

Dear Editor,

I do not know Graham Black but I congratulate him and wish him well as the next Vice-president/President-elect of ALIA.

I note (*inCite* March 2009) that he was the only candidate for this important office and was therefore elected unopposed. Back in the Olden Days, when I was active in ALIA (1970s–1990s), there was a committee, the name of which I forget, which was responsible for ensuring that there were always at least two candidates for election to every key position. If the membership only nominated one person the committee had to persuade someone else to stand, so as to give members a genuine choice in determining the governance of the Association. I think this is a healthy feature of the democratic process, but it seems to have fallen by the wayside in the rush to make the Association more 'modern'. I suggest it should be revived.

Neil A Radford, FLAA
neil.radford@bigpond.com

Dear Neil

You raise a very interesting point. To be relevant and influential in the Australian and international library and information science arena, it is critical for the ALIA Board to be composed of diverse, enthusiastic, appropriately skilled, and visionary individuals committed to the profession and the Association. The challenge for ALIA is attracting these sorts of individuals.

As outlined in Bylaw 4 Part 2, ALIA can draw upon the assistance of a Nominating Committee to help identify possible candidates for the positions of Vice-President or Director and ensuring that there is at least one candidate for each vacant position. The Nominating Committee is convened by the Vice-President and consists of the President, the immediate past-president, and two other members of the Association (who are not candidates for election for the ensuing period).

In the three years that I have held a position on the ALIA Board I have witnessed this committee functioning on several occasions. The reality is that while the Committee may be able to identify possible candidates, it is ultimately up to each individual to decide whether they will actually run for election. I am sure we can all relate to the need to carefully consider other pressing commitments such as work and family before deciding to commit to a two year appointment such as the ALIA Board (no matter how rewarding an experience it may be).

In 2007 the ALIA Boardroom Bound program was introduced as the formal succession planning program for the Australian Library and Information Association. The program provides the opportunity for members to learn about the function of the ALIA Board and the role of the board director. It also provides the means for ALIA members who have an interest in pursuing a future appointment to the board to develop their knowledge, skills, and competencies in this area. The ultimate aim of the succession plan is to increase the number of high quality ALIA members available for board nomination. To date we have held two workshops with a third one taking place at the Library Technician's conference in September this year. We have also had a number of individuals sign up to the Board Buddy scheme (ie where a current or past director mentors an interested ALIA member). Further information on the Boardroom Bound program can be found at <http://www.alia.org.au/governance/board/boardroombound/>.

The processes have served us extremely well in Board elections, with very effective recent Boards and vigorously contested elections. However, the role of President is more onerous, and it has been harder to attract people to that role. It may be that we need to find ways of spreading the functions of the President more widely.

Once again thank you for raising a very important issue for ALIA's governance.

Helen Partridge
Convenor, Boardroom Bound
helen.partridge@alia.org.au

Dear Editor,

Re "Re-branding the William Angliss Institute Library as the LRC". *inCite* vol. 30 Issue 3 March 2009 pp. 19-20.

The Institute has gone to great lengths to remove the word library from its vocabulary: "old fashioned and biblio-centric (sic)". Funny how we haven't removed the word 'hospital' from our vocabulary (old fashioned and patient-centric). Both have evolved over the centuries and incorporated technological advances, of which users are aware.

The time and energy involved in re-educating people to the evocative name of 'LRC' could have been spent on changing luddites' perceptions and promoting the library for the services it offers. A quick Google search for the 'William Angliss library' (as an outsider the term LRC doesn't immediately spring to mind) brings up a number of options, none of which took me directly to the library catalogue. Another quick Google search for 'University of Queensland library' brought up the library site immediately. It is interesting to note that the University of Queensland has changed its terminology from cybrary back to library.

What's in a name? It's all about perception. It might be surprising to find that library users are fully aware of the advances made in information delivery and don't limit their understanding of the library as just being about books.

It's interesting to note that the LRC will be marketed on an LCD. Are they related?

Kind regards

Brenda Strachan
strachan@usq.edu.au

Dear Brenda,

As I said [in the article, "Re-branding the William Angliss Institute Library as the LRC" pg 19, March 2009 inCite] a decision between three types of labelling (library, cyber centre, or LRC) had to be made in terms of the ongoing development and realignment of the service, once occupation of the new and expanded premises happened. We couldn't be all three. Being a specialist TAFE institute with a distinctive clientele, a shift from a more anachronistically perceived brand, to a stronger and less directive name, was undertaken. It was important to stress the new facility as an information conduit, a user-focused hub strongly integrated to other departments yet distinctive in supporting new models of learning activity.

Our staff and students are fully aware of the range of physical and virtual services that we offer. A number of recent student surveys have ranked the LRC extremely high in terms of service, space and information resources provided.

Meta-tagging a searchable new identity, new signage, the development of a distinctive URL and a raft of other marketing strategies are all part of the 'work in progress' promotion of our information services to our TAFE clientele and their different information needs.

Appreciate the comments.

Paul Kloppenborg
Manager, Learning Resource Centre
William Angliss Institute
paulk@angliss.edu.au

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.

Deadline for letters is available on the website and they should be no longer than 250 words. Please include your name and postal address as anonymous correspondence will not be reproduced.