Building our Association

Local Liaison Officers – ALIA’s managers in the field

Building our association – the new grad way

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Building our Association

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Frontline

Well the ALIA Access 2010 Conference is done and dusted, and those of us involved in its organisation have, I hope, had a bex and a lie down. On pretty much all accounts it was a success. Its success was due to a whole range of factors and a whole lot of people – our small but enthusiastic organising committee, the stream convenors, speakers, ‘in person’ and ‘net’ delegates, ALIA National Office staff, our conference organisers ICE, and of course the support we received from our exhibitors and sponsors. I’d like to thank one and all for their contribution.

In reflection, it was quite a week. We held a rather lengthy Board of Directors meeting on Monday over at QUT (Jan and Philip: the walk across the Goodwill Bridge was under a clear blue sunny sky!) For those of us able to stay on, Tuesday and Wednesday were filled with various ALIA and work related meetings, appointments, and obligations. Thursday and Friday were, of course, the conference.

At the Board meeting, and at dinner the night before, we discussed a range of topics that go to the core of the Association – membership, accreditation, conference models, ALIA awards, budget, Inter-Library Loans, and the future of the the profession and the Association. It was interesting to see that some of the discussions I was involved in, or overheard, at the conference were on similar topics.

One theme that bobbed up a few times at the conference and one which the Board mulled over at dinner was strengthening the profession. By far the most agreed approach was to adopt the chartered or registration model adopted by our cousins in New Zealand (LIANZA) and the UK (CILIP). A strong profession can only be one where its members are required to keep up-to-date and continually develop. It’s not a foreign model here in Australia as other professions require formal registration and certification in order to practice and/or increase their earning capacity – think of doctors, lawyers, and accountants. The big question is how to get there – should the association change its membership structure (à la LIANZA) or should it be a requirement of industry (à la medicine and allied health), a combination of both, or will there be another driver? It’s obviously a complex matter and involves an array of associated issues such as industrial relations, employment practices, and requirements of major employers, and LIS training and education.

I’ve written previously that a strong profession and a strong association go hand in glove. I’m still of that opinion: by strengthening our profession through the registered or charted practitioner model, we strengthen our association by placing it in a position of being the registration/chartering body. If an industry sector makes it an employment requirement, and we’re not in a position to meet their requirements, some other organisation will take our place and ALIA will be left to wither on the vine. There are a string of other potential benefits to individuals, the profession, and ALIA, such as enhanced earning capacity of individuals, recognition of the skills and expertise of LIS professionals, increased membership and financial stability of ALIA, and perhaps even the consolidation of groups representing libraries. The planets certainly need to align either by design or chance. Regardless, it’s a debate we in ALIA need to have sooner rather than later.

Back to the conference. One of the questions I was asked numerous times last week, and one I asked others was, “Why do you think it was so successful?” Obviously modesty prevents me from saying that it was all in the tremendous leadership demonstrated by the conference organising committee chair. (Believe me, it wasn’t – it was very much a real team effort!)

On a more serious note, my view is that it was a grassroots conference. By that I mean it was a conference essentially organised by and for different sectors and interest groups. The organising committee essentially provided a shell and the sector and interest groups through the tremendous work of the stream convenors filled the shell with quality content. I spoke to numerous people from different sectors who said they primarily came to attend a specific stream, but equally enjoyed and benefited from attending sessions in other streams. A strong association is one that builds strength on its diversity and conferences like this are but one way to achieve strength.

This was the first time an ALIA conference provided live video streaming of sessions. I was lucky enough to chair one of these sessions, and I think this session, along with an email I received from one of our library staff, demonstrated to me the benefit and impact of taking the risk of offering video streaming. I received a question from a ‘net’ delegate in Tasmania. I was unsure who the question was for so I asked them to clarify which speaker they wanted to answer the question. Lo and behold, a few seconds later the clarification arrived! What a way to engage with our remote members and what a hoot for the session chair! I’ll leave the last say on the conference and video streaming to Alison from my university’s Brisbane campus library: “It is good to be a ‘virtual’ part of the conference and it makes me wish that I was there in person! It is such a wonderful way to include remote librarians too.”

While we may celebrate and reflect on the conference – some of us may even have celebrated finally getting a government! – I’m sure many of you spared a thought for our colleagues in Christchurch who are recovering and/or rebuilding their libraries and personal lives as a result of the earthquake.

Graham Black
ALIA President
graham.black@alia.org.au
I would like to start by saying, if you are reading this, then you are the most important part of the Association, as it is you – as members – who ARE the Association. Your ideas, suggestions, expert advice, involvement, encouragement of others, mentoring, and research all go in to making this organisation what it is. And can I also say that it is up to you (and not someone else) to be an important building block for the Association. If we all decided that libraries weren’t important anymore, that freedom of information, access to knowledge, education, and professional development didn’t matter, that policies and standards shouldn’t be followed, then there will not be a National Peak Library body in Australia, and there certainly will not be an Association. I mentioned in my May Directline about definitions of a profession, but in the following pages we hope to remind you that one component of being regarded as a profession is having a strong professional Association and building and growing our Association are so imperative for our next 73 years. So how can we do that together? Strength is always in the numbers: of people within the profession, of members, of members actively involved and driving involvement, engagement, and excellence, and of other financial and in-kind supporters. Whatever building block you form as part of our Association, we thank you for your support. National Office Staff and the Board sometimes get comments on what ALIA ‘should’ do, but often without a coupling offer on ‘how to assist to make it happen’. I would also like members to note that we ‘could’ do so much more if we grow our membership numbers. We could do so much more for member services, professional development activities, conferences, web resources, research, reports on libraries, standards and guidelines... the list goes on. We need your support, both financial and volunteer hours, to drive the work, to advance it, to change with what the future holds for us all.

Volunteering
As a membership organisation with no government funding, it is the power of our volunteers, group involvement, advisory committees, and conferences and events committees that drives our Association. This year our National Advisory Congress meetings have sought your feedback on volunteering within ALIA. Thanks to our committee members for completing the associated survey to provide feedback as well. You still have time to read the documents and provide any suggestions to us by the end of October http://www.alia.org.au/governance/nac/2010/ We will be providing details about the results in coming months.

National Advocacy
ALIA is the leading body for library advocacy in Australia and with the formation of federal government in August 2010, we now start to work closely with relevant government departments on initiatives that directly relate to libraries and sectoral issues. I have been pleased to receive direct phone calls from a number of departments just days after the final election announcement, asking to meet with ALIA on election promises relating to libraries, and how the federal government can tap into our library networks and infrastructure to deliver programs and projects. I will be keeping you up to date on these activities and developments through inCite, the ALIA Board Blog, and through committees such as the ALIA Public Libraries Advisory Committee. We will also be working with department staff on making a number of library-related budget submissions for the 2011 federal budget.

Advocacy resources – for you
We have put together a range of advocacy resources for members to use when the need arises. With the release of the South Australian Government’s 2010 budget in September we responded with a range of media and member materials relating to state budget cuts. We also work in partnership with many other Australian Library Associations when issues relating to particular sectors or local or state-based issues occur. http://www.alia.org.au/advocacy

Social Media Library Campaigns
There have been quite a few library-related social media campaigns these past months including Pirate Hat Wednesday and Follow A Library. There have also been a number of popular YouTube library-themed viral videos (Old Spice, Academic New Spice, and ‘Libraries Will Survive’ just a few) They have enabled many of us to keep up with web social networking skills and innovations and to consider how social media can be used to promote the work of libraries. We hope that you got involved with creating a Top 10 Library list to mark the date of 10th October 2010. http://top10for2010.wordpress.com

Temporary Editor
This will be the last edition before our wonderful inCite Editor and Publishing Manager, Kate Van der Veer departs for maternity leave. I am sure that you will join the ALIA National Office staff in wishing her well on the journey of becoming a mum. A few more pink things will be arriving to the ALIA National Office team in the coming months.

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Sue Hutley
ALIA Executive Director
sue.hutley@alia.org.au
ALIA National Library & Information Technicians 2011 Conference

Back to Basics – Perth 2011
12–16 September 2011
Sheraton Hotel, Perth WA

Call for Abstracts Now Open!
Abstracts for paper and workshop presentations for the ALIA National Library & Information Technicians 2011 Conference are now being accepted via the Conference website until Wednesday 1 December 2010.

Back to Basics aspires to provide a program that will stimulate discussion, challenge ideas, and encourage new thinking. Three program streams reflect and support the theme:
- Personal Development (the individual)
- Professional Development (the profession)
- Client Services (the client)

For further information, please check the Conference website or contact ICE Australia.

Sponsorship & Exhibition Opportunities
A wide range of fantastic packages have been developed to promote your organisation at the Conference. For the first time, ALIA are offering special rates for organisations wishing to sponsor more than one ALIA Conference. To receive a copy of the Sponsorship & Exhibition Prospectus, email us now at libtech2011@iceaustralia.com

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Congratulations Dr Patricia Milne

On 4 August at the ACTive ALIA Midwinter Dinner, the ALIA Board of Directors conferred a Fellowship on Dr Patricia Milne. Trish has made an outstanding contribution to LIS as an educator, researcher, and by sharing her knowledge through publication. She has helped others to become aware of issues facing the profession and encouraged them to explore new directions and ideas to strengthen its intellectual base.

Following a period as Visiting Fellow attached to the University Library at the Australian National University, Patricia was appointed as Lecturer in the Library and Information Studies program and the Knowledge Management program at the University of Canberra. As Program Director, Library and Information Studies, between 1995 and 2000, Patricia remained committed to furthering her knowledge in the field, gaining a PhD from the University in 1998. Her doctoral thesis The effect of enhanced electronic access to information on academics’ patterns of scholarly communication at the Australian National University: A case study inspired a change in practices across Australia to embrace new technology to support the work of scholars.

As a long-standing member, Patricia has contributed significantly to the aims of the Association. As a member of the ACT Branch Council during the 1990s, she served on the committee and led the development of a mentoring program that involved many members of the Branch. From 1997 to 1999, she was joint editor of the ALIA journal ELIS:A, Education Library and Information Services: Australia. She also served as a member of the Program Committee for the ALIA 2000 Conference held in Canberra.

In awarding the distinction of Fellow of the Australian Library and Information Association, the Association recognises the significant and valuable contribution Patricia has made to the library and information services profession in Australia and her dedication to the aims of the Association.
RDA – the journey continues

The journey to create a standard to replace the Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules (AACR) has moved on considerably in the last few months. The June 23 release of Resource Description and Access or RDA was heavily anticipated. The new instructions have been released as part of an online product called the RDA Toolkit. The Toolkit is a web-based product that includes the instructions along with other tools, such as mappings and workflows, and the facility to integrate individual institutional policies.

The publishers made the RDA Toolkit available for a period of free and open access from release until August 31. A wide range of Australian libraries took the opportunity to investigate the instructions and the Toolkit. This opportunity answered many questions and gave the Australian library community a real view of the look and feel of RDA. Further information about the RDA Toolkit including subscription, pricing and training resources is available at the Co-Publishers website at http://www.rdatoolkit.org/

The Resource Description and Access section of the ACOC website has undergone an upgrade to ensure it remains a key source of information for Australian libraries about RDA and implementation. http://www.nla.gov.au/lis/stndrds/grps/acoc/ rda.html The site includes details about timeframes, accessing RDA, the US testing currently underway, and a range of other useful resources. The site also has details on how to join the Australian discussion list on RDA, and links to recent key presentations and articles. Use this site to keep up to date with current news and progress.

The National Library is working towards helping Australian libraries with RDA implementation and has begun preparing information and advice on training, documentation, policy decisions, MARC changes, systems changes, and any data conversions that might be needed. This information will be shared via the rda-aust discussion list and the ACOC web page.

Sally Manning
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PD Update


Be part of the conversation about PD and keep up-to-date with ALIA PD opportunities by joining the alia pd-elst.

The PD Scheme Audit for 2010 is underway. We have had excellent responses from the 10% of randomly chosen PD scheme members demonstrating their active participation in and reflection on quality PD. Well done!

Find out more about the ALIA PD Scheme and Certified Practitioner status with the PD Scheme Teleconference 2.00-3.00pm AEDT Thursday 21 October, an excellent opportunity to ask any question you have about how the ALIA PD Scheme works. Limited to 12 participants, free for all ALIA members, to register email: judy.brooker@alia.org.au.

Don’t forget some PD can be short and sweet. WebJunction offers online mini courses on a wide range of topics, and very affordable at only $45.00 for members. If you are thinking of applying for a job, the eCourse in Writing to Selection Criteria is an excellent start. This course, specifically designed for the LIS Sector by guru Dr Ann Villiers, is only available to members. November is your last chance in 2010 for participating in face-to-face courses with Adam Le Good. ‘Managing challenging clients’, and ‘Fundamentals of supervision’ are in Sydney only and ‘Leading others through change’ is in Sydney and Melbourne. For more information about what is on offer in ALIA Training visit http://www.alia.org.au/education/pd/pd.services/

Judy Brooker
PD and Careers Manager
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Re-conceptualising libraries – a project update

Re-conceptualising and re-positioning Australian library and information science education for the twenty-first century is a research project funded by the Australian Learning and Teaching Council. The project aims to establish a consolidated and holistic picture of the Australian library and information science profession and identify how its future education and training can be developed in a cohesive and sustainable manner.

The project is being undertaken with an 11 member project team of university and vocational library and information science educators from around Australia.

Recognising the three major and equal stakeholders in the education process – students, educators, and employers – the project has been framed around three areas of consideration that represent key stakeholder groups in LIS education. These areas are LIS students, LIS educators, and LIS employers. The project’s primary objective is to develop a Framework for the Education of the Information Professions in Australia. This framework will provide guidance on how best to reposition and reshape Australian library and information science education to ensure it remains dynamic, sustainable, and responsive to professional practice in the rapidly changing 21st century.

After commencing in November 2009, work on the project is now well underway. Data collection for each of the three areas of consideration has begun with four national online questionnaires released during July and August aimed at current LIS students, recent LIS graduates, LIS employees, and LIS educators. Each questionnaire aims to gather data that will assist the project team with responding to various research questions that have been developed for each area of consideration.

A range of dissemination activities have taken place with presentations delivered at the 19th National Vocational Education and Training Research Conference in Perth, and in Boras, Sweden, as part of a satellite event hosted by IFLA’s Education and Training and Library Theory and Research Sections to the 76th IFLA World Library and Information Congress. More recently several members of the project team conducted a half-day workshop on 3 September as part of the ALIA Access 2010 Conference in Brisbane.

Further data collection will take place over the coming months in the form of focus groups and one-on-one interviews. Focus groups will be undertaken with current LIS students and recent LIS graduates, and one-on-one interviews will be conducted with LIS employment agencies and employers, LIS course coordinators, and individuals coordinating or involved in alternative models of delivering LIS education around the world.

A series of discussion papers will be released in the following months for comment and feedback and the project’s final report is scheduled for publication in early 2011. Keep abreast of the project’s ongoing work by visiting the website at www.liseducation.org.au and subscribing to the RSS feed. Questions, comments, or requests for further information about the project can also be directed to Associate Professor Helen Partridge at h.partridge@qut.edu.au.

Finally the project team would like to extend their thanks to all members of the LIS profession who have generously given their time by participating in data collection activities to date, and to members of the project reference group for their ongoing support and contribution to the project.

Helen Partridge (Project Leader) & Christine Yates (Project Manager)

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www.liseducation.org.au

Mobrarians

Mo-brarian [moh-brair-ee-uhn] -noun
1. a male working in a library environment, who has hair growing on the upper lip, allowed to grow without shaving, and trimmed in any of various shapes
2. a person of either gender, trained in library work and dedicated to changing the face of men’s health

October 31st, traditionally the scariest night of the year, as monsters haunt the Halloween streets, is now the last chance wives and partners across the world have to comfortingly kiss their loved ones. Next day, the really scary stuff starts. Movember unleashes the hairy potential of upper lips everywhere, and teams vie to raise money and awareness of men’s health issues such as depression and prostate cancer.

The Mo-brarians, a Movember team originating in Townsville in 2008 with a modest membership of 5 hairy-lipped library staff, swollen their ranks to 20 when mo-brees and mo-sistas joined from libraries all over Australia. All had the common goal of getting the information out and the cash in. Upper lips grew hair, men’s health information displays were set up in libraries, sausages were sizzled, raffles were raffled, and lots of fun was had by all. In 2010 the Mo-brarians are planning to take the team to the next level.

Like libraries, and all good library workers, the Mo-brarians want to embrace the use of web 2.0 and get the message out there by creating a strong online presence. Guest bloggers will raise the profile of our Mo-brarian blog. Mo-facts will be tweeted on Twitter, faces sporting Mo’s will be booked, our embarrassing Mo-attempts will be Flickr’d, and you’ll probably be able to watch a few hairy Search Stories on YouTube.

If you’ve made it this far into the article you’re probably asking yourself, “What can I possibly do to help? I’m interested, but am no good at raising funds.” Well fear not, if the least you do is mention this article to someone and tell them what we’re trying to do (raise awareness for men’s health issues, sorry if it wasn’t clear) then you’ve already helped. If you’re ready to be a Mo-brarian and help raise money and spread the word about Movember then check out www.mobrarians.wordpress.com. Here you will find plenty of information on how you and your library can participate.

To sum up, we’d love your help in promoting Movember. We genuinely believe that libraries are ideally placed to make a difference. They’re big buildings overflowing with information, some of which is bound to be about men’s health issues. Librarians are people who love to share information with an audience that needs to know. The Mo-brarians were born to promote this information!

Be a Mo-brarian: all the cool librarians are doing it.

www.mobrarians.wordpress.com
http://au.movember.com

Keil Jones
Customer Service Officer, CityLibraries
keil.jones@townsville.qld.gov.au
Spoiled by Choice: A Recipe for Mediocrity

From the desk of the Library Provocateur

After lengthy procrastination involving sufficient ‘management by walking about’ for Provocateur’s colleagues to suspect the organisation was running another mystery shopper campaign, I have decided there is no easy way to broach the thesis of this month’s column. I shall therefore be bold and declare up front: Australia has too many library schools!

There – I’ve said it.

The apparently large number of library schools and library programs in this country relative to our modest professional population has long intrigued me. It has never made sense, and still doesn’t, particularly in the context of high quality professional development opportunities which are comparatively few and far between.

We appear to be spoiled for choice at one end of the education spectrum and scratching for prospects at the other. Somewhere, somehow, the system seems to be out of kilter.

In preparation for this column, I recently counted the number of Australian librarianships courses accredited by ALIA. I did not count the number of library technician programs, which are another issue entirely and of no less concern.

In August of this year, there were by my reckoning, 25 discrete graduate and undergraduate librarianships programs (Bachelor, Graduate Diploma, and Master) offered by no less than 10 universities across all states and territories.

Compare these figures with the profession of dentistry, for which only six universities (Adelaide, Melbourne, Queensland, Sydney, Western Australia, and Griffith) offer undergraduate and postgraduate degree courses. The profession of veterinary medicine is similarly served by just seven universities around Australia.

It is difficult to put these numbers in some sort of meaningful context but as a start, let’s express the number of Australian universities offering librarianships programs in relation to the claimed membership of ALIA – some 60000 members, according to the Association’s Strategic Plan 2010 – 2015.

Thus, a simple calculation suggests that we have one library school per 600 members of ALIA. One library school per 1000 librarians, if we assume ABS figures are correct, and roughly 10 000 Australian library workers identifiable as librarians.

Now let’s look at these numbers from the perspectives of our colleagues in North America and the United Kingdom.

The American Library Association currently accredits 62 library programs offered by 57 universities and colleges – several located in Canada. Using the most recent published figures, as of 18th July 2009, the Association’s membership is just shy of 62 000 members. If we apply our simple formula, that’s approximately one library school per 1088 members.

CILIP in the UK, by comparison, accredits 16 British universities to provide programs in librarianship, and one in Germany – Cologne University of Applied Sciences. CILIP claims a membership of approximately 21 0000 members. Thus in the UK, not counting the Cologne program, there is on average one library school per 1300 members – more than double the Australian figure.

There is one further dimension and that is the question of enrolments. In this respect, indicative Australian figures published by ALIA for the period 1996 – 2009 show a steady downward trend. In graduate courses, an enrolment peak of 1917 students in 1997 has declined to 1222 students in 2009. The trend has been more significant in undergraduate programs, with student numbers declining from a peak of 1745 in 1997 to 769 in 2009. For the statistically inclined, that is close to a 60% drop in undergraduate enrolments.

ALIA’s accompanying narrative explains the situation:

“In general the lower enrolment numbers of 2009 reflect the loss of a number of undergraduate courses, again especially in teacher-librarianship where courses were gradually phased out during the 1990s at a time when institutions were forced to respond to changes in funding allocations that impacted heavily on courses identified as specialty subjects.”

With the rationalisation of Australian higher education in the 1980s and 1990s in mind, my thinking returns to the original question. Compared to other specialist professions, and our colleagues in North America and the UK, why are there still so many librarianships programs on offer in Australia? Why too has at least one library program been recently resuscitated despite a downwards trend in demand; as evidenced by declining graduate and undergraduate level enrolments?

In lieu of answers, perhaps we should consider the likely impacts on our profession and professional practice.

ALIA’s Standing Committee on Education and Professional Development states in its Work Plan 2010 – 2011 that by 2015 it wants accredited LIS courses to “offer programs of excellence to meet the needs of industry and the profession.” My first reaction on reading this statement was to hope that our existing 25 programs are already at this point. If they are not, why has ALIA accredited them in the first place, and what does it say about current and future standards of professional practice?

At face value, having one library school per 600 members would seem a good start, particularly in comparison to the UK. But the attractiveness of that figure assumes that all 10 library schools are offering roughly comparable programs. The reality in Australia, as any practitioner will be aware, is quite different. Would question, for example, how it is possible for a library school or program with just one or two academic staff – however dedicated and talented those staff may be – to offer the breadth and depth of learning opportunities provided by a program with four or more staff. With the degree of specialisation now evident across the library profession, providing a diversity of learning opportunities must surely rely on an ensemble cast; with practitioners playing their part too.

There is also the question of LIS research, which I think most would agree does not receive the degree of support it deserves, and the ongoing quality of our professional practice warrants. It baffles me how any library educator can successfully pursue original research and supervise more than a few token postgraduate students. Somewhere, something has to give.

It has been my belief for a long time that our profession should be advocating to universities and offering to facilitate the creation of three, possibly four LIS Education Centres of Excellence and research hubs – one in the west and two or three at most in the east.

Universities would be encouraged to close marginal LIS programs and consolidate teaching staffs to create strong programs offering teaching breadth and depth; and research capabilities of international standing. Well resourced distance education programs using both digital and analogue delivery formats would ensure a level playing field across the country. The icing on the cake for the profession would be the opportunity for our peak body, ALIA, to work with each new Centre of Excellence to create meaningful PD opportunities as part of a wider integrated program – a genuine ‘professional development continuum’.

Apropos of this point, it is interesting to note that ALIA’s Standing Committee on Education and Professional Development has limited representation outside the higher education sector, despite the comparative abundance of professional development opportunities currently being offered by private providers.

Perhaps it is as composer and management consultant Robert Fritz, author of The Path of Least Resistance (1989), once said: “If you limit your choices only to what seems possible or reasonable, you disconnect yourself from what you truly want, and all that is left is compromise.”

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On the Edge aims to be a conversation-piece, promoting discussion, engagement, and interest in the monthly theme. The opinions expressed in On the Edge do not necessarily reflect those of the Australian Library and Information Association.

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inCite 9
Nurturing our memory: creating the 21st century nation

As Australia faces the 21st century many issues are challenging us, not the least how to create a society that is capable of living effectively in this networked age, contributing to the national economy, and living creatively. Libraries and information skills are vital to enable the nation to achieve these goals. The Australian Library and Information Association has an enormously important role as the national, cross-sectoral body raising library and information issues.

A great wealth of community, educational, scientific, political, government, and original material has been collected by Australian libraries over the centuries. We have collected the history of the nation’s great and small events – be they wars, social change, the people who have made the nation, or the places where we live. The materials we have collected are in many different forms – including oral, printed, pictorial, personal histories, and objects. It is these treasured memories and the new ones that are being created that are our special contribution to Australian knowledge and life.

ALIA provides the opportunity for an intersection for those with interest in our history, present, and future to come together. Australians pass through different library doors at the different stages of their lives. Children enjoy stories and activities in their public library, supported by ALIA through the reading programs and now the National Year of Reading. These events enable communities small or large to share ideas, material, authors, and inspiration. The wonderful contribution of many in public libraries is recognised through the ALIA Library Stars Program. I encourage you to read the nominations in past years and go to the web site (http://www.alia.org.au/governance/committees/public-libraries/librarystars2010/) to be inspired by projects across the nation that create literacy, reading, and vibrancy in their communities. In publicising the projects ALIA provides a great base of knowledge for libraries to share, grow, and cooperate. In addition their local government agencies can be recognised for the support they provide to their communities through outstanding libraries.

The school environment provides a great opportunity for development of the knowledge skills that are vital for participation in our community and workplaces. ALIA’s work with the Australian School Library Association has seen the development of inspiring submissions to the House of Representatives Education and Training Standing Committee’s Inquiry into School Libraries and Teacher Librarians. Cooperative work has also led to A Manual for Developing Policies and Procedures in Australian School Library Resource Centre and Standards of professional excellence for teacher librarians. As a national body ALIA has a strong and unbiased voice which is vital for advocacy in an area where there are significant differences by state and territory, divisiveness which does not benefit students, teachers, or library staff.

In the area of higher and technical education ALIA’s role in copyright and creating opportunities to share and build new knowledge through conferences and professional development activities is very important. Encouraging research and more importantly the sharing of research is essential for a true profession and to encourage us to continue to develop and redevelop our services and systems to be the best we can. ALIA’s work in advocating public access to research, public sector information, and quality electronic resources is again an area where an organisation that is not focused on particular sector is able to pursue achieving great benefits for Australians, wherever they are.

For state, national, and special libraries ALIA’s support provides discussion spaces for issues that need national action, such as advocacy, copyright, and internet filtering. The fostering of communication across sectors and research also empowers these libraries to continue to change and review services to reach out in new and powerful ways, not the least using web 2.0 technologies.

It is particularly important for there to be a national organisation that focuses on what management literature would call a “big hairy goal” – literacy. Overall literacy in Australia is not adequate. We do not achieve the standards of many other developed countries. The Australian Bureau of Statistics report, Adult literacy and life skills survey of prose literacy, document literacy, numeracy, and problem solving of 15- to 74-year-olds found that prose and document literacy, which are essential skills in order to use the internet and day-to-day materials such as newspapers and forms, had small but statistically significant decreases in the proportion of people at the lowest level since 1996. The results for the “minimum required for individuals to meet the complex demands of everyday life and work in the emerging knowledge-based economy” were 35 per cent for document literacy and 37 per cent for prose literacy. Slightly less than half of the Australian population, approximately 7 million, failed to achieve the minimum required level or higher in prose and document literacy. Australian literacy ranks poorly compared to Canada and Norway, although it is higher than Italy or the United States.

Leigh and Ryan’s study of education productivity, published in 2008, found that the literacy and numeracy skills of young Australian teenagers (aged 13-14) have fallen over the past few decades. Numeracy skills fell in the period 1964-2003, and both literacy and numeracy skills fell in the period 1975-1998. Worryingly, Leigh and Ryan note that, while literacy and numeracy skills fell, real expenditure per child increased by 10 per cent in the period 1975-1998 and by 258 per cent from 1964-2003. The authors found a decline in school productivity which suggests that investment in the form of increased expenditure has not been made in the areas where it could make the most difference. In fact, it has not just failed to increase literacy, it has actually reduced the results for teenagers at school.

While Australians are served by more public library service points than McDonald restaurants, libraries in tertiary institutions, tafes, workplaces, national, state, and territories, and many special libraries, such as law, health, and government libraries, much needs to be done to ensure an informed and information literate citizenry. ALIA’s role in creating awareness of issues, developing standards, model practices, and places where we can develop frameworks, such as the ALIA Public Library Summit, is absolutely vital.

I think that we need to support a great national vision through ALIA and marshal to the best of our ability our colleagues and stakeholders in working on practical ways to create the sort of nation that is needed to be successful in the twenty first century. ALIA provide an opportunity for us to share visions and creation a passionate commitment to create services that have national impact on the vital issues of today.

Roxanne Missingham
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ALIA President (May 2007 – May 2008)
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Writing with ALIA

To grow, thrive, and survive, industry professionals need to publish. It’s from these publications that discussions arise, investigations are conducted, and eventually best-practice emerges. But, let’s face it, putting your name out there, especially when connected to a hypothesis or theory that may attract controversy can be very daunting. While I can’t offer up much advice on screwing your courage to the sticking place (though I understand alcohol can be helpful), I can offer up some pointers on the what, when, where, how, and why of publishing with ALIA publications.

First, the What. This is probably the most common stumbling block – getting past the ‘what could I write?’

The answer is almost anything in your day-to-day professional life. The trick is determining where it fits best.

**inCite** – as the industry’s news magazine, inCite is interested in articles and thought-pieces about things you’ve done that worked, didn’t work, or may work in the future. inCite is a great place if you want to report on an event, share a personal experience that can shed light on an aspect of librarianship, reflect on a particular topic, or bring up a common challenge faced by your workplace. inCite also offers a range of ways to contribute. Articles are short – less than 1000 words – and to-the-point. Language is accessible and conversational. Feature themes are offered every month, which can also make the ‘what’ question much easier to answer. inCite reports can include PD exercises, conferences, or group events, or contributing to a regular column like E-E-I. Finally, if you have something to say, a question to ask, or a suggestion, letters to the editor, published in the Your Voice section, are 250 words or less and generally address one particular issue, either as a compliment, a criticism, or a critical issue. For any questions or advice, email inCite@alia.org.au

**ALJ** – The Australian Library Journal is a research-based journal that focuses on practitioner-based and best-practice research. If you’ve identified an issue, done some research, implemented a solution, then evaluated a solution (basically, if you’ve solved a problem), then ALJ is a great place to publish that journey. If you’ve conducted a literature review about a problem/issue/new development in your library or LIS workplace, ALJ is a great place to publish the result. ALJ is published quarterly. The editor of ALJ, Ann Ritchie, can be contacted at alj.editor@alia.org.au and is more than happy to answer any of your questions, or aid you in your journey from concept to completion.

**AARL** – The Australian Academic and Research Libraries Journal is also published quarterly journal and is devoted to librarian ship in university and college libraries, including the Technical and Further Education sector, and in research libraries of all types. It publishes contributions on all aspects of librarianship past and present, pure and applied bibliography, publishing, information science and related subjects. If you have conducted high level research (perhaps in a Master’s or PhD program or as part of the ALIA Research Mentoring Scheme), AARL is a good place to look at publishing. Bob Pym is the editor of AARL, and can be reached at aarl.editor@alia.org.au and can answer any questions you may have about publishing with AARL.

**How to write for ALIA?**

Once you’ve figured out the what and the where, it’s time to get down to business. The best way to know what style, tone, length, and subject matter is most appropriate for your targeted publication is to be familiar with said publication. It would be very hard to write for inCite without knowing what kind of articles normally get printed in inCite. So first, read!

Once you’re familiar with your publication, hop onto ALIA’s website. All three publications offer guidelines for potential authors, covering concerns like topics of interest, tone, and – most importantly – reference style. If you have further questions or need further clarification, the editors of all three publications are very happy to answer them for you. Just send an email.

One of the best things about writing for ALIA is that you are writing for your peers, so once you have a piece ready, you have a whole network of people to tap into for beta-reading and proof-reading. Having someone else look over your work will bring up any potential problems and give you a boost of confidence when they offer you bundles of praise for your hard work.

**Why write for ALIA?**

By writing about your event, reflecting on an issue, documenting your research journey, or contributing to a body of knowledge through a lit review, you are not only contributing to your own professional development (and earning PD points!), you are contributing to the development of the profession. How many times have you used another library’s ideas or experiences to tailor a new program or introduce a new service? How many times have you implemented a new program, only to hear someone else present on something similar at the next conference, taking all the kudos? If the profession doesn’t publish, it will mire itself in constantly re-inventing the wheel. The personal benefits to publishing are many, including professional development, fantastic resume fodder, recognition as an expert or innovator in a field, and the satisfaction of seeing your name in print (it’s a thrill!). But the professional benefits are far greater – and more important.

The most pertinent question here is not the Why – it’s the **Why Ever Not?**

**Kate van der Veer**
ALIA Publishing Manager
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As part of its commitment to informing the profession, ALIA publishes two refereed journals focusing on all aspects of the profession. The Australian Library Journal (ALJ) is a journal with an international reputation, having been published since 1951. It is a quarterly and encourages contributions from across the range of library and information related professions. It includes research-based articles as well as case studies from practitioners reporting on innovations in the workplace and aims to provide a wide cross-section of material of interest to the broadest audience. It is the most widely read LIS journal in Australia.

Recent editions of ALJ have included articles looking at local history collections in public libraries, professional development and mentoring, e-books, and empowering users. ALJ is indexed in the Australian Education Index, Australian Library and Information Science Abstracts, APAIS, Information Science Abstracts, LISA, Library Literature and the Social Science Citation Index (SSCI) – thus ensuring wide exposure of its contents and providing academic credibility.

Similarly, Australian Academic and Research Libraries (AARL), published since the early 1970s, is another high quality journal focused on material of interest to the entire range of academic and research libraries. Its aim is to focus on original contributions which add to the knowledge (both theoretical and practical) which drives the profession forward. Again, published quarterly and indexed by those major services, AARL is widely respected as a key resource for those working in the tertiary sector in particular.

Recent articles include a focus on oral history in supporting key national collections, research into scholarly e-reading among academics, international students’ use of university libraries, and the issue of violence in academic libraries.

Back issues of both journals are freely available via the ALIA website while the most recent two years are available to ALIA members only or, for print copies, to those with subscriptions.

Maintaining the quality and relevance of these journals to the profession depends very much on the input received. It is important for the profession to be undertaking research, investigating new developments, and reporting on successes (and failures) from the workplace in order to inform our actions as we move forward through what is, for most of us, a challenging and uncertain environment. As a professional organisation committed to the growth and development of the industry, ALIA supports the journals in order to foster such research and evaluation of practice that ensures the existence of lively debate and discussion within, and outside, our ranks, that will assist us in meeting our future with confidence.

Please feel free to contact the editors of either journal (Ann Ritchie for ALJ alj.editor@alia.org.au; Bob Pymm for AARL aarl@alia.org.au) if you think you may have an idea or burgeoning article you would like to make available to a wider audience.

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The Global Financial Crisis reminded us of the value (and rarity) of investments which can deliver consistently high rates of return and improve the stability of the market.

Cue your ALIA membership.

Your ALIA membership is a diversified portfolio. It incorporates long-term investments across a range of fields, including education, professional development, research, and advocacy. As any financial advisor will tell you, diversified portfolios enable you to benefit from gains across the entire market while minimising risk.

Your membership entitles you to a variety of assets, tangible and intangible, that enhance your total net worth. You yield ongoing returns from discounts on events, courses, and conferences, access to professional networks, and the provision of expert career and industrial relations advice.

Your ongoing returns are boosted by regular monthly and quarterly profits, derived from your subscription to inCite, ALJ and AARL. These assets increase your net worth potential by broadening your knowledge and supplementing your skills set.

Finally, your ALIA investment contributes to the ultimate stability of the market. ALIA’s work in advocacy and education, copyright, research, and IR, which your investment funds, ensures that the industry can adapt to the ever changing environment and be sustained for the future.

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Publishing for the profession

ALIA Membership – what it means for you (and for ALIA)

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Not for Profit – what does it mean?

Background of the sector in the Australian economy

The Not-for-Profit sector is a significant component of the Australian business and community sector. The Australian Bureau of Statistics indicates that there are as many as 700 000 Not-for-Profit organisations in Australia, most of which are small and entirely dependent on voluntary commitment of members. Around 35 000 of those organisations employ staff and of those approximately 20 000 have what is called Deductable Gift Recipient status which is a taxation status where donations to the organisation can be claimed as a tax deduction by the person or entity making the donation.

In terms of contribution to the economy, it is estimated that the not-for-profit sector contributes over $36 billion in revenue and employs some 610 000 people.

Not-for-Profit organisations can be small local clubs, small or large charitable organisations like Care Australia and Vision Australia, sporting organisations like Swimming Australia, or Australian Olympic Committee, and professional membership associations such as Chartered Accountants and ALIA.

What organisational structure do not-for-profits follow?

Not-for-Profit organisational structures can take many different forms, the most common being:

- **Adhoc committee with no formal legal structure** – Normally small local committees who get together and create a club or community organisation. They tend to have no formal legal identity and therefore cannot enter into any legal contract as an organisation. All members have a responsibility for any debts which may be incurred by the organisation.

- **Incorporated body** – This is the most common form of not-for-profit structure. It works best if the organisation only operates within one state. Rules for incorporation vary from state to state and are generally defined by the Office of Regulatory Services in each state. This structure provides legal basis for the organisation and it can enter legally binding contracts in its own name. Issues of debts etc are limited to the organisation and do not apply to individual members.

- **Company Limited by Guarantee** – This structure best suits organisations who conduct business throughout Australia. These Companies are registered with The Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC) and must operate under the Corporations law. For all operational purposes they are no different than any commercial company listed on the stock exchange, except they are not-for-profit.

What does Not-for-Profit actually mean?

The most common misconception with the Not-for-Profit sectors is that this status means the organisation should not make profits or surpluses. This belief is completely incorrect. The Not-for-Profit status is actually a status given to organisations by the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) for income tax purposes. If an organisation gains Not-for-Profit status they are exempt from paying income tax, however they are still required to pay other taxes such as GST, FBT, and State taxes such as payroll tax.

To gain this status an organisation must operate so that any profits are not distributed to members and always remain within the organisation for the benefit of members. Unlike commercial companies who may distribute profits to shareholder by way of dividends, Not-for-Profit organisations cannot do so.

It is also important in gaining the Not-for-Profit status that the organisation’s Constitution has a specific clause within the Constitution regarding retention of any profits within the organisation for the benefit of members.

**Should Not-for-Profits make Profits?** Like any well run organisation Not-For-Profits attempt to grow each year so they are in a position to provide new and enhanced services to their members. Without profits, growth cannot be achieved and the organisation may not be able to provide additional benefits/services to its members. Profits in the Not-for-Profit sector should be considered a healthy outcome.

**What level of profit is acceptable?** There is no definitive acceptable level of profit an organisation in this sector should achieve. Unlike ‘Listed Companies’, Not-For-Profits have the advantage of not having shareholder expectations on a return on their shares and are therefore generally not expected by members to make large profits; however should they do so these profits will be totally retained within the organisation for the benefit of members.

**What about ALIA?**

ALIA is a Company Limited by Guarantee and operates under the auspices of ASIC and must comply with the Corporations Law. As required by the Corporations Law, each year ALIA is formally audited by a registered professional auditor and must produce financial statements in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards.

ALIA has Not-for-Profit status and therefore does not pay income tax; however we are subject to GST and FBT. ALIA has also gained Deductable Gift Recipient status and therefore any donation to ALIA over $2 can be claimed as a tax deduction.

ALIA is committed to growing benefits to members and therefore strives to achieve profits/surpluses each year.

Harry Carroll
ALIA Financial Controller
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The ALIA Research Committee: research and practice coming together

Research is all about finding out answers to questions or problems in an organised, systematic, critical, and often scientific way. Good research gathers information, reflects on its meaning, arrives at conclusions, evaluates them, and then puts forward an interpretation. Outcomes of research can be new discoveries; the creation of understanding or knowledge; theory building, testing, confirmation or refutation; and/or investigations of local issues and problems for decision making. Good research properly applied has the ability to improve our practice as library and information managers.

Many people think that research is conducted only by academics, but in fact much research can be, and is, conducted by practitioners in the workplace. Accordingly the Research Committee is comprised of a mix of librarians and information professionals who come from both practitioner and academic backgrounds. Members of the Committee are: Peter Macauley (Chair, Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology), Jennifer Berryman (State Library of NSW), Stuart Ferguson (University of Canberra), Gaby Haddow (Curtin University), Katherine Howard (Royal Society for the Blind), Mary Anne Kennan (Charles Sturt University), Anne Lloyd (Charles Sturt University), Michael Olsson (University of Technology, Sydney), Helen Partridge (Queensland University of Technology), Kerry Smith (Curtin University), Janine Schmidt, Suzana Sukovich (University of Technology, Sydney Library & University of Sydney), Peta Hanley (Deakin University, Research Committee Project Officer), and Sue Hutley (ALIA Executive Director).

The role of the Research Committee is to encourage the conduct and use of research that will underpin innovation and improvement in library and information practice by:

- Administering and overseeing operation of the Association’s Research Fund;
- Recommending recipients of ALIA Research Awards to the Board of Directors;
- Contributing to the development of Association policies or research;
- Mentoring and fostering research by ALIA members; and
- Encouraging publication of funded research activities within and beyond the Association.

The Committee meets by teleconference to plan and report on activities, assess applications for ALIA research awards, and to discuss issues forwarded by the Research and Publishing Standing Committee and ALIA’s Board of Directors. If possible, we take the welcome opportunity to meet in person at conferences and other events.

Some of the activities in which the Research Committee is currently involved include:

- A Research Mentoring Scheme where people interested in undertaking a LIS research project are partnered with experienced researchers who act as mentors is currently being piloted and evaluated. Research conducted under this scheme may be based in a workplace or may be of a more general nature.

- Research for LIS practitioners: a satellite event associated with the Information Online conference to encourage and develop collaborative, relevant practitioner research and publication in the LIS community. The workshop will be held at the State Library of New South Wales on Friday 4th February 2011. Registration details will be advertised closer to the event on the Information Online 2011 web site and through inCite and the ALIA web site.

- A Doctoral Consortium meeting in conjunction with the RAILS (Research Applications in Library Science) mini-conference. RAILS is an annual seminar series, organised by educators and providing an opportunity for researchers (including Masters and PhD students), educators, and practitioners to showcase current research being undertaken in our professional discipline areas. More and more LIS practitioners are taking on the challenge to further their education and undertaking PhDs. However, given the dispersed nature of the country and small size of the field in Australia, often there are only small numbers of doctoral students at each institution. A Doctoral consortium meeting like this provides PhD students with an informal forum to share their research with their peers, and an opportunity to discuss aspects of their research with academics and other experts in the field.

Practice-based research is encouraged by ALIA and the Research Committee through the Research Awards (http://www.alia.org.au/awards/). These self-nominated awards are to support research projects across a range of subject areas in the LIS field. So if you have an aspect of your work that you would like to investigate further, why not consider applying for a Research Award? Your results could be instrumental in changing the way we work.

The ALIA Research Committee members fervently believe that research in our field can inform and benefit our practice and we hope to encourage you, our colleagues, to join us in this endeavour.

Mary Anne Kennan
on behalf of The ALIA Research Committee
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ALIA's advocacy year

**ALIA's advocacy activities**

ALIA’s National Office has led the drive to raise the profile of libraries on the federal agenda, especially in the areas of education, social inclusion, disability, broadband, and communication. We have made submissions to government inquiries and, as a result, we have had the opportunity to put our case for libraries – public, school, academic, and special – and the role of information professionals, to senior government figures.

Over the past 12 months, under the presidencies of Jan Richards and Graham Black, we have been running our Every Member An Advocate campaign. This campaign has not only drawn attention to the importance of advocacy by all our members on behalf of the profession; it has also involved the development of tangible assets, with a new guide to advocacy and lobbying, evidence, statistics, and case studies available to download from the website [http://www.alia.org.au/advocacy](http://www.alia.org.au/advocacy). The focus on research and submissions prepared by the ALIA team can also be found on our website and provide useful information which can be adapted by members to make the case for their library and information service.

During the federal election, we produced a campaign kit, which included questions for the political parties and template letters to MPs and opposition candidates.

By the end of the year, there will have been 18 Every Member An Advocate workshops, free to ALIA members, held all around the country, and advocacy will have been a theme at other events, including the ALIA Access 2010 conference in Brisbane in September and the IFLA world conference in Gothenburg in August.

**The need for advocacy**

During 2010, the funding situation in many public libraries has been a growing cause for concern. State government contributions to public library services have dwindled over the years, from what was in some places a 50:50 split with local government, down to a funding level of 20 per cent or less of the annual operating costs of the library service.

School libraries have enjoyed a period of investment in new and refurbished buildings, but there are not enough qualified teacher-librarians to run them. University and TAFE libraries have seen the requirement for, and cost of, e-resources rising steadily, without the increase in budget needed to pay for them.

With the impact of the global financial crisis (GFC) on businesses and the corresponding restraint in government offices, special libraries are under pressure to prove their value. Reference and research skills are less highly prized by the Google generation, despite the fact that, outside the library and information profession, few people go past the first page of search engine results.

**Securing our future**

Australia may have escaped the worst of the GFC, but we only have to look at the situation overseas, especially in America and the UK, to see the need for advocacy to create a strong platform with government. Funding for individual libraries is in a parlous state and the profession is under attack, with politicians seriously considering the possibility of libraries being run by volunteers.

In some parts of Australia, library and information qualifications are not being given the respect they deserve and it is essential that we put energy into making the case for employing people with the appropriate skills.

**Every Member an Advocate**

While the ALIA board has taken the decision to invest in lobbying and advocacy through the national office in 2010, it is important for all ALIA members to advocate for their profession. Advocacy takes many forms. It ranges from simply being good at your job through to communicating the value of the service you provide.

Find out more about how you can participate in the Every Member An Advocate campaign on our website [http://www.alia.org.au/advocacy](http://www.alia.org.au/advocacy) and if you would like to talk about lobbying and advocacy, email [advocacy@alia.org.au](mailto:advocacy@alia.org.au) or call the ALIA member advocacy helpline – 0404 456749.

**Every Member an Advocate workshops**

During 2010, ALIA will have run 18 Every Member An Advocate workshops in nine locations – Adelaide, Brisbane, Cairns, Canberra, Darwin, Hobart, Melbourne, Perth, and Sydney.

The three-hour workshops have been free for members ($50 for non-members) and we have had excellent feedback about the format and content.

Some comments about what people liked best:

- “The discussion with other librarians and sharing of ideas and real-life examples”
- “The explanation of the difference between advocacy and lobbying and also the practical elements of getting key messages down”
- “The balance between working together as one large group and in smaller groups”
- “Networking, bouncing ideas, trying to problem-solve”
- “The simplicity of the workshop”
- “Practical tips and ways to improve advocacy and lobbying in organisations”
- “Learning about the best tactics”
- “The opportunity to discuss other people’s situations”

Each workshop has attracted a dozen or more participants, and in Perth next month (November) we have laid on an extra session, as the two original events were booked out months ahead. We estimate that, by the end of the year, more than 250 ALIA members will have experienced an Every Member An Advocate workshop.

The venues have been organised by ALIA’s Local Liaison Officers and we have been grateful to the state, university, public, and law libraries that have provided us at no charge with the facilities to hold these events.

Sue McKerracher, who runs the workshops, has discovered some wonderful advocacy success stories as she has travelled around the country meeting ALIA members. She says, “At the start of the workshop most people are modest about their advocacy skills, but during the group working session, it’s clear that most are advocating for their library and the profession on a daily basis. It’s particularly impressive when you think that many ALIA members, especially those working in special libraries, lobby and advocate on their own, without the support of colleagues.”

Sue has gathered great examples and ideas along the way, including:

- The university librarian who saw an important figure at a distance during the opening of an exhibition. She pursued her quarry out of the gallery to a nearby pub and managed to strike up a conversation at the bar. A glass or two later, he agreed to make a presentation to her students.
- The law librarian who saved her firm from a potentially costly and damaging action by providing a junior partner with the correct information before they gave erroneous advice to a client. The senior partners were reminded about the value of their library and the quality of the information given.
- The prison librarian who proved that libraries can save...
lives. She found a book in his native language for a Russian offender who said he would remain on hunger strike until he had something to read.

- The health librarian who calculated the time saved by his team carrying out research for medical professionals and estimated that it was the equivalent of a full-time nursing position.
- The public librarian whose maintenance budget had been slashed, who turned it into a ‘killer fact’ – “the council spends less on maintaining our library than you would spend on fixing things in your own home.”
- Several school librarians, who said that the library was one of the key factors used by prospective parents to judge the quality of the school.

She comments, “The most rewarding thing about the workshops is hearing from ALIA members that they can take the ideas we’ve talked about during the session and apply them in their workplaces. People also say they will share what they’ve learned with their colleagues, so ALIA’s advocacy message will have reached many members and library and information professionals as a result of the Association’s investment in this free PD.”

There are still five workshops, in Sydney in October, and Perth in November. Check the ALIA professional development calendar for dates, venues and registration details http://www.alia.org.au/education/pd/pd.services/training.calendar.html.

Sue McKerracher
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How did you use our federal election campaign kit?

We have had a very good response to the ALIA federal election campaign kit available from when the election was called. The kit included key messages, contact details for the major parties, the top 10 lobbying priorities for ALIA members, links to other resources, and two template letters to MPs and opposition candidates: http://www.alia.org.au/election2010/.

We asked the ALIA Public Libraries Advisory Committee members how they had used the kit. Jan Richards, in Orange, told us, “I forwarded the link to ABC radio, who were doing a series of interviews with local candidates and had asked listeners to send in questions. I felt that there was a good selection of questions in the ALIA document and I know that the ABC incorporated some of them into their discussion.”

George Cowcher, from the State Library of Western Australia, said, “I didn’t use the templates myself – even though I think they are very good – but did read with interest the responses from the parties. I think the top ten priorities are interesting and well worth keeping in mind. I think the work that ALIA did was great and can have ongoing benefit if people choose to use it, for example for state elections.”

As a case in point, Margaret Allen, State Librarian of WA and Vice-President of ALIA, used the priorities as part of her presentation at an event in September, going on to focus specifically on digitisation and the National Year of Reading.

ALIA Executive Director Sue Hutley explained, “It was incredibly useful to have the three main parties respond to the series of questions we posed. We will now be able to quote their responses back to them about the role of libraries, digitisation, the National Broadband Network, and other major initiatives.”

We would love to hear more stories from members. Contact us through advocacy@alia.org.au.
Professional Services

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As Director: Professional Services I am actually the newest member of the Professional Services team having taken up my position in May of this year. I’ve worked in a diverse range of roles and sectors in my library career including university, TAFE, and special libraries as well as with a library supplier. I have been an Associate Member of ALIA since starting my very first library job and have been an active volunteer on a number of ALIA groups and committees during this time. I am a member of the Association because I see my membership as an integral part of my professional identity. Now that I’m working for ALIA, I have a unique inside view of the broad range of work that is undertaken to support members and the profession and I can certainly vouch for the commitment and passion of my colleagues who form the National Office team. Of course, I hope you will all have stories you can share in that regard whether it be because you received the advice you needed, the resources you were able to access, the development opportunities you undertook, or the professional networks and connections you’ve been able to make.

My responsibilities include oversight of ALIA’s work in Education, Professional Development and Careers, Copyright, Industrial Relations, and Research. Each of these areas provides a valuable member benefit and some even more widely to the profession at large – such as course accreditation and research. The theme throughout all these areas is the focus on and commitment to support professional standards and quality.

I see the role of Director: Professional Services as a unique opportunity to work with ALIA in inspiring others to choose Library and Information Services as their career, supporting those who are already part of the profession, and working with educators and employers in ensuring sustainable, quality outcomes for the profession as a whole.

Your support of the Association as members enables us to support you, your organisation, and your profession – in this way we all work towards building our Association.

Industrial Relations Advisory Service

ALIA’s Industrial Relations Advisory Service is a valued member service that can help you:

- Find out your rights and responsibilities in the workplace
- Acquire guidelines and recommendations about salary levels and position descriptions
- Clarify work level expectations for your qualification and years of experience
- Identify the relevant legislation you need to inform decision-making in the workplace
- Negotiate a better deal for yourself or your organisation
- Improve your understanding of the LIS workforce and market
- Obtain specialist advice if you are concerned about your job or structural changes in your organisation that impact on your library and information service

When you have a problem in the workplace that you feel unable to handle, ask ALIA for help sooner rather than later. The time to act is during the decision-making process. Contact ALIA National Office as soon as you have identified a problem at IR@alia.org.au or on 02 6215 8222.

Research

ALIA believes that:

- professional participation in rigorous and reliable research practice builds on the profession’s body of knowledge and leads to the continuation and betterment of the profession
- education for the profession which incorporates research activity encourages the development of a research culture within the profession
- dissemination and publication of library and information studies research should be enabled and encouraged through the Association’s conferences, publications, e-documents, and other related avenues
- research excellence should be recognised by awards and prizes
- Library and information studies research is enhanced through participation in partnership arrangements among practitioners, academics and wider communities.

Currently the Association’s support of research practice within the LIS profession is visible through:

- The Research and Publishing Standing Committee which advises the Board of Directors about key priority areas in research and publishing; with an overall scope to support and promote a culture of research and publishing in the profession, improve professional practice by building capacity for excellence in research and publishing, and provide leadership on matters relating to research and publishing in the profession.
- The Research Committee whose role is to foster research that underpins innovation and improvement in library and information practice by: administering the operation of the Association’s Research Fund, recommending recipients of ALIA Research Awards to the Board of Directors, contributing to the development of Association policies or research, and encouraging publication of funded research activities within and beyond the Association.
- The ALIA Research Awards providing opportunity for and recognition of excellence in research practice.
- The ALIA Research Mentoring Program which was a new initiative of 2009 to provide the opportunity for professional members to develop and refine their skill, knowledge, and confidence in conducting research. The purpose of the Program is to provide the opportunity for successful recipients to receive expert coaching and guidance as they undertake a research project on a selected library or information issue.

For more information about ALIA’s support of LIS research practice, contact ALIA National Office on: ph 02 6215 8222

Copyright Advice

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Copyright Advisor
p 02 6215 8222
e copyright@alia.org.au

“It’s worth the ALIA fee just for this service.”

ALIA member wrote this to me on 30 August 2010. I think members find the ALIA Copyright Service very helpful as I can combine experience of the law and library practice. I have been ALIA’s copyright advisor since June 2008. I work part time on Mondays and Thursdays but you can send in questions anytime by email. I have had a long term interest in copyright and extensive experience in providing copyright advice.

Library and voluntary ALIA experience

I was the Law Librarian at the Australian National University and have also worked in Fisher Library at the University of Sydney and Macquarie University Library. I have experience in most library areas including cataloguing, acquisition, document delivery, reader services, and circulation. I have been an active ALIA member at the group level in the ACT and NSW and have served on several ALIA advisory committees, including as a member, and later chair, of the ALIA Copyright and Intellectual Property Advisory Committee.

Representing ALIA and its members

I represent ALIA as a member of the Australian Libraries Copyright Committee and the Australian Digital Alliance. I am a member of the ALIA Copyright and
BEHIND THE PROFESSION

Intellectual Property Advisory Committee and help the members keep in touch by email about issues as they arise. I am a member of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) Intellectual Property Consultative Group on issues such as the Australia-Chile FTA, including the Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement (ACTA) and Australia’s participation in the Trans-Pacific Partnership initiative.

Staying current with copyright issues
I monitor the media, copyright sites, and have email information sent to me on copyright. I get regular updates from blogs, such as that of Anne Lennox at RMIT. I have set up alerts to get new copyright information from media and the web.

Copyright queries from members
The volume of queries has increased in the last year. I think this is because copyright is becoming more central to what we do – libraries are putting material up as copyright creators as well as being users and guardians of copyright. Also copyright is now overlapping with issues such as privacy and licenses for digital material. I am also responsible for privacy issues.

Make copyright work for you
ALIA’s Copyright Advisory Service provides up-to-date information on copyright and how it affects your library and information organisation.

- It responds to your queries about implementing obligations under copyright law
- It provides insight into current hot issues and trends
- ALIA lobbies on behalf of members on copyright and intellectual property issues
- ALIA takes an active role on copyright because copyright impacts on the free flow of information

More information is available at http://www.alia.org.au/advocacy/copyright

PD and Careers

Judy Brooker ALIA (CP)
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Kirrin Sampson
ALIA PD Officer
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Who we are
Judy Brooker and Kirrin Sampson make up the PD Team. We both work part-time and have busy, busy lives. We love what we do and gain great satisfaction from helping members realize their goals. Just a little background about each of us may be of interest.

Judy – I have been a continuous Associate member of ALIA for over thirty years, so one could say I definitely have had a long term involvement in the profession. After my BA honours degree at Monash University I undertook the Graduate Diploma in Library and Information at RMIT, sneaking in a little bit of study at UNE and Queensland University. During my career I successfully changed sectors working in public, the National, university, and parliamentary libraries, part time, full time, casual, and on contract, in many different roles including manager, library assistant, reference librarian, Australian Literature Subject specialist, and as a volunteer in a school library and for a community group. It has only been since 2008 that I joined the team behind the profession at ALIA National Office, first as a researcher and now as the Professional Development and Careers Manager. I have always been passionate and committed to the LIS profession and am now enthusiastic about making professional development, the ALIA PD Scheme, certification, and increased learning opportunities materialise for members.

Kirrin – I joined ALIA in April this year, returning to work following some time out to have a baby and move to Canberra. My past work experience is in the area of Marketing and Product Management in the IT industry, working on cooperative ventures with companies like Kingston Technology (the world’s largest computer memory manufacturer), and Sony. I have an undergraduate degree in Economic History and have completed additional training in direct marketing. More recently, after a decision to change careers, I enrolled in a Master of Teaching through the University of New England and took on a role within a special needs unit at Presbyterian Ladies’ College Sydney. It was during this time, following some school library work, that I developed an interest in school libraries and the provision of library services for children with special needs. So now I’m a wannabe teacher-librarian! I hope my corporate work experience contributes to the smooth running of the PD operations and I’m really enjoying soaking up all things library.

What we do
ALIA PD Scheme
The PD Team support ALIA members to maintain their professionalism. We have evidence supported by the ED & PD Standing Committee and member feedback. We have recently upgraded the ALIA PD Scheme recording mechanism with ‘My PD’ and opened up the PD Scheme to more flexible recording. You can now use an e-portfolio or your employee performance management documentation to record your participation and evidence for the ALIA PD Scheme. We want all eligible members of ALIA to make the most of their membership by joining the PD scheme and be part of the growing group of certified professionals. Employers value ALIA CP status as a sign of currency in job applicants. It takes 12 months to become certified, so join the scheme today!

ALIA Training
The PD team is dedicated to supplying you with quality, relevant training. We have responded to members requests for online courses by continuing to provide online courses with FOLIOz and new online courses with TAFE NSW – Sydney Institute. We have organised our own face-to-face courses around the nation and experimented with the teleconference format, reaching members far and wide. We have negotiated with commercial providers for ALIA member discounts and free places and we have developed partnerships with Associations for member discounts. With the backup of the Local Liaison Officers in each state and all the professional publishing – inCite, ALJ, and AARL – provided by National Office any member can easily satisfy the PD scheme requirements. Value your professionalism; keep yourself up-to-date with ALIA Training!

And Careers
Everyone has to start somewhere. Why did you become an LIS professional? You probably had lots of questions. We work hard at ALIA to provide current, accurate information to aspiring LIS professionals. ALIA institutional members, Group Convenors, or Advisory Committee Chairs can apply for a free Career Expo Starter Pack which includes a poster, info sheets, and postcards. We have a matching advertisement in the ‘Guide to your Career’ wall chart that goes to every high school, public and private across the nation. We sponsor career information evenings and displays at career expos which have included partnerships with educators, employment agencies, and wonderfully inspiring local professionals who go along to these events to share their reasons for joining the profession.

ALIA is zealous about attracting new entrants to the LIS profession and the PD & Careers team along with dedicated members such as the Career Working Party are resolute in guiding students, post graduates and second careerers into the LIS profession.
Free copyright in your area

The need to be informed, active, and involved with changing economic and legislative copyright issues has never been so critical as in today’s digital age.

The recent changes to the Copyright Act have added to the difficulties of complying with copyright law. Library workers must deal with a diverse array of material formats, each of which poses its own unique copyright challenges.

To provide an understanding of copyright, we will again offer free copyright training sessions to our members. The sessions will be hosted by the relevant State Library in each state and are open to all sectors: special, public, and educational library and information services.

Copyright Training Sessions

Session I: Copyright Essentials – Beginner
This session outlines the essential elements of copyright law and sets a foundation for a firm understanding of the interplay between the competing public policy objectives embodied in the Copyright Act – the balancing of interests between creators and users. It stresses the importance of balanced copyright law, discusses creators’ rights in terms of the scope of protection, the rights protected, and infringement, and users’ rights in terms of limitations and exceptions to copyright protection.

Session II: Modern Challenges – Intermediate
The aim of the session is to address some of the common copyright questions from librarians working at the ‘coal face’ and the challenges faced by modern libraries as they seek to provide broader access to their collections. It will propose practical solutions to everyday copyright compliance issues that librarians frequently face. Following the presentation, participants will have the opportunity to workshop questions from the audience.

Session III: Orphan Works – Advanced
This session is based on the ALCC’s policy position which considers three ways to set orphan works free: removing the perpetual copyright protection of unpublished works; applying the flexible dealing exception to large scale uses of orphan works by developing a best practice for reasonable enquiries and expanding the concept of a ‘special case’; critiquing the approach of using licence based models that commercialise orphan works.

Schedule

The following schedule has been tentatively arranged with State Libraries around Australia:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>Host</th>
<th>Sessions</th>
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<tr>
<td>28–30 September 2010</td>
<td>WA</td>
<td>State Library</td>
<td>I, II, III</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 October 2010</td>
<td>VIC</td>
<td>State Library and Melb Uni</td>
<td>I, II, III</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mid to late October</td>
<td>NSW</td>
<td>State Library</td>
<td>I, II, III</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mid to late October</td>
<td>ACT</td>
<td>National Library of Australia</td>
<td>I, II, III</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 November 2010</td>
<td>TAS</td>
<td>State Library</td>
<td>I, II</td>
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<tr>
<td>9 November 2010</td>
<td>QLD</td>
<td>State Library</td>
<td>I, II, III</td>
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<tr>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>SA</td>
<td>State Library</td>
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The Australian Libraries Copyright Committee (ALCC) is the peak consultative body and policy forum for the discussion of copyright issues affecting Australian libraries and archives. It considers the impact of copyright law on its members, develops policy, and provides an effective and unified voice to government, copyright owners and media. The ALCC advocates action to support the role of libraries as information providers and preservers, and the wider public interest in the advancement of learning, innovation, research and knowledge.

About the presenter

Matt Dawes is the Copyright Law and Policy Adviser for the ALCC and its sister organisation, the Australian Digital Alliance (ADA), a non-profit cross-sectoral coalition founded to represent the public interest perspective in the copyright debate and to advocate for balanced copyright law. Prior to working at the ALCC and ADA, Matt was a graduate at the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission. Matt’s research interests are balanced copyright law and the interplay between competition and intellectual property law.

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AlIA Information Science (SA) – highlighting library information

ALIA Information Science (SA) aims to provide a forum for presenting and demonstrating the application of emergent technologies to library and information agencies and the people who work in them. Our committee meets once a month at a central Adelaide location, where we can be found discussing the latest innovations in our field, both library and technological. There is often lively debate about which innovations to showcase at our next event, and who we should ask to speak — with so many talented individuals in the library field, there is no shortage of inspiration!

Our enthusiastic and active committee is known for hosting regular events which hold broad appeal for information professionals, students, and the wider library community. Successful events run by the group include: CONtemplating VALA: Your chance to Connect with VALA Content & Conversations (2010), New developments at Flinders University Library (2010), and Web 2.0: From the Cradle to the Future (2009).

We currently have twelve committee members, drawn from university libraries, special libraries, and other public and private organisations. Committee membership is flexible, with some members attending face-to-face meetings and others keeping in touch via email and our Google Groups interface. Some of our group members include Fiona Thomson, Academic Librarian and former systems librarian, University of South Australia, founder member of the ALIA Information Science (SA) group and currently our Treasurer; Christine Colther, Manager Academic Library Services Mawson Lakes, University of South Australia, Convenor in 2008-2009; Tracy Gamlin, Information Specialist, National Centre for Vocational Education Research; Chris O’Malley, Reference Librarian, Flinders University; and Debbie Wallis, Liaison Librarian, Flinders University – Debbie became Convenor of the committee in 2010.

We are always looking for new members and would love to hear from you. To join our committee or to find out more about ALIA Information Science (SA), please contact the group Convenor.

Debbie Wallis
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(08) 8201 2517
In April 2010 the ALIA Research and Publishing Standing Committee adopted a new Publishing Action Plan to guide the development of ALIA’s publishing program over the next five years.

Open Access, XML, electronic formats, postal mobile and online delivery options, costs of production, and creating stronger benefits for members, were all topics of detailed consideration as the Action Plan was put together.

‘Publishing’ is where a profession’s practice meets its thinking. The Australian Academic & Research Libraries journal, the Australian Library Journal, and inCite, each represent three broad spheres of thinking that cover the full spectrum of Library and Information professional practice and activity in Australia.

The Editorial Boards for AARL and ALJ are currently engaged in fresh discussions about the similarities and differences between each journal, and the type of content they both want to attract. Academic authors seek to publish in high ranking journals, whereas practitioners in the field seek to share their learning and experiences with their peers. AARL tends to publish the former and ALJ tends to publish the latter, while inCite happily plays that vital communication role of all the ‘stuff’ that we love to hear about, learn about, and be entertained by, to help stay connected within our professional domain.

And this profession is a leader in ‘staying connected’. That’s part of what we do best, connecting people with people through their relevant knowledge and information interests, needs, and persuasions. Using technology well has been the hallmark, if not the life-blood, of our profession. It is only natural, therefore, that we also have high expectations regarding our own publications and how they are produced and distributed. Keeping it affordable though, is the challenge. It is our dream to have all content submitted, refereed, edited, designed, formatted, and packaged in print or online products in one state-of-the-art system. Perhaps not ‘unreachable’ but, financially, it is a dream for now. Such systems currently cost handsome six-figure sums; perhaps they’ll cost a lot less in three to five years time, we’ll be keeping an eye on that. For now, we are implementing Open Journal System to support the production of AARL and ALJ, and we are progressively offering more electronic options for subscribers.

If you are a keen Open Access advocate, please encourage all your friends to take up the electronic options for inCite and ALJ that are being made available. The print and postage savings these create will help us consider funding the move to Open Access, probably for AARL in the first instance, sooner rather than later.

The ALIA Research and Publishing Standing Committee will continue working closely with practitioners, researchers, editors, editorial boards, and the wider ALIA community to ensure that our publishing program shares the most meaningful and relevant thinking and knowledge for the profession at large, and in formats and channels that our members find most useful.

Dean Mason
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How we got here... the history of the new graduate movement in Australia

As current chair of the ALIA New Generation Advisory Committee, I often get asked (and have wondered myself) how Australia managed to get such a strong new graduate movement in the library and information studies profession. As I entered the profession when the groundwork had well and truly been laid, I have gone back to some of the early initiators of the new grad movement and asked them for their perspectives. Some quite high-profile names occur in this list: showing us that not only can new graduates enact change at the beginning of their careers, they can go on to become influential once they no longer carry the tag 'new grad'.

In the beginning, there was the New Librarians Symposium. 2002 seems to be the year it all began to get serious, with the formation of the ALIA New Generation Policy and Advisory Group, known as NGPAG (now the New Generation Advisory Committee or NGAC) and just one week later, in December 2002 in Brisbane, the first NLS. A conference that we all take for granted now as a biennial opportunity for new graduates from all over Australia to get together and share experiences, give their first paper in a safe environment, and network, network, network! was the brain-child of none other than ALIA's current Executive Director, Sue Hutley.

In the first couple of years of NGPAG's existence, they worked from the results from a survey they ran at NLS1. This primarily involved the formation of the National New Graduates Group and New Grads e-list, two ALIA initiatives we take for granted these days. There was also a lot of work done on the NGG website – a major project in the early days, making it more than a usual group website but a 'one stop shop' for new grad members with tips, hints, photos, career info, and more.

For each NLS, NGPAG/NGAC have been instrumental in building the relationships and connections to make sure that, when the call goes out for the next NLS, someone feels ready to put up their hand to host the event. NLS2 (2004) was held in Adelaide, convened by NGPAG member and South Australian Library and Information Network (SALIN) co-founder and current ALIA Board member Kate Sinclair. Robyn Ellard, SALIN co-founder and current ALIA Director: Member Services, was Programme Convenor. Conference review meetings were trialed at this conference, and came out of discussions and survey responses at NGPAG.

NLS3 (2006) in Sydney, was co-convened by Alyson Dalby, ALIA NSW LLO, and Adrienne Harris. Also on the committee was Fiona Bradley, an NGPAG member who helped to create new graduate links with the ALIA Research Committee.

NLS4 in Melbourne, convened by Tania Barry, a former member of NGAC. Committee member Trevor McKay had been the National NGG Convenor, a role currently held by another member of the NLS4 committee, Andrew Finegan. National NGG Convenors traditionally hold a role as a conduit between the National New Graduates Groups and NGAC, however Andrew has taken this role a step further and has worked closely with both committees to ensure a stronger National New Graduates Group through the introduction of a group of coordinators in each region, a social networking presence on Facebook, and a blog.

In 2010, NGAC was involved in reviewing NLS in 2008-09. The review examined whether NLS was a sustainable model of conference that delegates wanted to continue, and was partly based on the survey held at NLS4 by NGAC. The ALIA Board approved NGAC's submission that NLS continue as a stand-alone conference, and in 2011 there will be an NLS5 in Perth.

NGAC members played an important role in planning what the ALIA Access conference would look like. Former QLD NGG Regional Coordinator Rachel Wray and current NGAC Chair Naomi Doessel co-convened the new graduates stream What Next! Practical Information to Enhance the Career of New Graduates, with assistance from NGAC member Jo Beazley, current QLD NGG Regional Coordinator Bonnie Dixon, and NLS5 committee member Kate Freedman.

Energise > Enthuse > Inspire came out of NGPAG as a way to encourage new graduates to have a voice in inCite. It was initially co-ordinated by Katy Watson, NGPAG Chair and later ALIA Board member, and was then co-coordinated for a time by Kate Davis and Naomi Doessel, who both later became members and then Chairs of NGAC. In this month's inCite you can find a call for a new coordinator of this valuable new graduate resource.

As well as conferences, NGAC has been very involved in lobbying within ALIA on policy issues: primarily ensuring that new graduates have opportunities within the profession. The Aurora Scholarship is an annual grant enabling a new graduate ALIA member whose workplace cannot financially support them to attend the Aurora Leadership Institute, and was an NGPAG initiative. In 2009, NGAC lobbied the ALIA Board to provide support to a new graduate to attend the conference, which was successful. Other NGAC reviews and initiatives have and may continue to include reviewing NLS surveys, providing recommendations to the ALIA Board regarding new generation involvement in the association, and providing submissions to the National Advisory Congress.

After ALIA Access the current NGAC team had the opportunity to meet in the flesh and discuss upcoming projects for the next few years. They will include continuing to support NLS and the NGG; work on documenting the processes and ensuring succession planning with NGAC; evaluate the Conference Mentoring Pilot, which will take place at Information Online 2011; survey new graduates at NLS5; and continue to lobby for sponsorship of new graduates to major ALIA conferences.

Fiona Bradley states, “Looking back, we did have an impact in a number of areas, and other associations are only now beginning to create these kinds of initiatives. ALIA was way ahead!”

Kate Sinclair writes “Speaking as a current ALIA Board member, I found NGPAG an excellent introduction to working nationally, to working to an agenda, to working strategically within a bigger picture. Looking back now, it's amazing how far ahead ALIA was in terms of engagement with new grad initiatives. We should be really proud.”

The new graduate movement in Australia is built upon a strong foundation, but it needs new blood continually to keep energising and reinvigorating it. Hopefully this article has given you an idea of just how much new graduates have achieved in Australia in less than a decade, and how much impact we can have if we're involved and enthusiastic. So I encourage you to volunteer today!

Naomi Doessel
NGAC Chair
naomidoessel@gmail.com
Become a member of ALIA? Volunteer for the New Generation Advisory Committee? Organise and attend a national ALIA conference? Check, check, and check. So, what should I do next?

Present a paper and be a speaker for the What’s Next stream at the ALIA Access Conference 2010?

Having never presented a paper before and not knowing what to expect, I worked doubly hard and submitted 2 abstracts in response to the call for abstracts. The reality hit home when the yes email arrived: I took time off from work and locked myself at home to prepare for the paper, enrolled myself on a 2-day public speaking course conducted by TAFE, spent many sleepless nights rehearsing my lines in the dark and, of course, the actual Ben Hur – presentation itself.

The night before the actual presentation, I couldn’t afford to pay $30 for the hotel WIFI. I was alone and suffered from a major nervous attack in the hotel room. I scribbled on my diary, “if I can survive my first 20-minute presentation at a national conference in front of other talented and passionate library folks, nothing will be too difficult for me”. In the end, I forgot a few words and ended slightly early, but surprisingly, I did survive.

If I didn’t push the boundaries and face my indescribable fear of public speaking head-on, most likely I would have had a far better understanding of the concept of weekends for the past 5 months. However, I certainly would not have been able to attend the conference in my own capacity as a new graduate, and experience firsthand all the face-to-face learning and networking opportunities with all the other new graduates, as well as attendees from other states and library sectors.

Library tours to Surfer’s Paradise, free 3D movie passes in the exhibitors’ show bags, and pre/post conference drinks and nibbles aside, most importantly, if I didn’t do what I did, I would have missed the opportunity to experience personal growth and contribute to my own professional association at a whole new level as a conference speaker.

We might be the new kids in the block, inexperienced and sometime clueless, but the overwhelming responses from the #grads and #camp streams regarding writing abstracts for the professional journals and presenting at a conference definitely reflect a great deal of interest among the new graduates – not only the willingness to step up to the challenge as a conference speaker, but also the burning desire to take baby steps in contributing to and building up our own professional association, regardless of where we are in our professional journeys.

Watch out for the next call for abstracts from ALIA New Librarians’ Symposium 2011, but if you needed an instant dose of gratification, why not organise your own new generation Library Camp and start practicing for your first 5 minutes lighting talk?

At my presentation, I challenged the audience to submit an article to InCite, and I am walking the talk by submitting my first 500 words. If you are inspired to do likewise, let’s talk. Contact me at hilibrarian@hotmail.com or Twitter @librarianhoi

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Partnering with the Profession

- 20+ years experience in Information Management
- Employment Consulting & Library Technical Services
- Local, State & Federal Government endorsed supplier

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Local Liaison Officers - ALIA

Local Liaison Officers are the professional outreach managers for ALIA in each state and territory. Our role is primarily about communication – providing a local point of contact for members and non-members; providing feedback from members to the ALIA National Office; and ensuring that ALIA National Office are aware of local issues and requirements. We help individuals, organisations, and groups to get actively engaged with ALIA and to get value from their ALIA membership. We are ALIA advocates – promoting the work of ALIA to our members, future members, and the wider community.

What all the Local Liaison Officers have in common is a passion for the library profession, an enjoyment in working with people, and a flexible attitude to work. We are employed as independent contractors on a part-time basis. While our hours would vary from state to state, we all have a common goal: to make the library profession thrive in our states and territories.

Australian Capital Territory
Robyn Ellard

Lucky for me, Canberra is the smallest location of all the LLOs and also lucky for ACT library professionals. ALIA's National Office is located here, this means my LLO role is quite different to the other ALIA LLOs, and since I have another full-time ALIA position as Director; Member Services, I'm quite pleased by that. Most of Canberra's library professionals are employed by the federal government. We have two universities, one TAFE (with multiple sites), and one public library service (also with multiple sites). While we don't have our own state library, we do have the wonderful National Library. My LLO role is mostly making sure the local ALIA groups, LIS students, and members are supported by ALIA staff. ALIA volunteers may see any number of ALIA staff at their events, even our Executive Director – Sue Hedly. Judy, our PD and Careers Manager loves visiting Library staff (I get to see her jump for joy when asked the question.)

New South Wales
Alyson Dalby

Like most states, NSW suffers the tyranny of distance. The professional needs of a special librarian working out of a Sydney CBD have little to do from those of a public librarian in rural area. It is incredibly challenging to support the needs of all members across the state, working out of my little study in Marrickville.

NSW has more ALIA members than any other state, but this doesn't always translate to the most active members. I see my role as trying to take advantage of the amazing resources we have across the state to bring a richer professional experience to members. This means working with volunteers to develop locally-relevant events, helping to promote ALIA-initiated professional development, and targeting the senior managers of large employers to encourage professional engagement in their staff.

I came from a background in special libraries, and was an active ALIA volunteer for a few years before applying for the LLO job. In late 2008, this background means that I appreciate the impact that professional engagement can have on an individual's day-to-day experience. Sitting there alone in my little special library could have been incredibly isolating, but my volunteer work with ALIA gave me endless opportunities for socialising and development.

As state and territory representatives we are given a wide remit to focus on what we feel will be most beneficial for our areas, and who wouldn't love a job that involves visiting as many new libraries as possible?! One aspect of my job that was new to me was liaising with library schools across the state; in the last 9 months I've spoken to lecturers and course coordinators, given presentations to students, and attended a number of graduation ceremonies. I think ALIA has a vital role to play in helping graduating students maintain their passion for the industry, highlighting our profession and the great work that we do, to the community at large.

Queensland
Claudia Davies

Queensland is not only vast; our State has the greatest percentage of our population outside of our capital city with so many cities, towns, and dots on the map up and down the coast and across the great inland. Library professionals are required to have a richness, diversity, and roundedness in their experiences and skills to provide an amazing range of information services to the people of Queensland. I'm fascinated by the library experiences of the library students and professionals I have the pleasure to meet each year. Their resourcefulness is humbling – running a library with an inadequate yet still shrinking budget, to providing reference services to professional clients spread around the globe, to running a disaster response service for a local community devastated by flooding.

While perhaps not as fascinating, I've had my own journey to this point: scientist, mature age student, science librarian, law librarian, ALIA local liaison officer, coffee addict, and close Hugh Grant and Beatles fan. The things that are most important to me professionally are the standards and the future of the profession. I would love to see all our members embrace the ALIA professional development scheme. Think how individuals and the profession as a whole would be enriched if we all actively planned our careers and continued learning as well as we plan for our libraries. As an LLO, the things that are most important to me are ensuring that each member gets what they need from their ALIA membership. Many members don't realise all the resources and benefits to which they have access. It's also important to me that members – and non members – recognise the importance contribution ALIA membership makes to the profession as a whole through supporting such things as ALIA's course accreditation program and lobbying work on issues of universal importance such as censorship.

We have some hard working groups in Queensland such as the OPALs, Library Technicians, New Graduates regional group, Health Libraries Australia regional group, Tropicalia, Children and Youth Services, all providing members with learning and networking opportunities and advocating for the profession in a volunteer capacity. We are in the latest stages of getting a new ALIA Queensland group up and running with a focus on professional development. I hope that you will support this dedicated group of volunteers as they create a richer experience for all of us.

South Australia
Jeannine Hooper

The South Australian library community is similar to other states – a diverse group ranging from one person special libraries, a dynamic public/community library network through to university, TAFE and school libraries, each with their own strengths and focus. Supporting the professional needs of members throughout these sectors is a challenge but also provides a wealth of opportunities to promote cross-sectoral activities and associations between them.

I came into this role of LLO with an interest in the TAFE/University sector having worked in these areas for a number of years, but also gained experience outside of mainstream libraries as a consultant. This was particularly active as an ALIA volunteer with a number of South Australian groups that promoted sectoral activities at both state and national level. That commitment has shown me that involvement in our professional association provides a positive influence on an individual's career and that is what I am keen to encourage in others.

As with the other LLOs, my role requires a multi-faceted approach in delivering a valued and professional experience to members. Primarily
only total approximately one day per week, we try to respond to members quickly and make ourselves available as much as possible throughout the week. We all have other jobs so for some of us this means that our ALIA liaison work is done out of office hours – mornings, evenings, and weekends. It is by no means a tidy ‘each Monday’ proposition. Our other jobs in libraries and library-related industries ensure that we know the issues our members are facing. We all work individually in our states and territories and also as a team sharing our expertise. We come from a range of different library sectors and we are a range of ages and personalities. How we interpret our ALIA role also depends on the needs of the local ALIA members as well as the culture and geography of the state.

It involves supporting local volunteer groups to develop events and encouraging communication between the groups. I meet with members to help them with career advice and professional development and promote professional development opportunities provided by ALIA. I’ll also work with ALIA National Office staff to deliver services to members as well as helping with other library associations based here in SA. Additionally, I liaise with the TAFE and university library schools here to promote the benefits of membership and involvement in professional activities to new students. After all, they are our future and for our Association to continue to grow and the profession to be valued in the wider Australian community, we need to nurture these individuals through all stages of their career.

Western Australia
Carol Newton-Smith

Being a Local Liaison Officer is the ideal position for a “cappuccino librarian”, I love getting out and about and working with the Western Australian (WA) ALIA Community. My background is in research and academic libraries with a focus on outreach. I worked for CSIRO in Queensland and Western Australia as a reference librarian and trainer on their suite of databases. This gave me a taste of getting out to the clients and I really enjoyed it. So when I moved to academic libraries, I kept at the opportunity to be the first Senior Librarian who had an office beyond the library walls. I was sent out to the Division of Humanities with a portable computer and a coffee cup to find myself an office. My last ten years has been as a Manager of the Medical and Dental Library at the University of Western Australia (UWA), managing an off-campus library and a clientele across the state of WA. When I left UWA earlier this year, I was thrilled to take up the position of Local Liaison Officer.

Western Australia is a large state with very active library professionals. I have been getting to know the range of library groups across WA. It is fascinating to develop an understanding of the range of the profession and also to meet the library and information study students and acquaint them with some of the opportunities ahead of them in their careers. Another focus in 2010 has been in assisting the development of two ALIA major events that are in planning for September. These ALIA seminars will be two events back to back with a common professional seminar and an exhibition running across both events—a new model for ALIA.

Tasmania
Sally Murdoch

While I am a teacher-librarian, I have spent more time working in state, academic, and special libraries than in schools. I am originally from Victoria and moved to Tasmania five years ago. It was then that I started volunteering for ALIA on the ALIA Tasmania committee, just before I got the job as the Tasmanian LLO early in 2008. Tasmania is one of the smallest states and there are only two major employers – the Community Knowledge Network (formerly the State Library of Tasmania) and the University of Tasmania Library. Government and special libraries, school libraries, and the Tasmanian Polytechnic libraries are all very small and employment opportunities limited.

My main challenge is that the job is the equivalent of one day a week and it can be really difficult to prioritise my time in order to give the best outcome to members, especially when there is so much that I could be doing. Of all the jobs I’ve had (and there are a lot!) this one gives me the most job satisfaction for two main reasons. It is a great mix of the practical and strategic; I get to organise things at a grass-roots level that give immediate results, plus I contribute to the strategic direction of the organisation with broader and longer-term outcomes. And of course, being a bit of a library junkie, I get to see inside lots of libraries!

Victoria
Margie Anderson

I am an ALIA junkie. I was a volunteer for ALIA for many years before becoming an LLO. My husband Craig has also been a very active ALIA participant, so we are an ALIA household. We joke our kids should recognise the ALIA bag before they could read their own names. Victoria is by far the smallest state with a large number of ALIA members. This helps to make us one of the most active areas. We have fantastic long serving volunteers, bringing years of experience to our groups and programs of events. They are dedicated senior professionals who work hard making sure all members get the most from the association. Alongside them is a terrific band of new graduates, giving us fresh ideas and a new perspective. These are the members who will ensure our success in the future.

As far as possible I try and attend all ALIA events organised by the ALIA Tasmanian Branch in Alice Springs where I am based, and be there to help, advise, and support the Group and our members as and when required. I keep in touch with the Red Centre Group committee in Alice Springs as well, and try and get down there when I can. Our recent very successful student event, "Take Off Your Career" held in Darwin was videolinked to Alice Springs to enable their members to participate.

A large part of my job involves promoting ALIA and outlining the benefits of joining a library association to not only students but the wider library community as well. I extend this promotional role by highlighting our profession and the great work that we do, to the community at large.
The Australian Council of Professions

What is a Profession?

A profession is a disciplined group of individuals who adhere to ethical standards and who hold themselves out as, and are accepted by the public as possessing special knowledge and skills in a widely recognised body of learning derived from research, education, and training at a high level, and who are prepared to apply this knowledge and exercise these skills in the interest of others.

Professions Australia is a national organisation of professional associations. These associations represent more than 350,000 professionals across Australia and cover the professions in the broad areas of: the built environment; business services; human and animal health; and resources.

We exist to champion the importance of the professions to the economic, social, and environmental wellbeing of Australia. We seek to achieve a strong, collective and national voice in the interests of organisations representing professionals.

We provide a forum for members to interact with their peers, information on current issues and influence as the national peak body for communicating with government on issues of concern to the professions. These issues include:

- Skills supply and demand
- Higher education (being the main source of professionals in Australia)
- Skilled migration (being the other main source of professionals in Australia)
- Accreditation of courses
- Registration of professionals
- Professional standards including ethics
- Professional liability
- Globalisation

Ethics is one of the more important issues with which we deal.

Professions Australia has also applied for and been granted funds from the Australia/Japan Foundation to help finance exchanges between the professionals in both countries. The first two were aimed at young professionals from both countries and these exchanges have been successful in broadening the knowledge of the young professionals about the other country and in establishing networks. The last exchange was between Presidents and/or CEOs of member associations which also proved successful and should prove to be of assistance should we organise further young professional exchanges.

The value of belonging to a professional association and Professions Australia lies in different areas for different members. In some cases the value for members relates to recognition of their being a profession and the opportunity to participate, and being seen to participate, in forums with other larger and older professions. Their voice becomes more audible on the issues that are of importance to them. However, at the end of the day, in members’ organisations, what members get out of it relates to what they are looking for and what they put into it.

Malcolm Farrow
Chief Executive Officer, Professions Australia
professions@bigpond.com

IFLA Call for Nominations for Section Standing Committees

IFLA’s professional programme is divided into Sections. Each Section is governed by an elected Standing Committee consisting of professionals with expertise and an interest in the field of the Section.

IFLA is calling for nominations for Standing Committee members for the period August 2011 to August 2015. Current ALIA representatives can renominate for a second term. ALIA is a member of 10 IFLA sections and it is only for these sections that ALIA members can nominate as an ALIA representative. If you nominate for a committee you must be able to attend the World Library and Information Congress each year during your term.

Interested members are asked to submit a 100 word CV outlining their suitability and interest in an IFLA Section Standing Committee to Lisa Strickland, ALIA Executive Support Officer, lisa.strickland@alia.org.au

The deadline for submission to ALIA is 1 December 2010.

ALIA is a member of the following sections:

08. Public Libraries
15. Document Delivery & Resource Sharing
21. Information Technology
23. Education & Training
24. Library Theory & Research
26. Asia & Oceania
34. Management & Marketing
40. Management of Library Associations
42. Information Literacy
43. Continuing Professional Development & Workplace Learning

Visit http://www.alia.org.au/governance/committees/external/ for links to each Section’s website, and for a list of current ALIA representatives on these committees. Any ALIA members nominating for these committees must read all documents located at http://www.ifla.org/en/officers-corner/key-documents

Call for nominations for President-elect and Member of the IFLA Governing Board

If you have enquiries about this nomination process, please contact Sue Hutley, sue.hutley@alia.org.au, ph 02 6215 8215. http://www.ifla.org/en/governing-board/elections
ALIA Special Libraries Advisory Committee (SLAC)

The ALIA Special Libraries Advisory Committee was established by the ALIA Board of Directors in May 2009. The Committee’s role is to advise the Board on the development of a strategic program for members working in special libraries or with interests in special librarianship. The Committee’s terms of reference can be found on the Committee’s website http://www.alia.org.au/governance/committees/special.libraries/

Committee members include Deanne Barrett (Chair) (WA), Carol Armstrong (SA), Cathy Brady (ACT), Emma Datson (ACT), Gaik Khong (ACT), Andrew Meier (Vic), Joanna Ruxton (Qld), Louise Segafredo (Vic), and Rosa Serratore (Vic).

Key projects that have been completed in the first 12 months of the Committee’s operation include reviewing the Guidelines for Australian Special Libraries. The resulting document was designed to be used as a general guide, rather than providing detailed descriptive guidelines. http://www.alia.org.au/policies/special.libraries.html

In May the Committee launched its Special Libraries Wiki. Designed to act as a resource sharing tool for the special library community who they chose by the Committee, the Wiki will hopefully become a useful area for special libraries to share resources, information tools, and case studies. We encourage you to provide feedback and contributions. http://www.alia.org.au/governance/committees/special.libraries/wiki/pmwiki.php

The Advocacy project focuses on the value that special librarians and special libraries bring to an organisation. The Committee has produced a series of documents focusing on special librarians to complement the Guidelines for Australian Special Libraries. The documents have been posted to the Special Libraries Wiki and the Committee is seeking feedback on the value, role, and competencies of special librarians.

Members of the Committee, in partnership with AGLIN and Special Libraries (Vic) created a special libraries stream on the value, role, and competencies of special librarians. The Committee is seeking feedback on the value, role, and competencies of special librarians. The Committee is working towards providing an online environment where special librarians can share tools, collect data, and develop resources to promote the role and value of special libraries.

After many of years of being a volunteer in various ALIA positions I feel I would like to add a personal comment to ‘Building our Association’. Being actively involved with ALIA has given me a better understanding of ALIA and issues impacting on librarianship. It has provided me with opportunities to learn new skills, expand my contacts, develop friendships, and to make a contribution to my profession and ALIA.

The experience has always been interesting and challenging with many rewards both intangible and tangible. I find working with other passionate librarians and library technicians very rewarding, their enthusiasm and commitment for the profession and ALIA is exciting and enjoyable.

Deanne Barrett
Chair, ALIA Special Libraries Advisory Committee
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Passion, cooperation, and collaboration: PLAC

Passion, cooperation, collaboration, opportunities, sustainability, and delight were recurring themes used by members of the ALIA Public Libraries Advisory Committee (PLAC) when I asked why they chose to be involved.

And for most of these members, it’s a double dip of commitment! Over the past 9 months PLAC has undergone a considerable transformation whereby our members comprise the heads of state-based public library associations, territory representatives, Public Libraries Australia, and ALIA. This team is supported by a number of expert members. PLAC is now truly representative of public libraries in all states and territories. This provides a forum for debate as well as the opportunity to present a strong, unified front. Partners, politicians, and other groups now have a clear route into the Australian public library network.

PLAC has a number of projects on the boil with more in the wings. Many of these are a direct result of the ALIA 2009 Public Libraries Summit.

- Working with Libraries Alive! to produce National Standards for public libraries, and with the Library Agency to develop a National Vision and Framework. These will all be completed in the second half of 2010.
- Funding the 2010-2011 Summer Reading Club, around the theme ‘Scare up a good book’. The campaign will run from December 2010 to February 2011 around Australia.
- ALIA reported significant gains in lobbying and advocacy, especially around the Safer Internet Group/cyber-safety; school libraries (the House of Representatives Inquiry); and libraries on the Book Industry Strategy Group. PLAC members supported these initiatives. Public Libraries have also been well represented at the ALIA Every Member an Advocate Workshops offered around the country.
- Public Libraries; a surprise on every page was a well supported stream at the ALIA Access 2010 conference in Brisbane. Winners of the 2010 ALIA Library Stars were named during the day celebrating the innovative initiatives of public libraries across the nation.
- The National Year of Reading 2012, an initiative backed by public and state libraries in every state and territory. Many of the groups represented on PLAC have become founder-partners and this initiative will show what can be achieved when public libraries around Australia join forces.
- The ALIA Early Literacy Working Group was formed, after an exploratory meeting in June at the State Library of NSW.
- The project to support bushfire affected communities and promote disaster preparedness for libraries was successfully concluded in May 2010. A lasting legacy is a suite of resources to be used in future situations.

The spirit of ‘together we can’ is a reality in PLAC. To quote our members “I want to be able to shape the future of my profession and libraries” or “It puts the WOW in my day when I get to contribute to the big picture”.

PLAC members: Jan Richards (Chair, ALIA); Sylvia Swalling (PLA); Cr Win Gaffney (PLNSW-Metropolitan); Cr Graham Smith (PLNSW-Country); Cheryl Haughton (QPLA); John Murrell (VPLN); Janice Nitschke (PLSA); Sheena Joyce (PLWA); Vanessa Little (ACT); Cathy Hilder (NT); Jenny Rayner (Tas); Kathryn Cass (Expert member); Karen Ward-Smith (Expert Member); Roxanne Missingham (Expert Member); George Cowcher (Expert Member). PLAC is supported by Sue McKerracher and Donna McDowell (Library Agency) and Sue Hutley (ALIA).

Jan Richards
Chair, ALIA Public Libraries Advisory Committee
jrichards@orange.nsw.gov.au
All about ALIA RAIS Victoria

Confession time: I didn’t join ALIA for over a decade.

Sort of shameful, sort of not. See, I worked for a public library service for a number of years where many of my and my workplace’s goals were met through professional and strategic goals in-house. But then I left. And I was lost for a little while, especially since I began to work freelance and in smaller libraries that might not have the resources to concentrate on staff development – or else as a short-term contractor, development wasn’t part of the deal. Fair enough. But then I saw what an ALIA group could do for me and how I could contribute to the profession, first as a general committee member, then secretary, and now convenor.

Almost all libraries have some form of reference and technical services. These two strands seem to define a library as opposed to, say, a book store. ALIA RAIS Victoria is a Melbourne-based group that focuses on Reference and Information Services. Sure, there’ll always be detractors, pointing out that reference is in a death spiral and would it hurry up and keel over already? Would reference stop rising up in different phoenix forms? Roving, chat, SMS, e-mail, traditional, and telekinesis for all I know. Depending on where you work, reference might be more self-service than ten years ago, but no doubt it exists in some form. And since reference exists, RAIS exists to take a relaxed look at different professional practices that could help in your workplace and in your career.

ALIA RAIS Victoria is a small committee that looks at the different types of reference services from a LIS worker’s perspective. The group has members in the academic, special, public, and volunteer sectors, and presents one to two panel events after work each year. Sessions held have included Raises, Roadblocks & Realities: Training & Career Progression which in part had public library speakers demonstrate a reference training wiki. Other events have included Making over the Reference Desk, Marketing, and How To Work In Libraries Overseas. Our October 2010 session Getting Started from Scratch, about how to begin or introduce new reference services and collections from those who have done it is being finalised.

One of the joys of the group is the face-to-face, local factor. Admittedly a lot of organising happens via e-mail and the occasional telephone call, but there are a few in-person meetings to brainstorm ideas for events, along with the events themselves. The time commitment is not onerous. That the committee members are from different sectors and at different career stages helps to develop a wide network of contacts.

The group welcomes and encourages new members – new graduate, mid-career, library director, student, volunteer – all those interested in reference are welcome, across all sectors. Contact me via e-mail if you’d like to be part of the RAIS committee.

Confession time: ALIA RAIS is a whole lot of fun, even though it’s good for you. Good for both personal professional development and building the association.

PS. Reference is not dead.

Doreen Sullivan
ALIA RAIS (Vic.) Convenor
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http://www.alla.org.au/groups/raisvic/

ALIA Public Sector Information Advisory Committee

How do you find government information? How do you subscribe to the new e-list? What are the current issues about access to public sector information? The ALIA Public Sector Information Advisory Committee is pleased to announce that our new issues and advocacy page, and new e-list, are now available at http://www.alia.org.au/advocacy/publications.government.html or follow the link from the main Advocacy page.

This Committee provides advice and guidelines on public sector information and government publications to the ALIA Board of Directors and focuses attention on Australian public sector government information, at federal, state and local level.

The current members of the Committee are: Roxanne Missingham (convenor), Elizabeth Drynan, Cheryl Grant, Kym Holden, Sue Little, and Donna Priddele.

In 2010 the committee will focus on:

- continuing to raise the issue of the importance of access to public sector information (including long term access)
- continuing issues in the supply of printed materials
- the importance of access online to parliamentary papers
- how ALIA might support greater accessibility of government information and publications
- how ALIA might provide advice to the Information Commissioner
- coordination with state government library groups, hoping for a teleconference with these groups later in the year
- an initiative to recognise good developments in access to public sector information

The new issues and advocacy page for public sector information includes sections on current issues, how to find government information, e-list subscription details, and relevant ALIA policies and submissions.

There is now a new ALIA e-list called aliaOZGOVPUBS which is maintained by the ALIA Public Sector Information Advisory Committee and is for anyone interested in government documents in Australian libraries. We are very grateful to Monash University for supporting the list oz-govpubs-l and we thank them for supporting those interested in government publications and information. The new ALIA list will replace oz-govpubs-l.

Roxanne Missingham
Chair, ALIA Public Sector Information Advisory Committee
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Did you #followalibrary?
http://followalibrary.blogspot.com/
Fostering life-long learning: ALIA Schools Group

ALIA Schools Group is a national group that promotes the interests of school libraries and teacher librarians. The goals of ALIA Schools are to:

- encourage collegiality among its members
- promote the interests of school libraries and teacher librarians
- provide opportunities for professional development for personnel in school libraries
- lobby for school libraries with national, state, and local groups
- liaise with other professional groups in the field
- identify and analyse current trends in teacher librarianship
- maintain the profile of teacher librarians within the ALIA structure
- hold regular meetings and to disseminate information in print and electronic format

Since its inception ALIA Schools Group has attracted members from various Australian states and overseas countries. Originally the group was called ALIA Schools Victoria and in recognition of the work that the group undertakes at the national level, a decision was made to delete Victoria from the group’s name.

The Committee is based in Victoria and meets eight times a year on a Saturday morning from 9.30am to 11.30am, at Santa Maria College Resource Centre in Northcote. All members are welcome to attend the meetings. Meeting dates and activities are advertised on the ALIA Schools website.

The members of the ALIA Schools Group Committee are Anne Girolami (convenor), Karen Marston (secretary), Robyn Griffiths (treasurer), Sandra Ryan (PD coordinator), Kris Johnstone (minutes secretary), Susanne Graetsch (WebMaster), Tilly Stoove (ALIA/ASLA PAG rep, VCTL rep), Anne Girolami (ALIA Schools eList moderator), Barbara Bugg (member).

Each year the Committee plans approximately five professional development activities. Three are half day, face-to-face seminars held at the meeting venue and the other two are online forums. The online forum is an ideal way for our members, based outside of Victoria, to access relevant and apt professional learning activities. All members are welcome to take advantage of the discounted fee for these activities.

The webpage can be found at www.alia.org.au/groups/aliaschools/. In addition to the group webpage, ALIA maintains www.alia.org.au/schoollibraries.

The ALIA Schools eList is also an effective means of communication. Aside from its promotion and advertising of school library issues it is also the platform used for the online forums.

There is a greater need to enable closer ties between the ALIA Schools and ALIA Schools Group members. The Committee, is looking at ways to make more formal and regular contact. Work is currently being undertaken to formalise nationwide consultation.

A feature of the work of ALIA Schools Group has been the way it has actively sought to form partnerships with other professional groups in the field. Currently there are partnerships with the Australian School Library Association (ASLA), the Australian Institute for teachers and School leaders (AITSLS), Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting authority (ACARA), and the Victorian Catholic Teacher Librarians (VCTL).

The collaborative effort with ASLA has seen the joint venture, with the Victorian Catholic Teacher Librarians, culminated in the production of a document titled A Manual for developing policies and procedures for Australia school library resource centres. The success of this initiative has resulted in an upcoming working party to devise documentation to review school libraries in association with the School Improvement Framework.

So the work continues … because the school library is a valuable asset in educational field. There is a substantial body of research that shows that the school library has a positive effect on student learning outcomes. In addition a well-managed school library provides the foundation for innovative library programs. These library programs contribute greatly to the wellbeing of students, the fostering of lifelong learning, and the enriching of leisure pursuits like reading. The teacher librarian has an integral role in the school library and within the school community as their unique work is centred on student learning. This role focuses on learning, teaching, resourcing, facilitating access to information, and providing a conducive, educational environment.

Anne Girolami
ALIA Schools Group Convenor
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www.alia.org.au
As often happens, I found myself turning to the Oxford Dictionary when trying to start writing this article. That venerable tome defines a profession as, among other things, “a body of people engaged in a particular profession”. A profession association, then, is not going more or less than a group of those professionals engaged in somehow furthering, advancing, or representing both profession and professionals. I think.

What does all that mean then, for me as a new graduate in the profession and a relatively new member of our profession association? I believe new graduates have an important role to play in the building and maintenance of our profession and our association and this year joined the ALIA New Generation Advisory Committee (NGAC). NGAC members are appointed for a three year term and act in an advisory capacity to the ALIA Board of Directors on issues relating to new generation members of the profession.

As new graduates, we collectively have a vested interest in a solid future for our association. After all, most of us are hoping to build a career out of this profession! Our input as ‘new blood’ coming into the profession is vital as we represent new ideas and reflect the current, on the ground experience of new generation professionals.

There is much written about the range of jobs people are doing in 2010 that did not exist ten years ago. Because of the rapidly changing nature of information and delivery, this is a vitally important point for the dynamic library and information industry. NGAC provides an essential conduit to the ALIA Board on what is happening in jobs and the profession for new generation members of the profession, now. After all, a profession is only as current and vital as the ideas, information, and experiences that go into it.

New graduates and new generation LIS professionals (no matter which actual generation we are part of) have the ability to provide the association with a constant stream of new ideas and fresh approaches to old problems. This enthusiasm can help unlock problems, help the association question ‘the way we do things around here’, and keep jaded cynicism at bay.

At the ALIA Access Conference in Brisbane we heard from Fiona Blackburn at Alice Springs Public Library on the importance of valuing the ‘pre-library’ skills of the older new professional. Older new professionals bring a wealth of experience from outside library land, adding to the existing skills and knowledge base and it is vital for the association to capture and keep these professionals as members. Fiona’s abstract is online at http://conferences.alia.org.au/access2010/pdf/Abstract_Thu_1550_Fiona_Blackburn.pdf.

Karen Bath from the University of Adelaide spoke about using involvement with organisations such as ALIA and associated professional development activities to help further individual careers and help with job seeking. However, this self development also works in reverse for ALIA, as through active involvement in association activities, networking, and knowledge building, individuals are in fact helping to build the profession. {Abstract available at time of writing at http://conferences.alia.org.au/access2010/pdf/Abstract_Thu_1200_Karen_Bath.pdf}

The logical extension of that is the flow-on effect of networking. Building bonds between professionals and exchanging ideas keeps our industry viable and current. New graduates can be an instant part of that through twitter, blogs, facebook, e-lists, or even good old fashioned face-to-face discussion. During the conference, ALIA led the way with this networking by having a strong emphasis on the twitter ‘back channel’, and providing an ‘L’ plate twitter account for those who hadn’t used twitter before (and the enticement of iPads on which to do this was an inspiration). In this way, building networks, building the profession, and building the association are inextricably linked. {Want to know more? Search twitter for the hashtags #liaaccess and #grads to see what was going on in the ‘back channel’ and you will see how individual professionals were interacting with each other to further ideas}.

On the library tours we looked at some of Brisbane’s (and the Gold Coast’s) biggest and best libraries. The libraries I saw are magnificent examples of planning, great ideas, and cutting edge technologies. They are putting the ideal up there, and thereby creating the space behind which the profession can build and rebuild itself. In the ‘not-keynote’ speech to the Library Camp/Unconference stream on the second day, Stephen Abram from Cengage Learning agreed, saying that the baby boomers have created the technologies and ideas and it is now up to the new generation of LIS workers to further develop this space.

If everyone on those tours or at these conference sessions took just one idea home and wrote about it, discussed it, researched it, or just commented on it in a blog or on twitter, then we are helping to build our profession. Doing all of this as an ALIA member builds our association and makes it possible to continue to do so in the future.

Clare McKenzie
(and the members of NGAC)
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ALIA ePortfolio Group

The ALIA ePortfolio group is new and dynamic. It developed out of a project undertaken in 2009 the ALIA/AeP2 LIS ePortfolio Pilot Study headed by Gillian Hallam. The project looked at the use of ePortfolios in learning and career development across a range of library and information services. Participants in the project developed an ePortfolio to support their learning and professional development and develop a personal learning system: a place to record achievements, reflect, learn, store information, plan career paths, and network.

ePortfolios are for everyone, offering a dynamic way of storing and presenting information while also allowing the user to go through a process of learn, reflect, and develop. Members of the group have used their ePortfolios for study, professional development, career planning, and performance reviews. The possibilities are endless as you can create blogs, action plans, webfolios, CV’s, profiles, and proformas. Also you can record abilities, achievements, experiences, meetings/minutes, and thoughts.

The group has several aims

1. To support, inform, promote, and develop ePortfolio practice in the LIS profession.
2. To provide support for LIS professionals beginning and using ePortfolios.
3. To align ePortfolios with formal and informal learning, professional development, and long term work goals.
4. To provide an avenue to demonstrate LIS professionals’ capabilities for future and ongoing employment.

We would love to hear what other people are doing with ePortfolios. As a group we encourage the use of ePortfolios. Through our own experiences with the AeP2 pilot study, we would like to support others in the LIS profession to explore the potential of ePortfolios and become a vehicle for further development in the area.

Rebecca Randle
Regional Librarian, Logan City Council Libraries
rebecca.randle@live.com.au
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Our oldest article dates back to 1879, from Perspectives in Public Health (formerly The Journal of the Royal Society for the Promotion of Health).
Ten short stories you must read in 2010

**Anthology**

Publisher: Australian Council for the Arts, 2010
ISBN: 9781864711592
RRP: Free

This collection of short stories has been released as a part of the 2010 Get Reading! campaign, an Australian Government initiative developed through the Australian Council for the Arts. This initiative, as suggested by the name, is designed to promote reading and the anthology, written by bestselling and award-winning Australian authors, is an excellent way to do so.

As the blurb states, there is plenty to enjoy in the collection. The stories range from the suburban realism of Christos Tsiolkas’ “Sticks, Stones”, which candidly examines a mother’s relationship with her son, to the joyful, yet slightly offbeat story of a vintage clothes shop owner and her unnerving customer in ‘Dress, Medium’ by Maggie Alderson. Alex Miller, celebrated author of Lovesong, reworks a harsh, heartbreaking true story beautifully, and ‘Manuka’ is a definite highlight of the collection.

Perhaps the only complaint that can be made about 10 short stories you must read in 2010 is its lack of cohesion. It is somewhat difficult to jump from Nick Earls’ world of inner-Brisbane to exotic and humid India with Georgia Blain, and the writing styles vary as much as the settings. However, each story in itself is enjoyable, and the collection is designed to give readers opportunity to try new authors and take new journeys in reading. And with such an eclectic collection, this is very likely to happen.

**Naomi Doesel**
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**EQUATOR: A NOVEL**

**Wayne Ashton**

Freemantle Press, 2010
ISBN: 9781921361890
RRP: $27.95

_Equator_ by Wayne Ashton is a literary novel filled with delicate prose and lush imagery. A provocative work of magic realism, _Equator_ shows Ashton to be an artist of great skill, both writer and painter. His debut novel published in 2002, _Under a Tin-Grey Sari_, achieved wide critical acclaim and _Equator: a novel_ continues in this tradition.

Ashton is a renowned clothes shop owner and her unnerving customer in ‘Dress, Medium’ by Maggie Alderson. Alex Miller, celebrated author of Lovesong, reworks a harsh, heartbreaking true story beautifully, and ‘Manuka’ is a definite highlight of the collection.

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**I’ve got a feeling!**

**Stephanie Owen Reeder**

National Library of Australia, 2010
ISBN: 9780642276971
RRP: $17.95

Stephanie Owen Reeder’s book _I’ve got a feeling_! explores a variety of feelings we experience in everyday life, and assists children to understand and recognise why these feelings happen and the actions/gestures associated with each feeling. The themes are also about recognising and understanding others’ feelings when we witness the gestures and facial expressions. This book is aimed at preschool children.

There is an interesting section of photographs from the National Library of Australia’s Picture Collection which were the inspiration for illustrations in the book; these encourage you to discuss activities involved with exploring your feelings and emotions.

**Colette Stapleton**
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**A Merciless Place: the lost story of Britain’s convict disaster in Africa and how it led to the settlement of Australia.**

**Emma Christopher**

Allen & Unwin, 2010
ISBN: 9781742372273
RRP: $35.00

I must confess upfront that this book covered a subject I knew little about. Once I had finished however, that was far from true. Emma Christopher’s _A Merciless Place_ deals with the British Empire’s attempt to send convicts to West Africa before Australia was colonised. After the American Revolution, Britain needed somewhere to send its convicts and it settled on West Africa as the place. But the inhospitable terrain and...
weather, coupled with awful conditions and soldiers and convicts working in the slave-trade, led to disaster.

This is a story of bad decisions and some truly awful human beings leading to even worse outcomes. *A Merciless Place* chronicles a dark chapter in the history of colonisation, and also sheds new light onto the eventual colonisation of Australia.

Overall this is a great book that is well worth reading. It will shock in places but it will also make you feel pity for the individuals who had no choice but to be caught up in this experiment.

Peter Stoakes
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Tickled Onions and other funny stories
Morris Gleitzman
Penguin Group, 2010
ISBN: 9780143305606

Gleitzman’s latest book of short stories is a collection of previously published titles with four new titles and is exclusive to *Get Reading!* 2010. *Tickled Onions, salami mousse, and choko yoghurt pancakes* – who would want any of these in their lunchbox? Lucky Clyde finds a way to avoid starving every day after his lunch disappears in the skip bin.

Macques is sick of being bullied and wishes to be ordinary. To live in an ordinary family, to eat ordinary food, and to have an ordinary name – MAX. What happens when your wishes come true?

The paparazzi are trying to take Natalie’s photo: everyone from the next door neighbour to the aunt and uncle she runs into driving to the hospital. Thank goodness for the paper bag over her head.

‘Paparazzi’ was totally different to the other stories, unexpectedly funny but also moving.

It was difficult to choose a favourite out of these short stories as they were all so funny, but I thoroughly enjoyed ‘Imagine’ involving Garth an eleven year old boy with a definite fear and a very BIG imagination. From a very funny Australian author, an alluring variety of stories with fresh concepts sure to encourage new younger readers and delight fans.

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Wicked Appetite
Janet Evanovich
St. Martin’s Press, 2010
ISBN: 9780755352777
RRP $32.99

Janet Evanovich is on to a winning formula and she knows it. With the continuing success of her Stephanie Plum series (over 16 and counting) Evanovich has branched out with *Wicked Appetite*, the debut in the new Unmentionables series, although branch might be a bit of an overstatement.

*Wicked Appetite* is littered with Evanovich’s trademark kooky characters, led by heroine Lizzy Tucker, who, despite her cupcake baking abilities and New England origins, remains a blonde version of Stephanie Plum. What sets Lizzy apart is that she is an Unmentionable, a human with special powers. Led by her fellow Unmentionable, the hulky and flirtatious Diesel, Lizzy must use her special ability to detect empowered objects to help discover the whereabouts of the 7 SALIGIA stones, each representative of the 7 deadly sins, before the archetypical evil Gerwulf Grome can find them and unleash their power.

Readers can expect another 6 books in this new series, no doubt filled with similar wacky characters, slapstick situations, sexual tension, and mystery that have become the Evanovich hallmark. While these features do make for a light, enjoyable read, *Wicked Appetite* doesn’t offer anything that hasn’t been covered ad nauseum by the Plum series.

Megan Cuthbert
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www.alia.org.au
To see ourselves …

xkcd is a good techie Web comic that you’ll often see quoted on Facebook and blogs. The issue at http://www.xkcd.com/773/ is quite perceptive and when I read it I nodded in agreement. But there’s actually a message there for all sorts of sites (not just academic ones) and it does illustrate the difficulty of knowing just who your audience is. Our own universities don’t have the strong culture of pursuing the alumni that is so common in the US, but I think we all need to realise that our sites are aimed to many audiences – some less significant than others but still worth noting.

I’m thinking about audiences more than usual because there’s a site that I’m involved with, and we’re talking about using Google Maps to display the locations of some of the site’s content. It’s a difficult decision because there’s not much content there just yet and a map of our empty continent with just a few markers might not be sending out the right message. And the message is what we have to be considering all the time.

Sunk with scarcely a ripple

Over the past couple of years, Google spent a lot of time developing a product called Wave and they released it for general consumption in May this year. It seemed to offer a lot of features – e-mail, instant messaging, and videos were all bundled together – but the big problem was in identifying specific applications for it. There’s not much point waving your arms around and talking about seamless integration and collaborative workspaces if you can’t explain to your listeners just what it can do. Anyway, in August they announced the suspension of development, thus precipitating a flood of water-related puns from journalists and bloggers everywhere. There’s a good discussion on the product and its history at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Google_Wave and I have a feeling that we’ll see it again, in some form or another.

All the news that’s fit to advertise

I’m getting a lot of information (or perhaps I mean a lot of opinion, but it’s all useful) from Techcrunch (http://techcrunch.com/) these days. I’ve ‘liked’ it on Facebook, so a couple of times a day there’s a provocative little paragraph to grab my attention. A good example was Paul Carr’s piece on Rupert Murdoch’s plan to launch a new paper that you can only get on a tablet such as the iPad http://techcrunch.com/2010/08/15/crazy-like-a-fox/) As with many such pieces, the blogger has been both provocative and not particularly diligent in checking his sources; and his readers have been quick to point this out. It all makes me wonder if this is a feature of the new new journalism: in the haste to get the copy out the door they’re not too concerned about getting it right, but relying instead on crowdsourcing to fill in the gaps. In the meantime, News Corporation is getting free advertising and a certain amount of free consultation on its proposal.

Tracking the past

I really liked the site at http://www.abudnitz.com/covers/ that displays the changing styles in book covers between 1921 and the present day. It shows not only how they developed over time but also how many of those from a particular period were so similar. I looked especially at the decades when I started reading seriously and was surprised to see how few covers were familiar from the 1960s onward. But then I realised that the site covered US editions and of course we sourced our books mostly from the “Commonwealth” publishers until relatively recently.

What we’re doing online

It’s a good thing to check from time to time just what’s going on with the internet. It will help your planning and may stop you doing something ill-advised. A case in point is the report at http://www.wired.com/magazine/2010/08/if_webrip/all/1 that provides a little bit of guidance about the relative amount of material going down the different channels. You do have to exercise a little bit of caution though, as the illustration at the top of the article hides the fact that much of the video material is actually transmitted through ‘the web’. But it’s well worth reading, especially if you’re planning a courageous move like trying to filter the ‘net when so much material like peer-to-peer traffic would be bypassing the filter. Not that we’re likely to have the filter any time soon.

Cheap phone calls

I’m a happy user of Skype to keep in touch with the family (and especially the grandchildren) and now there’s another kid on the block – Google’s Gmail phone service, based on their existing voice and video chat service. Based on a quick test (calling an Australian number via Google in the US) it works fine, and the rates seem to be comparable with what Skype offers. I guess it’ll be just another headache for our local telcos as they try to adjust their business models to the world of so many online services.

What are words worth?

I’ve dreamed of the day when I can afford a print version of the Oxford English Dictionary – and have enough space on my bookshelves for the twenty-three volumes – but it looks like the new edition won’t be coming out. It would have been the Third Edition, but Oxford University Press says (in a story at http://tinyurl.com/2akm2eg) that the success of their internet service is such that it won’t be economic to produce any more printed editions. With a subscription to the online version running to around $300 per annum, I think I’ll have to continue to rely on my local library – or keep an eye out for bargains on the online auction sites.

Kerry Webb
kwebb@alianet.alia.org.au

Don’t forget to visit my blog
Wanna be a "dill"? Apply Now!

The International Masters in Digital Library Learning (http://dill.hio.no) – or DILL for short – is a Master's program under the European Union's Erasmus Mundus program. It is a joint degree offered by a consortium of three European universities: Oslo University College in Norway; Tallinn University in Estonia; and Parma University in Italy, with all teaching conducted in English. One semester is spent at each institution and the final thesis-writing semester is spent at the institution of the students' choice. Students graduate with a Masters degree that is recognised by all three partner institutions.

I was fortunate enough to be accepted in to the first intake of this program that commenced in August 2007. However, I came very close to not even applying. After reading an email from one of my lecturers with details about the program and application requirements, I deleted it. The program – along with a very generous scholarship – sounded too good to be true, and even if it were true (I actually Googled it to see if it was a scam!), it was highly unlikely that I would be accepted – these opportunities happen to other people, not me! At the end of the email, my lecturer had written “For those of you who are able, I urge you to put your hat in the ring”. Even after deleting the email, those words haunted me. A few days later, I retrieved the email from the trash and applied.

The Erasmus Mundus scholarship initiative was modelled on the United States Fulbright Scholarship program and is now said to be in direct competition with that program for attracting foreign students1. By also offering scholarships of up to three months to academics, the program seeks “to enhance quality in higher education through scholarships and academic cooperation between Europe and the rest of the world.”2 Australian LIS academics have been very active in receiving these scholarships. To date, we have had three academics that I am aware of involved in the DILL Program: Dr. Anne Maree Lloyd from Charles Sturt University (CSU); A/Prof. Helen Partridge from Queensland University of Technology (QU); and Dr. Sue Myburgh from the University of South Australia (UniSA). However, the same cannot be said for Australian students. In the year that I was accepted, there was one other Australian who made the reserve list – a colleague of mine from UniSA. Since then, no Australians have applied. I hope that by the time you have finished reading this article, you too will be motivated to apply! Erasmus Mundus programs are approved for five guaranteed intakes; after this time the consortium must apply for an extension to continue delivering the program. The next intake in August 2011 has a closing date of 15 November, 2010.

The program is incredibly well organised and delivered. It is supported by excellent administration and international office staff who were only too happy to help us adjust to life in our new, albeit temporary, homes. The quality of the teaching staff is second to none. They are all well known in their field and have an incredible network of contacts to other academics equally well known in their field – and as students we were on the receiving end of many of them agreeing to be guest lecturers, some for just one session, and others for several sessions.

It is difficult to explain exactly how this program has changed me personally, except to say that I have grown from the experience. Living in different countries, experiencing their culture, their way of living life, dealing with language barriers (although English is widely spoken) has a way of building not only one's resilience but also understanding. Additionally, the bonds that we as a student group formed were incredibly strong. Despite being from completely different backgrounds in most cases, we experienced the highs and lows of the two years together. These were common experiences that took precedence over any country of origin. I can honestly say that I started the program in August 2007 with colleagues and I ended it in July 2009 with friends, including many of the academic staff.

One final remark: if you do consider this program, it is only fair that I warn you now – there is a 6 hour exam in Oslo for the Digital Documents module!

Katherine is very happy to be contacted by potential applicants and can be reached at howard.katherine@gmail.com. Further details can be found in the full paper presented at ALIA Access 2010: http://conferences.alia.org.au/access2010/pdf/Paper_Thu_1100_Katherine_Howard.pdf

Katherine Howard

Katherine Howard graduated with a Post Graduate Diploma from the University of South Australia in 2006. She then worked for two special libraries. In 2007 she was awarded an Erasmus Mundus Scholarship which allowed her to undertake the International Masters in Digital Library Learning (DILL) program which took her to Oslo University College in Norway; Tallinn University in Estonia, and the University of Parma in Italy. She graduated from this program on 20th June 2009 and until recently was managing the Digital Audio Book Library for the Royal Society for the Blind in South Australia.

References

Call for Expressions of Interest

Coordinator, Energise>Enthuse>Inspire, inCite

ALIA is seeking expressions of interest for coordinator of the Energise>Enthuse>Inspire column in inCite.

EEI is a monthly column in inCite and seeks to engage and inspire students and new graduates with the association and profession as a whole. Covering all aspects of LIS, EEI offers a glimpse into the many and varied careers, opportunities, networks, and prospects available to those entering or seeking to enter the profession. The Coordinator will be expected to be familiar with ALIA's objectives, programs, range of interests, and place in the LIS sector. Coordination of the column takes approximately 5 hours a month, but may require more.

The Coordinator will be organised and proactive, and understand the tone and history of EEI. They should be inclusive of all students and new grads, and able to assist and mentor writers and encourage new graduates and students to write for the column and the magazine. They must also continue to keep the profile of EEI high through regular call-outs for contributors, and approaching potential contributors individually. The Coordinator must be available to quickly respond to email from potential contributors and ALIA staff.

The Coordinator will maintain ALIA membership, and will coordinate with ALIA's National Office Staff, the Publishing Team, and NGAC to source content, promote programs of interest, and ensure a high standard. The Coordinator position is on a honorary basis.

This is a fantastic opportunity for a young professional to increase their professional networks, get involved in the Association, and raise their profile within the Association and the profession.

Interested people should email their expression of interest, including a resume and a cover letter detailing any relevant experience, demonstration of commitment, and member number to incite@alia.org.au. For further information, contact Robyn Ellard, 02 6215 8250

Closing date for expressions of interest is 1 November 2010
Member to Associate
Margaret Bronwyn Brenner QLD
Kamini Janunkar ACT
Kerrie McLauren QLD
Norman Taylor QLD
Michael Lane NSW
Meryl McCay QLD
Evelyn Shenker VIC
Lynette Harper TAS
Joan Roberts WA
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Bonnie Heim NT
Deborah Ponting QLD
Maureen Nebauer NSW
Sally Newton VIC
Pamela Langridge NSW

Member to Technician
Janet Louise MacMillan NSW
Grazia Cardillo NSW
Tina Ben Patel WA
Angela (Jie Ling) Bu NSW

New Associate
Susan Walton NSW
Carolyn Law NSW
Urmila Devi NSW
Rebekah Marks NSW
Mary Cain NZD
Juliet Guillee NT
Katherine Paris VIC
Joanna Coad NSW

New Library Technician
Linda McCall VIC
Nanette Sweetser QLD
Michael Leonard QLD
Anthony Letizia QLD
Tjaart Steyn ACT
Kai Foong NSW
Benita Sneddy NSW
Maria Stella Okon NSW

New Institution
Town of Port Hedland Library Service WA
Curtin University of Technology Library Sydney NSW
Library Training Services NSW
Australia QLD
RPF Group Limited NSW

upcoming events

ACT
6–15 Oct (National) Public Speaking With Confidence PD Course: A teleconference course, specifically designed for Librarians and Library Technicians to build public speaking skills. For more information, contact the ALIA PD Team, ph 1800 020 171, pd@alia.org.au

NSW
11 Oct 2pm-5pm Every Member an Advocate Advocacy in Government Circles, $0 ALIA members, $50.00 non-members. Contact Robyn Ellard, ph 1800 020 071, enquiry@alia.org.au
12 Oct 9:30am-12:30pm Every Member an Advocate Advocacy within larger organisations, $0 ALIA members, $50.00 non-members. Contact Robyn Ellard, ph 1800 020 071, enquiry@alia.org.au
13 Oct 6:00pm Library Folk in the Pub – Parramatta. Commercial Hotel. Follow @LFIP. Contact Julian Sordoni, ph 042 9470 672, info@lfip.info
1 Nov–10 Dec (National) Syd Inst of TAFE and ALIA Training PD Course, Manage a Budget. Online, self-paced. Contact the ALIA PD Team, ph 02 6215 8222, pd@alia.org.au

NT
25 Oct Top End Committee Meeting, Cool Spot, Fannie Bay. Contact: patricia.whalan@nt.gov.au
26 Nov ALIA Top End – End of Year Function Venue: Karawa at CDU Palmerston Campus. Contact: patricia.whalan@nt.gov.au

QLD
Please check the website for details: http://www.alia.org.au/events/qld.html

SA
Please check the website for details: http://www.alia.org.au/events/sa.html

TAS
27 Oct ALIATas committee meeting. Contact Ian Morrison to confirm time and venue. ph 03 6233 7474, ian.morrison@education.tas.gov.au

VIC
18–28 Oct Australian Copyright Council’s 2010 Training Program. Contact Rebecca Gyles, ph 02 8815 9760, rebecca.gyles@copyright.org.au
19 Oct 5:30–7:30pm Addressing Selection Criteria for Special Libraries Venue: Melbourne Athenaeum Library. Contact Allison, allison@melbourneathenaeum.org.au
23 Oct 8:30am – 1:00pm ALIA Schools Group Conference 2010 for Teacher Librarians. Kalaya Centre, Santa Maria College – 50 Separation Road, Northcote. Contact Robyn Griffiths, ph 03 9262 7781, robyngriffiths@bigpond.com
23–24 Oct River of opportunities, VI weekend event in Echuca-Moama will include presentations on a variety of topical library issues. Full rates: $150 ALIA members, $195 non-members. Contact Kim Wilson , ph 03 8664 7138, kwilson@slv.vic.gov.au

WA
25 Oct LibraryCamp Perth 2010: Perth’s premier unorganised annual library day! The grove library. No cost. Contact Matthias Liifiers, ph 014 983 678, librarycampperth@gmail.com
15 Nov 2pm - 5pm Every Member An Advocate Advocacy within larger organisations, $0 ALIA members, $50 non-members [GST incl]. Contact Robyn Ellard, ph 1800 020 071
16 Nov 9:30am – 12:30pm Every Member Advocate Advocacy targeting government State Library of WA – Mid West Room $0 ALIA members, $50 non-members. Contact Robyn Ellard, ph 1800 020 071
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