All personal financial members are entitled to nominate candidates or to be nominated themselves for positions on the committees of their respective divisions. Forms must be signed by a nominator, a seconder and by the nominee, and should reach:

The executive director, Australian Library and Information Association, PO Box E441, Kingston 2604, no later than 30 November 1999.

Nomination forms are available from ALIA National Office, PO Box E441, Kingston 2604, phone 02 6285 1877, fax 02 6282 2249, e-mail enquiry@alia.org.au.

All **inCite Events** are limited to 40 words maximum and must include: date, name of Division, title of event, theme and key speaker (if relevant), venue, time, costs, and a contact name with phone and fax numbers.

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