

EDITORIAL



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Only two years ago, in the March 1999 issue of *Australian Law Librarian*, **Natalie Cuffe** suggested that law librarians should 'consider the relationship between information literacy and legal research'.¹ As Column Coordinator for the 'Reference' column she raised quite a few questions about the aims of 'user education sessions' in law libraries. Yes, only two years but I am sure all of us now understand what is meant by 'information literacy', or think we do!

This issue of *Australian Law Librarian* takes up the related themes of training and educating library users, legal research skills, and information literacy. Papers have been prepared by librarians from a wide range of law libraries: **Sue Lynch** (Family Court, Canberra); **Vanessa O'Meara** (Law Courts, Sydney); **Carmel O'Sullivan** (Blake Dawson Waldron); and **Penny Jones** and **Sheelagh Johnston** (University of Western Australia). We also have a paper from **Amanda Everett**, who is a Training Consultant with Butterworths. Each of these authors has examined what training they are providing for their clients and sharing with us their trials and tribulations, and their successes. Read them and consider how far you think we have advanced in this vital area in two years. To give an idea of what the future might hold, **Nick Pengelley** has provided a summary of the stimulating conference held at the University of Toronto in February 2001: *Not a Box But a Window*. If you would like to comment on any of these thought provoking papers send a 'Letter to the Editor' for publication in vol. 9 no. 3.

In the next issue we propose to take a look at ourselves - what it is to be a law librarian. To

¹ Cuffe, Natalie (1999), 'Information literacy and legal research', *Australian Law Librarian*, vol 7, no 1, pp. 57-59.

avoid being too subjective we have invited some fresh talent to be Guest Editors: two students who are enrolled at the School of Media and Information, Curtin University. **Justin Yukich** and **Diana Felton** are seeking contributions that relate to training for librarians or library technicians, professional issues, prospects for people entering (or leaving) the profession. Some crystal ball gazing or a light-hearted approach will be welcome. Send your ideas to Justin (judry@excite.com) or Diana (perthchick@yahoo.com) by 27 July 2001.

By inviting students to become guest editors the Editorial Board is contributing to their professional education and hopefully expanding their opportunities. We collaborated with **Dr Paul Genoni**, Lecturer in Information Studies, to arrange for students to undertake this assignment as a major part of one of their Semester units. They will be given some training in editing and proofreading and will be directly involved at all the stages of production. You can support this initiative by encouraging a student of law librarianship to contribute an article or an item for one of the columns.