

EDITOR'S NOTE

GIVE ME AN



Come each April for the last few years, *INCITE* has devoted our feature to education and published our annual comprehensive list of ALIA-accredited courses with this issue of the magazine. It's here again in 2014, and it's essential reading for anyone considering starting, or adding, to your professional qualifications and developing your career.

We have many 'L' words for you this month, including practical tips to improve how you deliver training for your users and advice on keeping yourself motivated for lifelong learning. Internationally recognised expert Craig Hassad makes the case for mindfulness for both teachers and students. Mary Carroll and Bob Pymm have made some observations on what an 'ordinary student' is in these days of virtual classrooms, while Stuart Ferguson and Sally Burford outline what's coming next in distance education – MOOCs.

But here's the thing. Late last year as I was galloping about the countryside, re-establishing contact with various contacts in the profession, a few people mentioned to me that their organisations were starting to revisit the notion of including the 'L' (as in 'librarian') word in their job descriptions and job advertisements. Interesting, I thought. Would it lead to relevant qualifications turning up in the essential criteria list – instead of the desirables list – once more? I know there are many who think it should, and probably just as many who think it's no longer relevant.

So we asked for comment but our call yielded only one submission related to that aspect of the infamous 'L'. Have we actually moved on? Am I just (gasp) getting old? The offer is still out there. We'll go there if you will.

Our cover story this month is one of those inspiring tales about turning a dream into reality. ALIA has been a strong supporter of the Buk bilong Pikini project in East Timor and this month Anne-Sophie Hermann, whose dream it was, explains how the project has grown from her idea into a reality, with 13 libraries for children now established across Papua New Guinea. To inspire you further, read about the Campaspe Regional Library Service and their plans to undertake groundbreaking work to improve support to disabled users, for which they have won the Pierre Gorman Award.

As this issue goes to press, LIS educators across Australia are settling in to the new academic year. Another national student intake is embarking on their first steps towards a career in library / knowledge / information science / management. However the debate about nomenclature is resolved (if indeed it ever is), you can be sure your new profession welcomes you.

Post script: My apologies to ALIA's Research Grant Award recipient Dr Suzana Sukovic, whose article covering her research trip overseas appeared in last month's *INCITE*. Somewhere, somehow, the proofing gremlins got past us and we managed to misspell her name, despite Suzana having been a frequent and generous contributor to *INCITE* in recent months. My sincere apologies for this error, Suzana.

LEE WELCH
Editor

What will you be doing for Library and Information Week and National Simultaneous Storytime? Email your print quality image (1MB) and 100 words about your event to incite@alia.org.au for our LIW wrap by 17 June.

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