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Feedback to your Board of Directors

Do you have an idea, compliment or concern about your Association? Contact any director below on personal issues and ideas will be reviewed at each meeting of the Board.

E-mail to feedback@alia.org.au will be automatically forwarded to all Board members.

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At each meeting the Board receives reports from those services, policy and advisory groups and ALIA representatives on other committees with activity since the last Board meeting. Other groups report twice yearly. The following provides a snapshot of activities.

CPD scheme

The audit is providing valuable feedback on member participation in the scheme and some aspects of the scheme such as the demands on participants for record keeping and documentation. This is also useful input into the LISEKA initiative.

Membership figures

Total membership figures for April 2003 (excluding voucher only) are 5884 compared with 5998 for the same period in 2002. This indicates that the rate of loss of members experienced during the period of the introduction of the GST and change of membership year has slowed. These break down to:

Personal members: total of 4985 compared with 5062 in April 2002 [Associates 3540 (3608 in April 2002); Members 735 (738); Technicians 407 (406); Affiliates 148 (150); Life members 136 (138); Student award winners 19 (22)]

Institutions 899 in 2003 compared with 936 in April 2002.

For the membership period from July 2002 to date there are 486 new members including 202 Associates, 54 Library Technician members and 200 Members. 110 of these new members joined in the Student category. There have been thirty new full Institutional members. Members who have not renewed for this current membership period and who have not formally resigned total 438 and include 401 personal members and thirty-seven full Institutional members.

Teacher librarians' collaborative activity

The ALIA/ASLA joint policy advisory group continues its work on two main projects: the compilation of appropriate bodies that school libraries can seek representation within; and the design of a survey, aimed for all school libraries within Australia, which would provide data on staffing, collection size and budget allocation.

Creator to consumer committee (C-2-C Project)

Ivan Trundle, an expert committee member, will report in the next issue of *inCite* on the *International Future of the Book* conference held in April organised by the C-2-C Project.

Standards Australia IT19 committee

ALIA's representative Maxine Brodie chairs this committee. Current standards projects are relevant to library management systems and related areas, ILL resource sharing, Z39, ISO 15836

Dublin Core metadata, International Standard Music Number, and Conceptual model for sharing museum data.

Copyright, the digital agenda legislation review and bilateral trade negotiations

Licence restrictions and audio-visual copyright were the main topics responded to by the copyright advisory service in March and April.

The Copyright and Intellectual Property policy and advisory group (CIP) is focussing on the implications for the sector in the current review of the digital agenda amendments to the *Copyright Act* and the trade negotiations proposed with the United States and globally at the Doha Round. The review includes the definition of 'library' with its potential for excluding non-profit libraries in commercial enterprises from the library 'exceptions' in the *Copyright Act*.

ALIA has requested that in the Australian government's trade negotiations with the United States it adopt the Singapore/Australia Free Trade Agreement principles and provisions relating to the creative arts, cultural services and industries.

Key points are:

- support for the present term of copyright in Australian law and opposing its extension. No evidence has been presented that such extensions lead to greater innovation and creativity — the alleged purpose of copyright monopoly.
- lawful access to information should be protected. Locking up information access in an information economy goes against competition and free trade principles and the right of consumers to use what they have paid for.
- indigenous interests in or ownership of cultural heritage and industries must not be compromised in free trade negotiations with any country, by signing away Australia's power to legislate for Australian interests in the fields of culture and intellectual property.
- negotiations should not jeopardise:
 - the preservation of user access to information under present Australian law
 - the preservation of library exceptions under the *Copyright Act* to maintain resource sharing library networks which reduce the economic and geographic disadvantages of our citizens in the information society.

ALIA's membership of the Australian Coalition for Cultural Diversity has served to mitigate the ACCD's hitherto unquestioning acceptance of the extension of copyright protection to mirror United States' standards. At the April ACCD meeting ALIA's defence of the present balance between owners and users of copyright material effectively pushed copyright from the ACCD agenda at least for the present.

Helen Roberts, convener of the CIP represented ALIA on the Australian Libraries Copyright Committee. ■