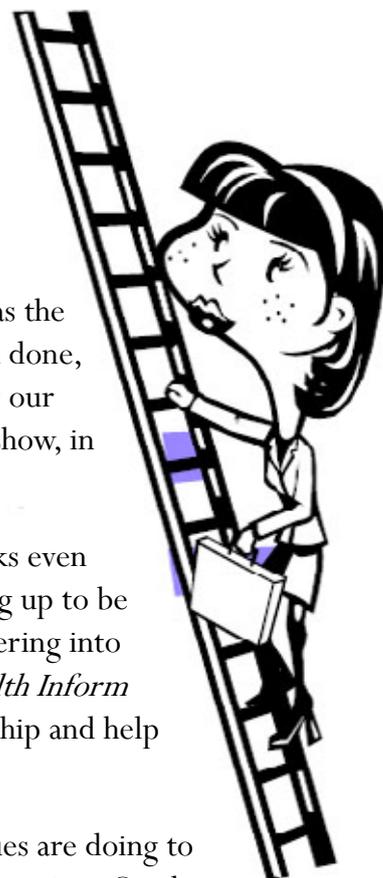


# A Word from the Editor

*Jo Wishart*



It doesn't take much reflecting to realise 'proving our worth' was the predominant theme for health libraries in 2013. Easier said than done, it can go against our egalitarian ethos as library workers to blow our own horns. Even when we're willing, and have the evidence to show, in many cases we have limited outlets to do so.

It requires creative thinking, a great deal of motivation and works even better when others can help – which brings us to what is shaping up to be the theme of 2014: collaboration. To start things off, we are entering into a collaboration of our own this year, with EBSCO, to make *Health Inform* available on the CINAHL database. This will expand our readership and help you to share your success stories.

In this issue, we have a collection of articles about what colleagues are doing to demonstrate the worth of libraries; and it always involves collaboration. On the larger end of the scale, and following on from its release last year, we have a summary of the *Worth every cent and more* report and joint project between Health Libraries Inc. (HLI) and Health Libraries Australia (HLA).

Ballarat, St Vincent's, Melbourne Health and the College of Surgeons' libraries all have staff who are expanding their roles, as well as their library services, to explore new areas and build mutually beneficial relationships with their users. They tell us here about their experiences.

We also have the VicGratis Committee report on the user survey conducted last year. The Gratis network thrives on collaboration. For libraries, membership of Gratis equals dollars saved – and hard evidence of one of the many contributions health libraries make to their organisations. We're lucky to have it.

Lastly, we feature a team-effort from the five librarians who, with HLI support, attended a half-day of the VALA – Libraries, Technology and the Future Inc. conference held in Melbourne in Feb 2014. Each provides a summary of sessions they attended – sharing the highlights for those of us who missed out.

We hope you'll be inspired and encouraged by the efforts going on in health libraries.

Keep up the great work – and in the spirit of collaboration – be sure to tell *Health Inform* about it!