

ALIA HUNTER UNCONFERENCE SUBMISSION 2013

ALIA Hunter members held their first unconference on 19th October 2013. A popular topic for discussion was the future - When is it? What technology and skills will we require? How will service models change? Sectors represented included public, academic, TAFE, Government, teaching staff and students.

The sessions and conversations distilled for us the areas we believe will be important issues for our profession in the future:

- The future, as in changes, will arrive at different times for different sectors depending on the needs of customers – some will have an all digital library, some may never do this.
- The continuing importance of excellent customer service skills. Although this is generic to many professions there was a feeling that the profession needs to attract people with flexible attitudes, rather than those who favour rule-driven institutions.
- Digital Literacy skills - there is an issue for up-skilling many people already in the workforce. Skills constantly need refreshing.
- Sectors need to share information and skills. We all need to seek meaningful partnerships and opportunities around changes as they occur. ALIA groups are of course perfect for facilitating this - go ALIA!
- Institutions need to ensure they are providing quality content. Open Access needs to be scrutinised as carefully as the products we pay for.
- Individuals need to recognise, develop and leverage their transferable skills e.g. if your cataloguing section is being outsourced, how do you move into knowledge management and work with digital repositories?
- Intellectual property and security - the impending report from the ALRC due at the end of November, which is supposed to be recommending an expansion of the fair use clause to more closely resemble the US model, and how will this apply to libraries?
(<http://www.alrc.gov.au/inquiries/copyright-and-digital-economy>).

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