

Your voice

I read with interest Jan's article about signage and naming things in libraries, and the confusion it causes some people. I see her point about some users not understanding the implicit meanings of some terms (eg Reference meaning not for loan). However, I believe it would be wrong to dumb down and resort to a whole range of different terms for say, the circulation desk. Other places, fitness centres just for example, use common names for various parts of their facilities, with implicit meaning, eg locker room means where you leave your belongings, get changed, and have a shower.

I think that once people have used the library even just a little, they will become used to the lingua franca of the place. Teacher-librarians have a big role to play here. You would be aware of the Inquiry into their provision about to be held by the federal government. If all schools have a TL, students will learn the language of the library and will become comfortable with how to use one, and this will be useful knowledge throughout their lives.

I do agree that we need to make libraries welcoming and friendly places, and that we should couch directives in positive terms, eg instead of No Bags: Please leave all bags in these shelves.

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Note to Members

We welcome letters on any issue of relevance to the library and information sector. It is important to note that the opinions expressed in Letters to the Editor are those of the authors and not necessarily the official policy of the Australian Library and Information Association.

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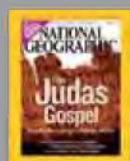
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