



AUSTRALIAN LIBRARY AND INFORMATION ASSOCIATION

ALIA Education and Workforce Summit 2008 – Invitation to Contribute

The Summit will be held on Friday 28 March 2008

Introduction

The ALIA Workforce and Education Summit will be attended by library employers, educators, researchers and ALIA members. It is informed by critical issues in both library and information education, and in the library workforce. ALIA is leading this process, and expects these direct outcomes

- Consideration of a small number of identified major issues
- Agreement from the participants on an action plan

The Summit will provide recommendations to the [ALIA Education and Professional Development Standing Committee](#).

The major issues to be considered and the agenda for the Summit will be identified through a consultative process and by the Standing Committee/

Input to the Summit Process

Interested people and groups are invited to submit working papers to the Summit. These must be submitted by Wednesday 12 March 2008 and will be distributed to all Summit participants. They will form part of the input to the Summit.

The Standing Committee has identified five issues for the Summit to consider, and is preparing background papers on these issues. We hope to have them available by the end of the year.

Working papers may be as short as you wish, but please ensure that they are no longer than five pages. They may be submitted by any interested people and groups. Some questions are suggested below to get you thinking, but please focus on what you see are the major issues which need to be resolved and acted upon.

1 Skills and attributes required by employers.

- What are the key skills and attributes required by employers of library and information studies (LIS) graduates?
- Do employers currently have problems in recruiting qualified people with these skills and attributes?
- What is the appropriate balance between education and training, and skills and knowledge acquired on the job? In other words, what should an employer expect a new graduate to be able to know and do?
- How can we best meet the needs of employers in our industry for appropriate staff? What kinds of staff do they want?



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2 Defining the industry

- What is the scope of the library industry?
- What is the best approach to addressing this issue of definition?
- What are the most common perceptions from outside the library industry of what characterises it?
- What issues arise with use of the term “library”. Should we use another term, and if so, what and how? How do we want to position our “brand”?

3 Recruitment issues – getting and keeping the best people in the library industry.

- Are there areas in which you have problems recruiting good people? Which areas are they?
- How much is our popular image a problem when we recruit people to library studies courses, or to work in libraries?
- Is the impending retirement of large numbers of older library staff a problem? What is the problem?
- What actions can employers take to enhance the library workforce?

4 Basic professional qualifications

- What should be the minimum qualification to become a library professional?
- What should be the relationship between librarians and library technicians? Should we make it simpler to move from one to the other?
- What role does systematic professional development have in accreditation of library professionals, if any?
- Are there ways in which library schools at universities and TAFEs should be working together more closely? To what end?

5 What should be the role of ALIA in library education and workforce development?

- Is ALIA using the course recognition process effectively? What outcomes should we aim to achieve by this process?
- Should there be additional pathways to professional status in the library industry?

For further information, please contact the Sue Hutley sue.hutley@alia.org.au

For more information please see <http://www.alia.org.au/education> The ALIA policy statements related to education are at <http://www.alia.org.au/policies>

Members of the ALIA Education and Professional Development Standing Committee are Derek Whitehead (Chair), Damien Lodge (ALIA Board), Dagmar Schmidmaier (past President) Paul Genoni (Curtin), Gill Hallam (QUT), Keith Webster (UQ)



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29.11.07