

# NATIONAL CONVENOR'S NOTES



After reading the various articles on marketing in the last issue, I began to think once again about how we, as librarians, market our skills. I was in a lecture the other

evening (yes, in my spare time I'm silly enough to be doing further studies!) and the lecturer commented that with the Internet a new profession had been born - the Information Broker. His description of an information broker was someone with specialised information retrieval skills who carried out research requests for clients via the Internet, and charged for these services. I immediately put my hand up to dispute this by pointing out that information brokers already existed in the form of Librarians, even if many of us don't actually charge for our services. Once I explained that a librarian's skills were firmly based in information retrieval and dissemination, and that a new media such as the Internet just added to the scope of our research, he appeared convinced. But it did suggest that, once again, we can never stop trying to market our skills at a time when they are needed more than ever.

## *Law Librarians' Handbook*

The Divisional Convenors and I have been hard at work trying to produce our inaugural *Law Librarians' Handbook* in time for the Law Symposium in Melbourne. The draft handbook is starting to come together and I believe we will be on target to launch it in October. We are attempting to make the information timely and relevant to the complete range of law libraries throughout Australia. We will also consider how often the handbook needs to be updated (either annually or biennially).

## *ALLG Homepage*

After much work by Anne Greenshields at Murdoch University, the ALLG finally has a presence on the Internet. The site is located at

<http://wwwlib.murdoch.edu.au:80/allg/allg.html> and is in draft form. There is a feedback button built in to encourage comments. Please take the time to look at it and email your suggestions to Anne or myself (at the address below)

## *Butterworths BIALL Exchange*

The ALLG representative to the BIALL Conference in the UK this year is once again to be sponsored by Butterworths. I have to apologise for the late notification of this scholarship, as I was unaware that the responsibility to organise this rested with me. Nevertheless, we received some excellent applications which made the National Committee's task very difficult. I am pleased to announce that Marie Luffman will be representing the ALLG at the BIALL Conference in Northern Ireland in September. Marie has worked in law librarianship for many years and has been an active member of the ALLG throughout this time. I'm sure she will be an excellent representative of the ALLG and I look forward to reading her report in the next issue.

## *National Convenors' Meeting*

We will be holding an annual meeting of the ALLG National Committee in Melbourne on the weekend following the Law Symposium. There are a number of issues already on the agenda including a revision of the current national constitution to make it truly representational of all the divisions, as well as the reviewing some of our ongoing projects. If anyone has any issues they would like to see raised at the meeting, they can pass them on to their Divisional Convenor, or directly to me.

Cheers until next time.

**Anne Gardner**

National Convenor ALLG

Ph: (09) 429 7537 Fax: (09) 429 7666

Email: [anneg@ibm.net](mailto:anneg@ibm.net)