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I recall being present at the 5th and 6th Asia-Pacific Special, Health and Law Libraries Conferences at which there was considerable discussion about running a separate Law Librarians' conference. The Victorian Division of the ALLG took up the challenge. In 1996 an energetic and dedicated committee established a formula for a low-budget symposium with a high-interest programme for law librarians. The elements of the formula were volunteer organisers, university accommodation and speakers from the legal community. They planned for 100 delegates and received twice

as many. To prove that it wasn't a fluke, the Villans, as they became known, repeated the trick two years later in 1998. This time they made provision for 200 delegates

The achievement however placed a huge demand on the volunteer organisers. They had proved that there was a demand for such an event and they had shown how it could be done. It was time to pass on the responsibility. The New South Wales Division accepted the baton

The organisers of the 3rd Law Librarians' Symposium, held in Sydney 19-21 July, can be justifiably relieved, pleased and proud of their achievements also. With the success of the transfer to another Division it may be said that the Symposium has 'come of age'. By sharing the responsibility on a rotational basis vigour and interest will be sustained. The 4th Symposium is to be hosted by the Queensland Division in 2002

In contrast to the Sydney Symposium, **Michelle Bendall** reports that BIALL have moved in the opposite direction. For the first time this year, the conference in Bristol was organised by a commercial body and held in hotel-style accommodation. See Michelle's report in this issue on her attendance at the

BIALL Conference in June Michelle was the recipient of this year's ALLG Scholarship.

All of the other papers in this issue are from the 3rd Symposium. The selection is based on the results of a survey of delegates that asked them to nominate papers to be printed. Some of the nominations were not available for a variety of reasons and may be included in a later issue. Some that were very long have been shortened to enable a maximum number

of papers to be printed. Where possible the original papers will be made available on the ALLG Website.

The Editorial Board is pleased to be able to include in this issue the Editorial Policy for the *Australian Law Librarian*. It was ratified by the ALLG National Executive at its meeting in Sydney on 19 July 2000. It is a working document and therefore any feedback will be most welcome.



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