Questions on notice

In 2003 the format of the National Policy Congress encouraged groups to forward questions on notice for the national meeting in Canberra. The questions asked ranged from queries relating to professional qualifications through to how the Association is handling international issues. For the next few months we will dedicate space in *inCite* to answering these questions. The full list of questions, and the answers to them, is available at http://alia.org.au/governance/npc/2003/

Q: Do member-only pages of ALIAnet all need to be password protected? How can non-members learn about ALIA if they cannot access much of the website?

A: The following information is extracted from the *ALIA publishing and editorial reference group: Web publishing policy* (http://alia.org.au/governance/committees/publishing/policies/web.html).

Free access

Services that encourage membership and promote the value of membership will be made available to all, but not so as to undermine the value of being a member of the Association. Material that advocates on behalf of the Association, events and conference details, and registrations — where events are open to the wider public — are open to all.

Members-only access

Material deemed suitable for members-only, or material identified as requiring ALIA membership in order to access it, will be placed on the members-only website, with password-restricted access. ... All financial and personal transactions with the membership database require unique member password access. Members may continue to access members-only material whilst they remain financial members of the Association... Institutional members may designate up to three members of staff who may be granted access to members-only material.

Differentiation between 'free' and 'members-only' access

If an activity that takes place requires membership of ALIA, then all related content on the website must reflect the exclusivity of this activity. ALIA group activities are members-only activities (and warrant placement in the members-only section of the website), except in the case of conferences and other events that permit public access. Members-only content and information must be linked to 'free-for-all' information in a way that encourages membership of the Association, in the form of sweeteners, incentives and snippets of information. Services that require considerable financial input by members will require justification to be placed outside the members-only area of the website...

Q: Concern was raised over the fact that individual members must initiate a subscription to receive the electronic version of InterALIA. The possibility of members being able to nominate automatic subscriptions to e-lists when they join/renew was discussed. Is this a possibility?

A: Not without considerable effort. Subscription to any automated e-mail distribution list requires the implicit consent and confirmation of the person to be added to any such list. This consent must be declared and confirmed. Additionally, the mechanism to determine which e-mail address (individuals often use more than one address) should be applied to any or all given e-lists requires considerable planning and programming work. Thirdly, whilst much of this can be automated, it comes at great expense, and is not as simple as one might believe. ■

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