Library history - why?

Ghosts, shipwrecks and murder

The great names in the library game
Mt Gambier Librarian wins Business Innovation Award

ALIA congratulates Mt Gambier Librarian Cathryn Harris on winning the Nokia Business Innovation Award in the 2011 Telstra Business Women’s Awards. Cathryn is pictured here (with friend) at the entrance to Mt Gambier Library’s storytelling cave.

See what Cathryn had to say about winning on page 20.

Photo by Tanya O’Leary.
“I am what the librarians have made me with a little assistance from a professor of Greek and a few poets.”

Thinking ahead for all of us

In the coming weeks, ALIA will hold National Advisory Congress (NAC) meetings in capital cities across Australia, plus teleconferences to assist rural and regional members to participate. Don’t be put off by the title; the NACs are an opportunity for members to share your views directly with the ALIA Board of Directors and ALIA staff. They are an opportunity for a conversation with colleagues and with the Board, and the discussion and feedback is used to influence future plans for the Association.

This year the NAC discussion will be about the future of our profession and what it will mean to be a library and information professional in 2020. Views of our future will help ALIA ensure we continue to meet the needs of members and the profession. Check the ALIA events calendar and watch e-lists for details of the event closest to you.

ALIA conferences are rated by members as one of the most highly valued of all ALIA services. I’ve been fortunate recently to attend both the National Library Technicians Conference and the New Librarians Symposium held in Perth. The energy, enthusiasm and commitment to our profession from delegates and speakers alike were both extraordinary and inspirational.

So too was the volunteer effort of the two organising committees who have spent the last two years creating highly relevant professional programs interwoven with opportunities to meet vendors and network with colleagues. My thanks and congratulations go to both committees.

However, increasing costs to host conferences, the significant volunteer effort required to organise each event and an acknowledgement of the pressures on organisational and personal development and training budgets have led the Board to consider how best to deliver our premier professional development opportunities in a sustainable way into the future. Your Board is currently considering the future model for delivery of ALIA conferences (from 2013), to ensure our conferences remain highly relevant and continue to add value, while remaining sustainable in terms of the enormous volunteer effort required.

A recurring theme throughout both recent conferences was professional development with a number of sessions providing career and personal advice on how to take care - and control - of your own professional career. The need for a compulsory professional development and certification scheme was raised and discussed in a number of sessions. As you will read elsewhere in this issue ALIA Health Libraries Australia has been exploring this question and is developing a formal framework for certification for health librarians. This framework will help inform future directions for a profession-wide compulsory scheme.

If you are a personal professional member of ALIA then our Professional Development Scheme and courses offered through ALIA Training are two great places to start to take control of your own professional development. If you don’t already participate in the ALIA PD scheme then I would highly recommend you do – not only do you gain Certified Practitioner status by recording your professional development, the scheme also assists you to identify topics and areas of practice that may need updating or brushing up to improve your career prospects. Check it all out at www.alia.org.au/education/pd/.

Margaret Allen
ALIA President
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“Views of our future will help ALIA ensure we continue to meet the needs of members and the profession.”

YOUR INDUSTRY SNAPSHOT

Oxford Uni Press goes mobile
Oxford University Press has launched mobile-optimised websites for its full range of journal websites. Users can now log in via an institution’s Wi-Fi and access that institution’s subscriptions while individual subscribers can access their subscriptions via username and password identification.

SA Public Libraries MoU signed
While Victoria’s public libraries are fighting to retain funding, in South Australia a new Memorandum of Understanding between the State Government and the Local Government Association (LGA) has been signed, securing the highest State per capital funding in the nation according to the LGA. Meanwhile the historic Mortlock Library is about to be gifted away from the State Library to the SA Museum to be used as exhibition space as part of exiting Premier Mike Rann’s “legacy”, according to recent news reports.

Swets acquires Accucoms
Swets has recently completed the purchase of Accucoms, specialist sales and marketing providers for academic and professional publishers internationally. Swets has also been included in E-Content Magazine’s 100 Companies that Matter Most in the Digital Content Industry.

Distance learning services surveyed
American library services for distance learning have been surveyed and the results have just been published by the Primary Research Group. With over 50% of college libraries active in providing these services, tailored services such as purpose-built websites, online courses in information literacy and video tutorials feature strongly but only colleges with over 500 distance education students had specifically allocated funding.
Ticking all the boxes

With only a few months to go till 2011 wraps up, it’s a good time to run through what ALIA is doing at the strategic level across our profession and our sector. Here’s a quick scan over our current activities:

**The Convergence Review**
ALIA, along with our Safer Internet Group colleagues (including Google and Yahoo) are continuing to work on the Government’s Convergence Review. At the last Cybersafety Working Group meeting and supported by the group, we were able to discuss with Minister Conroy the advancement of the eSmart program. ALIA is currently working with the Alannah and Madeline Foundation to deliver eSmart Libraries over the next few years.

**Libraries in NBN rollout regions**
With the Digital Hubs applications now due, ALIA continues to host regular teleconferences with the libraries involved and stakeholders such as NBN Co. I am also working with Prime Minister and Cabinet on the Cyber White Paper due to be tabled next year. You can find recommendations on public libraries from the National Broadband Inquiry on the ALIA website.

**National Year of Reading 2012**
There’s not long to go now till NYR2012 kicks off. Our funding and programming discussions with a number of government departments continue, following on the great success achieved by NYR2012 for $1.3m in funding from the Prime Minister, as previously reported in INCITE.

**The Library Initiative**
Our work with the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs continues to benefit communities, currently focusing on the delivery of technology to assist the print-disabled (see story below).

**The Book Industry Strategy Group report**
The BISG report is currently being finalised. ALIA has been very active in seeking out and communicating professional concerns related to the strategy. More on this soon.

**The School Library Inquiry**
We await the discussion in Parliament on the recommendations of the School Library Inquiry and have been in discussion with Minister Garrett and his Office about progressing these.

**Special Libraries Association MoU**
We recently re-signed our Memorandum of Understanding with the Special Libraries Association (you can see all our affiliations at www.alia.org.au/governance/affiliations).

**IFLA Treaty on Copyright**
As a global working environment continues to challenge us, ALIA is supporting the IFLA Treaty on Copyright. For more on this, visit www.ifla.org/en/publications/draft-treaty-on-copyright-excetions-and-limitations-for-libraries-and-archives.

**Disaster recovery – sharing the lessons learned**
This month I will be speaking at the Australian Law Librarians’ Conference about ALIA disaster recovery experiences and resources. From the Victorian bushfires to the Queensland floods, the rest of the world is now looking to the hard-won expertise of Australian library professionals as the benchmark for best practice in disaster recovery.

And of course ALIA is also constantly receiving and responding to requests from the media to discuss issues important to libraries and information services, our staff and our users. We’re also dealing regularly with confidential industrial relations issues. So at a local, state, national and international level, your Association is working for you – and your membership fees are what make this possible.

Sue Hutley
Executive Director
sue.hutley@alia.org.au

William McInnes with National Year of Reading founder partners (l to r) Graham Smith (PLNSW), Sue Hutley (ALIA) and John Murrell (PLJV)

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**ALIA Product and Services Directory in INCITE**
Watch out for the November issue of INCITE to get your copy of our annual product and services directory. Keep it handy for when you need help with design, fittings, technology, collection management and specialist cleaning and conservation services – just to name a few, plus a full list of ALIA’s services. All in November INCITE.

**National Cultural Policy submission in preparation**
ALIA will be making a submission to the National Cultural Policy Discussion Paper. If you have comments, email them to advocacy@alia.org.au by 14 October 2011.

**Public Library Internet Access Survey 2011**

**Library Initiative progressing**
The Australian Federal Government’s $1m initiative focusing on increasing accessibility through the provision of digital playback devices through public libraries is continuing a successful rollout, co-ordinated by ALIA. Canada Bay’s libraries in NSW have been amongst recent recipients of 10 new Daisy Players through the Initiative, presented with the assistance of the Member of Reid, John Murphy and Parliamentary Secretary for Disabilities, Senator Jan McLucas.

**International School Library Month**
October is International School Library Month. This year’s theme is School libraries empower learners for life. More at www.ialsl-online.org.

**Every Member an Advocate back in 2012**
In line with the ALIA Strategic Plan 2011-2015, we will again be running Every Member an Advocate sessions for members in 2012. Do you have any feedback? Email training@alia.org.au
STORY WON'T HOLD WATER

I hesitate to spoil a good story with the facts, but Sue Reynolds’ statement that the Librarian of Harvard’s Widener Library must be able to swim because Harry Widener (for whom the library is a memorial) drowned in the Titanic, is a very hoary urban myth (INCITE August 2011).

A colleague who is a Harvard graduate and a former senior member of the Widener staff tells me that, like many American colleges, Harvard has a swimming test for all undergraduates. Over the years an urban myth grew up that this was a condition of the gift of the library, imposed by Mrs Widener who survived the Titanic sinking in a lifeboat and was convinced that son Harry would not have drowned if he had been able to swim. Never mind that he would have frozen to death in minutes in the icy waters of the North Atlantic. Then, by extension, the myth moved on to the holder of the Librarianship of Widener. It’s a nice story, but I’m afraid it holds no water.

Neil Radford, FALIA
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Ed’s note: We broke the bad news to Sue and she had this to say:

According to snopes.com, the rumor research site, the swimming test is not the only apocryphal story related to Mrs Widener’s munificence to Harvard. It has been claimed that she made it a condition of her donation that icecream had to be served in the Freshman Union every day. Icecream is apparently served every day “because kids like it”. No swimming test, icecream every day and you get to see inside the Widener Library – the Harvard librarian’s job sounds great!

THE ALIA NATIONAL ADVISORY CONGRESS 2011

This year’s National Advisory Congress (NAC) regional meetings will continue with a focus on one of ALIA’s 2010-2015 Strategic Plan outcomes

– The Future of the Profession.

The topics for this year’s program for the regional meetings include:

1. The Future of the Profession
2. Review of the outcomes of the 2010 topic – Making a Contribution: Volunteering for ALIA
3. Local issues

Members are encouraged to visit the website and read the available resources. Comments are welcome at a regional meeting beginning in early October.

In 2011 ALIA will continue with the two-tier model for the NAC. All regional meetings are invited to select someone from the meeting to attend the national gathering of the ALIA NAC. The national meeting will be held via teleconference.

How to get involved

• Participate in a National Advisory Congress regional meeting (see www.alia.org.au/governance/nac2011 for the locations and dates of regional meetings)
• Phone 02 6215 8222 or 1800 020 071
• Fax 02 6282 2249
LIBRARY HISTORY: WHY?
In our June 2011 issue Dr Bob Pymm, Editor of Australian Academic and Research Libraries, encouraged us to get involved in research. In our August issue, Mary Cain pointed out the challenges in getting serious about that research. Now Dr Sue Reynolds picks up the thread to put the case for the value of collecting and understanding library history.

Very recently someone reported to me that historical research was viewed with some disdain by library practitioners who consider it to be far removed from the action in the ‘real’ world. And in the August 2011 issue of *Incite*, Mary Cain debated the issue of what real research is. So, in a profession which is essentially practical, can research into library history, or a library’s individual history, “inform library administration and practice”, as Mary thinks research should? As a researcher into the relationships between library history and the information profession today, and into the impact of an organisation’s history on its practice today, of course I think it can.

Libraries, like archives or museums, are “memory institutions” (so called by Lorcan Dempsey, blogger and OCLC’s Vice President of Programs and Research), responsible for acquiring, retaining and maintaining records of the past for those who care to pursue the link between it and the future in any field of endeavour. It’s a large part of what libraries do, yet when it comes to themselves and their own records, individual libraries are often not good at carrying out the aforementioned activities or at transforming their memories into organisational intelligence for institutional benefit.

The documented history of an organisation can act as a case study which, at a basic level, provides perspective, context and understanding of current issues for all of an organisation’s human resources, but especially for new personnel. A recorded historical narrative can present a common understanding of identity and retain the knowledge of individuals no longer in an organisation. In addition, a clear retrospective view, which includes original circumstances and intent, can illuminate strategic continuums and, more specifically, help avoid the need to rethink solutions to similar current problems through the knowledge and understanding of those which worked, and those which didn’t, in the past.

As well as using history to explore earlier incarnations of activities and relationships, synergies and discords, organisational memories can be leveraged to inform and market present day enterprises. Bruce Weindruch, founder and CEO of The History Factor, a commercial enterprise for promoting corporate history, calls this “applied history”, and he maintains that “The real value of your history is in knowing it and using it as a resource that supports your character and informs your path ahead...”

“The real value of your history is in knowing it and using it as a resource that supports your character and informs your path ahead...”

Libraries traditionally collect, preserve, organise and provide access to records for both practical and intellectual pursuits. If your “histories, hauntings and heroes” are to be known, told, understood and usefully applied in the business of your library, if a breadth and depth of understanding of an organisation’s history is required for strategic development or if tradition is valued, some very practical historical research may be required.

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Each month, OPINION features contributions from invited guest writers. The opinions expressed in this column do not necessarily reflect those of the Australian Library and Information Association.
Imagine a dusty old attic with winter sunlight spilling in from a gabled skylight, illuminating an old cherished chest, filled with mysteries and histories, and you have an idea of what Our Digital Island is - a digital treasure trove of stories and facts that come together to express so beautifully the social, historical, political, and eventful fabric that makes up Tasmania’s past and present, and stores, in perpetuity, our heritage for future generations.

Our Digital Island (ODI) (odi.statelibrary.tas.gov.au/), is the Tasmanian cousin to the National Library of Australia’s Pandora. From the Myer Fire in 2007, caught in images and news stories and mobile phone video clips of fire fighters valiantly attempting to bring under control the out of control, to the gruesome and hauntingly beautiful story that is Port Arthur, as depicted on the Port Arthur historic site, to the Beaconsfield Mine collapse in 2006 with its coronial findings, the fairytale history of Mary’s wedding, and the digital historical online narration of state, local, and federal elections, this wonderful little database is an amazing resource just waiting to be explored.

The database has grown from unassuming beginnings, and from one man’s realisation of the value of sometimes short-lived websites and web pages. Lloyd Sokvitne, State Librarian of Tasmania, championed the collection of these fleeting moments and now ODI has captured the evolution of the Tasmanian web.

Another man of his time - or before his time - was Luther H. Evans, a librarian of Congress, who said in 1952, “Our cultural heritage finds its expression in the common, every-day activities which are the sum and substance of our character as a people and a nation. We must not lose this heritage, and we must understand it. Knowledge of the antecedents of this heritage is the keystone of any conscious effort to achieve meaningful goals for ourselves as individuals and as a people. In order to obtain and secure such knowledge and understanding we must protect and preserve the cultural treasures that are the physical remainders of our past”.

Now we must add to this the digital remainders of our past. Preserving and making available our histories and our hauntings will be achieved by our current and future heroes. We entrust these responsibilities to those individuals who understand and appreciate what the loss of these treasures would mean.

Erica Noakes
Digital Archivist
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“Preserving and making available, our histories and our hauntings, will be achieved by our current and future heroes.”

Lee Welch
a/g editor
incite@alia.org.au

Happy Halloween! It seems a good time to be thinking about ghosts, whether in the form of the mysterious unexplained ‘presence’ or in terms of the great names of the past. In the following pages you will read about both, plus some great projects capturing and sharing history via our libraries, combining the power of technology and ingenuity to deliver real value to their communities.

Perhaps the greatest challenge when delving into history is not falling victim to the notion that the past is just that – past – and has nothing to teach us. Not so. Elsewhere in this issue Sue Reynolds has made the case for library history and in our feature pages this month you will read about some great heroes who still reach out across the decades, and even centuries, to help library and information professionals today carry out our daily roles. We hope you enjoy reading about how this thread of history touches us every day and how we ourselves may end up contributing to it as time moves on.
Or, how Kathryn Cass discovered the extraordinary case of Louisa Collins...

Working in a library is not only great but, very often, educational. And sometimes it can lead to discovering some amazing stories. That’s what happened to me in 2009. I was working as Local Studies Librarian at the City of Botany Bay, in Sydney’s south-east, preparing for the History Week theme of Corruption, Crime and Scandal.

I thought I’d do something on the so-called ‘Botany Bay Poisoner’, Louisa Collins. I expected it to be pretty straightforward, maybe getting enough information to do a small exhibition, or, if I was lucky, a presentation. But once I started researching, I discovered that this was not an open and shut case. Although she was executed for the murder of her husband, Michael Collins, there seemed to be some doubt about Louisa Collins’ guilt.

How did I get to this point? My initial research included checking newspaper articles from the National Library’s Newspaper Digitisation project on Trove and the few clippings we had in the local studies collection. I also did a good old internet search and stumbled across a family history noticeboard, where a descendant of Louisa Collins was looking for relatives and wanting to talk about their ancestor. This contact provided me with a CD full of photographed images of the trial notes taken on a visit to the NSW State Records office and it was while I was glancing over these photos that I found a letter from one of the prosecutors doubting that Louisa Collins was guilty.

Well now my interest was most certainly piqued. So I began to research in earnest, taking in topics that included 19th century law in New South Wales, the women’s suffrage movement, how sheep skins were processed during the 1880s, and delving into each of the individuals involved in the two inquests, four trials and one appeal to which Louisa Collins was subjected. I discovered diaries and letters to the editors of major Australian newspapers all had something to say about Louisa Collins – some good, some bad.

I ended up presenting an hour-long talk titled The Last Woman Hanged in NSW - The Extraordinary Case of Louisa Collins. I allowed my audience to make up their own minds as to her guilt or innocence. The case has piqued the interest of others too. I have now given two interviews about Louisa, one to ABC 702 Sydney’s Deb Cameron, and there have even been a few journalists and television producers contacting me about the case, wanting more information.

Researching history in the library can sometimes lead to much, much more. If you ever get the opportunity to do some original historical research as part of your job, I would say jump at the chance. You never know where it might lead!

Kathryn Cass
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Louisa Collins’s prison record (Image courtesy of State Records New South Wales)
WILLIAMSTOWN: NEW LIBRARY, OLD SPIRIT

Williamstown in Victoria is a proud community with a strong library history and a spirit born and shaped by the land and its people. The Williamstown library spirit has thrived throughout many incarnations, and is currently undergoing its biggest reincarnation yet, with September 2012 marking the opening of the new $7.8m Williamstown Library.

Williamstown, situated on a peninsula eight kilometres south-west of Melbourne, is the oldest continuous settlement on the shores of Port Phillip. The town’s safe anchorage ensured her status as Melbourne’s first port, where citizens of that lawless settlement relied on arriving ships to bring news and supplies. Crowds would gather at the pier to greet the arriving ships, anxious for the information contained in newspapers from the civilized world beyond.

Integral to the spirit that shaped Williamstown is the vision of Sir George Frederick Verdon (1834-1896). George Verdon represented well the educated but unassisted Victorian immigrants of the gold rush period. He was energetic, responsible, an idealist. A devoted public servant, he “acquired the esteem and respect of everyone” and made a substantial contribution to the artistic, intellectual and political development of Victoria and the Williamstown Library.

Arriving in Melbourne aged 17 in 1851, he first set up as a ship chandler in Williamstown and later became a politician and banker. He made major contributions to the development of Victoria and her public institutions, including the Melbourne Observatory, Victorian Navy and Royal Mint. He was an active trustee of the Public Library, museums, and the National Gallery from 1872, for which he served as president from 1883-96. When Verdon retired, he founded a scholarship for art education at the Working Men’s College. He was knighted for his services in 1872 and his contribution is commemorated at the old National Gallery and by the Verdon Library.

Verdon and a committee of eminent citizens helped establish a humble Athenaeum over 150 years ago. Based in Little Nelson Place, the Athenaeum housed a small library containing a few books and old newspapers. It was here that plans for the establishment of a Mechanics Institute began, with fundraising activities including a series of colourful soirees.

When George was elected to the first Williamstown Council in 1856 one of his first initiatives was to apply for land in Electra Street for the site of the Williamstown Mechanics’ Institute. At the inaugural soiree, the Reverend Henderson stated the Mechanics Institute was to be, “an institution for the mental and moral improvement of the working man”. John Pascoe Fawkner acted as chairman and donated 103 books to the Institute. The Institute operated a subscription lending library for over 100 years. A free children’s library service opened in 1936 and fond memories of the Mechanics Library live on in the hearts of many locals.

Planning for the fundraising soirees was not without drama. George was considered by some as pompous and overbearing and he managed to offend the lady committee members who, feeling slighted, staged a successful ‘petticoat mutiny’ and had plans for the Institute suspended until an apology was delivered. (Amongst these ladies was my great great Grandmother.)

Finally, and with great fanfare, the foundation stone was laid on February 18th, 1860 with assistance from Dr Eades, then Mayor of Melbourne. The ceremony conducted jointly by the seven Masonic Lodges from Williamstown and Melbourne included a large procession. Yet another soiree was held on the July 10th of that year to mark the opening.

A century later, after much community agitation for a municipal library, reading took precedence over films and the Shore Picture Theatre made way for the Williamstown City Library in 1968. It was immediately popular and soon outgrew its premises. After several further reincarnations, permission was granted for a new library in 2009. The 1968 Ferguson Street Library was demolished in 2010 and, after 42 years, we relocated back to the Mechanics Institute in Electra Street.

Williamstown’s library spirit has continued to grow. In 1993, the library recorded the highest per capita loans in Victoria. The spirit of learning, recreation and information is alive and well. A warm welcome, comfortable and safe environment and access to a free library service is treasured by locals and visitors alike. The $7.8 million Williamstown Library paints a new and innovative picture of libraries in the community. By providing the latest technology as well as the best of the traditional library services we will be honouring the spirit of George Verdon and come September 2012 there will be another great soiree to celebrate.

Amanda Peckham
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Understanding the “dogs of war”

To understand the future, experts tell us to look to the past - and that’s a key objective for the Australian Army History Unit.

The Australian Army History Unit (AAHU) is dedicated to promoting the study and understanding of the Army’s history and traditions - both within the Army and with the wider community. According to the AAHU, history provides a starting point for new recruits and the public to understand why the Army works the way it does and, equally importantly, helps all of us understand what our Army does both in times of war and of peace. And, as the AAHU points out, given that we taxpayers are paying for it, we do have a right to understand it.

Military history attracts significant interest from military scholars and the general public alike. AAHU has two publishing initiatives in place specifically to cater for these very different audiences, one with Cambridge University Press to produce academic military history publications and another with Big Sky Publishing for the production of specialist military history titles, the bi-annual Despatches magazine and the Brief History of the Australian Army, which covers the history and heritage of the Australian Army from pre-European settlement to the present day (available free of charge on request).

In the last year the AAHU has published some 20 titles through Big Sky Publishing, ranging from histories of little-known battalions to specific campaigns. These have proven extremely popular with officers and soldiers as well as younger readers and school libraries. The Australian Campaign Series draws on personal accounts from those involved, providing real insight into the personal and emotional experience of war alongside military expert opinion of the strategic issues of battle. (This series is now also available in eBook and mobile phones app formats.)

It’s a chilling fact that military history also provides the only objective quantitative assessment of tactics and weapons capability. The AAHU’s critical contribution to collecting, assessing, recording and publishing this aspect of history puts these publications in the realm of a unique form of technically refereed research.

Along with their publishing programs, the AAHU also presents the Chief of Army’s Military History Conference in Canberra each year, administers $80,000 worth of research grants and manages the Army’s museum network. Their website (www.army.gov.au/ahu/) is currently being expanded to enable access to key documents in Australia’s military history and this will undoubtedly prove popular with both military and family historians through public libraries nationally.

Lee Welch
incite@alia.org.au
The Information Studies program at Curtin is a story of the integration of professional practice, experience and melding the necessary theoretical and often historical frameworks of relevant literature and research into a series of courses that are current, relevant, lively and professionally recognised.

Forty years of existence may seem such a short time to some older library schools, but given the ups and downs of library education at university level in Australia, we at Curtin University wanted to acknowledge our history. The Information Studies program here has developed and evolved since its first graduates crossed the stage in 1971 and remains one of the largest graduate programs at Curtin. It covers the discipline areas of librarianship, records management and archives. It has evolved in times of calm and strife, including the advent of the internet, and the climate of library school closures that this brought with it.

So to start the celebrations for our 40th year, the Information Studies Alumni Committee organised a dinner, held at the end of June 2011. It seemed, from the noise and laughter level, that all enjoyed themselves. Guests present included a student from Singapore and many former members of staff including Nancy Lane, a former Head of the Department, and Janette Wright.

The decision in the early 1980s to offer all units and courses in the distance mode, as well as to continue to teach internally, meant that the undergraduate degree was the first degree course at the (then) Western Australian Institute of Technology to be available completely through distance education. That all of this is now achieved both in the classroom and now in the online environment means the diversity of our students’ backgrounds facilitates consideration of issues from a variety of perspectives.

An online teaching environment helps students comprehend and critically reflect on the issues of the day through the use of discussion groups, virtual classrooms, chat rooms, iLectures and similar teaching technologies. Issues like the ‘out of sight-out of mind student’, student technophobia, broadband access and online discussion etiquette continue to be challenging to both staff and students, since Curtin’s Information Studies students come from all parts of the globe. The next step in this online journey is the release this year of all of the Department’s undergraduate and graduate coursework programs by Open University Australia (OUA).

The Curtin Information Studies team was recognised for the quality of its programs with an Australian federal government University Carrick Citation in 2007. All coursework programs run by the Department are recognised by the relevant professional organisations, these being the Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA), Records and Information Professionals Association (RIMPA) and the Australian Society of Archivists (ASA). We are eternally grateful for the considerable support from members of the three professions across Australia and indeed all over the world, for our compulsory practicum placements.

This month the celebrations will continue with an alumni breakfast on 21 October 2011, followed by a seminar entitled Educating Library Professionals for the 21st Century, at which a panel of speakers will examine library and information profession education in the light of the Australian Learning and Teaching Council’s report, Re-conceptualising and Re-positioning Australian Library and Information Science for the 21st Century.

Kerry Smith
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**EXTRA EXTRA, NEWSPAPERS WANTED**

- **BOUND VOLUMES OR LONG RUNS. ALL 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY AUSTRALIAN AND OVERSEAS NEWSPAPERS**
- **ALSO POPULAR MAGAZINES** (e.g. *Life*, *Look*, *Women’s Weekly*, etc.)

Contact: Hannah Sehi, Paper World P.O Box 345 Flemington 3031, Ph: 1800 811 755. Email: hannah@paperworld.com.au (Member of the Ephemera Society of Australia)
Digitisation opens up a world of local history

Local history librarians face the ever-present challenge of providing our communities with access to their heritage treasures, as well as preserving these resources for future generations. The Picture Joondalup project — a finalist in the 2011 Western Australia History Awards - links preservation and access to historical materials in an online environment, enabling the Joondalup Library to share many previously untold tales of heroes and pioneers.

Picture Joondalup is an online pictorial catalogue created by the City of Joondalup Local History Library. This heritage initiative is part of a multi-phased digitisation project that aims to preserve and conserve the history of the Joondalup and Wanneroo region in the North West corridor of Perth. Our online catalogue is a result of cutting-edge digital image technologies, old-school local history librarianship and ongoing support from library professionals, the local community and the City of Joondalup.

The local history digitisation team was formed in 2010 with a Local History Librarian, a Local History Digitisation Officer and four Library Officers. The City began by conducting historical research and digitising its pictorial collection of 7000 items. In conjunction with the collection management team, the digitisation team uploaded each photograph along with its historical context to the library management system, using this online platform to publish on the internet.

The team has uncovered fascinating tales of courage and hardship and stories of men and women with a dream, people to whom we owe what the Joondalup and Wanneroo communities are today. As part of this project, the Local History Library also discovered an eerie ghost story from our past that we would like to share in this Histories, Hauntings and Heroes issue of INCITE: the story of the haunting of the Alkimos.

The Greek freighter Alkimos (originally christened George M. Shriver), was a wartime Liberty ship used to supply war cargo from the USA to Britain. In 1953 it was sold to a Greek shipping line and renamed Alkimos, a Greek word for “strong” or “young man”. On May 30th 1963, on her way to Hong Kong for repairs, the ship was forced onto a reef during a storm. All attempts to refloat the ship were unsuccessful and while repairs were being done, the Alkimos mysteriously caught fire, causing extensive damage. A year later on May 2 1964, the ship broke her anchor during another storm and ran aground offshore four kilometres south of Yanchep in Western Australia.

A number of people have allegedly witnessed a ghost known as Henry walking the decks of the Alkimos in a seaman’s oilskin coat and rubber boots. The ghost is supposedly Henry John Bishop, a smuggler who was murdered at the age of 42. Crayfishermen, caretakers, salvagers and visitors to the Alkimos have seen and heard Henry prowling the decks and moving things around. Tools disappearing and then reappearing have also been reported.

The Alkimos has gained a reputation as a jinxed ship as her owners, crew members and visitors have been affected by accidents, unexplained illnesses and bad luck after coming into contact with her. Jack Sue, a Perth diver and Alkimos researcher vowed never to return to the Alkimos after suffering a series of life-threatening illnesses and the accidental death of his wife.

The haunting of the Alkimos and other captivating stories and images from the City of Joondalup glorious past and present can be found by following the links on our website www.joondalup.wa.gov.au.
Ancient buildings, old books and a beautiful heroine who’s lost her way... it’s not too hard to imagine libraries as the perfect backdrop to spooky movies and chilling tales. But zombies? Believe it or not, there is a definite trend in the library world to associate zombies with everything from budget cuts to information literacy. Just search the web for “zombies and libraries” and you’ll see what we mean. Perhaps its word association: ‘libraries’ leads to ‘books’ leads to ‘brains’ - and quite naturally on to the living dead.

Last year, enthused by this concept, the South Australian Library and Information Network (SALIN) delved further into the other world and chose to celebrate the diverse and changing library profession through production of a calendar titled Zombies in the Library (www.redbubble.com/people/salin/calendars/6062484-zombies-in-the-library).

The calendar is always up to date because when you order it online you are able to specify the starting month of your choice. This year we have also added a selection of postcards and posters to our zombie offering, with all proceeds going to charity.

The original idea sprang from SALIN executive committee discussions in December 2009 about coordinating a calendar of Adelaide libraries. A flurry of ideas for a possible theme followed, but when one committee member stated “I do rather like the idea of zombies salivating as they peer through the returns chute”, the direction was obvious to all. Zombies and libraries. Who wouldn’t want to have that calendar?

We formed a working party and set about using our networks to secure the services of a photographer and makeup artist. Volunteers from the library community were also sought to be in front of the camera, undergoing transformations into zombies or playing the part of the terrified library patrons and professionals.

The crew spent two days shooting in the Tea Tree Gully Library and Flinders University Library (outside of opening times to avoid really scaring somebody) producing some spectacular shots covering such vital topics as the role of the zombie in reference, the frustrations faced when the undead hog the photocopier and, especially for cataloguers, the eternal question: 299.675 or 398.21?

Our calendar was launched onto the unsuspecting public just in time for Halloween last year, promoted through the SALIN website and e-list, and a Zombies in the Library Facebook page. It is hosted on the RedBubble website and, just like the undead, it ‘lives’ on, and on. And on.

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LF Powell: A Bodleian Boy

If there are any ghosts haunting the august libraries of Oxford University then surely among them would be that of Elisabeth Downes’ grandfather who, despite humble beginnings, attained one the highest positions in that University’s libraries.

Lawrence Fitzroy Powell (affectionately known as LF) was only five when his father died in 1886, and it was to help support his mother that he left school at barely 12 years of age to start work in the library of Brasenose College at Oxford University.

After two years at Brasenose he became, at age 14, one of ‘Bodley’s boys’, working at the famed Bodleian library. Chief Librarian Edward Nicholson had introduced the practice of employing boys to relieve experienced staff from the more menial tasks and my grandfather often told the story of how, at his interview, he was asked by Nicholson, “Can you swim, boy?” Apparently one of the youngsters employed there had drowned in the river not long before. Did the spirit of this unfortunate lad haunt or inspire my grandfather? Certainly he would often ponder the fact that his ability to swim helped him along in his career as a librarian.

After seven years at the Bodleian, the young LF joined the team working on the New English Dictionary, later to become the Oxford English Dictionary—a huge undertaking. Here he met Ethelwyn Steane, whom he married in 1909. Their only child, my father, was born in 1910.

When WWII broke out my grandfather volunteered for active service, but being deemed medically unfit, he was given work at the Admiralty. After the war, he resumed his dictionary work until 1921 when he was appointed as only the third librarian at the Taylor Institution, which was, and remains, Oxford University’s modern languages and literature library. Interestingly, it was expected that this move would allow him to become involved in major academic studies—surely something few librarians would have time for today. So, while LF was greatly improving and expanding the Taylorian’s library collections during his tenure, he also developed his interest in the 18th century writer and lexicographer, Samuel Johnson, and embarked on the major task of producing a new edition of Boswell’s biography of the great man.

Meanwhile my mother, who went to Oxford in 1931 to study French, found herself falling in love with a young Classics student. She later recalled her consternation at discovering that the learned-looking gentleman who presided over the library where she and her friends studied (and whom they regarded with considerable awe) was the father of her boyfriend! Luckily, her apprehension was unwarranted and she was soon welcomed into the family.

LF retired in 1949 but continued his academic scholarship and the supervision of graduate students well into his eighties. Despite having never taken an exam in his life, he received several honorary fellowships and honorary doctorates from both Durham and Oxford Universities. Colleagues and former students in Britain and America regarded him with great respect and affection.

To me he was a very personal and beloved hero, fostering my love of literature and libraries by his regular gifts of books throughout my growing-up. No Christmas would have been complete without his genial presence, while his Oxford house seemed to come straight out of CS Lewis’ The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe, with its long passageways, staircases, rooms filled with tottering piles of books, and the persistent aroma of pipe smoke.

I last saw my grandfather in 1970, shortly before I migrated to Australia, but six months after his death in 1975 I was in England again and visited the Taylorian. I felt his presence very strongly, but someone else’s too. In a large volume, recording the enrolment of library members over past decades, I found my mother’s youthful signature. And just as I was wondering if I was imagining the sound of a familiar, throaty chuckle and the whiff of a pipe, I turned a corner to find a charmingly informal photograph of LF hanging in a place of honour. I hope it is still there.

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Members of the staff of Westfield Library in Western Australia’s City of Armadale still don’t really know what caused the noise they kept hearing after the library opened in 1990.

It was a high-pitched ringing that drove staff and library users alike to distraction.

There was neither rhyme nor reason to the noise. We recorded the time of day, weather conditions, direction of the wind and everything else we could think of.

Council’s Property Department engaged a specialist noise company. They said, “This will be easy, there is an industrial area around the library, it will be some sort of reflective noise from machinery”. They set up their equipment, tested whatever it is that these sorts of experts test, scratched their heads and went away without an answer.

No worries though, we were assured. The University of Western Australia has a department who do this sort of thing; they will be able to find out what it is.

So the University of Western Australia set up their equipment and monitored the noise over a period of time. They also left scratching their heads. “Hmm, puzzling that the noise is also there on a Sunday when there is no machinery working in the industrial area,” they said. “Sorry, we don’t know.”

The noise reached a fever pitch such that we had to rotate the staff through the library with our other branches because no-one could stand it for too long. The public came - and left. They complained about it too. It really hurt your head!

Then, just over a year after opening, the noise stopped, just like that. We had no idea why, but all was revealed by the then editor of the local newspaper, who was given the inside information by a member of the public. It appeared we had brought it on ourselves. What we had done wrong was to build the library on what was once open space used as a landing site by UFOs.

Of course! Why hadn’t we thought of that? We were told the UFOs had to leave some noise emitting device on the site to send out a message to prevent other UFOs from landing on our public library. So every time a UFO came near to land, the noise was emitted from this device. The crescendo at the end was the final warning.

End of story.

Now if you think this all sounds a little far fetched, we should add that over the years there have been all sorts of inexplicable things happen in this building such as computer problems for which we could find no reason and other little mysteries. We have decided that it just doesn’t do to upset the little green men. We did change the library name when there was a change in locality name some years later and our library is now the Seville Grove Library. Maybe this just had something to do with it?

Thankfully, we are confident that they have forgotten or forgiven, as things have settled down and there is now harmony in this lovely library.

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IS THERE ANYBODY THERE?

A library built on the site of an old gaol seems the perfect setting for mysterious events. Welcome to the library at the School of Mines Ballarat (SMB) campus of University of Ballarat.

Imagine coming into work and turning on the lights. You go into the information commons area to turn on the printer and the computers but while at the computers you hear the printer ticking. Hmmm, that’s possible. Then you hear chairs squeak and there’s no-one sitting on them. You can feel a presence in the library, not scary - just unsettling. You remember that the printer is situated over the access point to the old solitary cells....

The current SMB library was built on the site of the former Ballarat Gaol with the main entrance through the gaol gate. A new building was opened in 1986 and this year underwent a refurbishment with the expansion of the library to take over the whole building – and possibly its ghosts as well.

Built in 1857, the former Ballarat Gaol was designed to hold both male and female prisoners. The gaol had 58 cells and could hold 74 inmates. It is believed at least 12 or possibly 13 men were hanged at the gaol, the first in 1864 and the last in 1908. All the bodies were buried in the courtyard of what is now SMB. In the 1920s, the City Council decided to remove the bodies but a local gravedigger could only find five of the executed prisoners, so some of the bodies are still buried in the courtyard outside the library.

The main gate is a magnificent piece of monumental work. The huge gates can still be closed to isolate the courtyards. The sound of those gates clanging behind you as you stood on the wrong side would have been frightening. One of our library staff says when leaving the library she is aware of a presence watching her from a second story window in the courtyard. It may be the same spirit that the cleaners have seen; a pleasant-looking young boy up on top of the amenities building. He seems happy enough. The person who tells the story said he asked the boy “What are you doing here?” and then realised he was not from this realm.

Unsurprisingly, members of the security staff have the best stories; including a yelling ghost who runs at people in front of the library and hits them (the university’s curator calls him ‘the thumper’). This happens, apparently, somewhere near where the condemned cells were.

In the former Governor’s residence, a senior member of staff could not keep the door to her office open so they had to put a stopper on it. Her new assistant would come and tell her that a woman had been sitting in the waiting area for hours, but again, it was discovered she was a spirit. She seems to have been a fairly constant visitor. Is she the ghost of one of our illustrious alumni, Bella Guerin, who once lived in that building?

The cleaners have seen all the seats in the Performing Arts (former Court House) going up and down. It is rather eerie in there early in the morning or late at night.

Once, a very strange lady from Spook Spotters told the curator that there was a head staring towards the sky in one of the gardens near the library. She wanted to come into the buildings with spook-spotting equipment but, surprisingly, no-one wanted to authorise this.

The only dead things I’ve known in my time were the possum that died and pungently decomposed over the loans desk and the recently deceased rat above the female toilets during the renovations. When I told someone where I worked they said, “Above the dead bodies, eh?”.

It makes for an interesting workplace when you never know who may turn up at the library.

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Our thanks to Anthony Clark for permission to reprint this cartoon. Check out more of Anthony’s work at http://nedroid.com.
Redmond Barry also established the Melbourne Public Library, now the State Library of Victoria. This library was his most loved. It was conveniently just across the road from the old Supreme Court where he was a judge (now demolished and replaced by the Magistrate’s Court where you can still see the fittings from Kelly’s courtroom), and this proximity allowed Barry to be hands-on in developing the library, selecting the books and literally rolling up his sleeves to put them on the shelves in time for its opening.

If you are in Melbourne, you can visit the State Library, have a peek inside the Supreme Court Library, go upstairs to the Athenaeum on Collins Street and, if you are lucky, catch the Parliamentary Library on an open day. Sir Redmond Barry, ‘librarian’ extraordinaire, is also recognised by ALIA through the Redmond Barry Award presented to individuals for outstanding service, promotion, practice or research in the library and information science field.

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“Unfortunately for Barry, Ned’s last words to him at the bushranger’s trial came true rather more quickly than anyone might have predicted. When he sentenced Kelly to hang, Ned replied he would soon see Barry where he himself was going, and twelve days after Kelly’s hanging, Redmond Barry was also dead – either cursed, or blood poisoned from a boil on his neck caused by the heat of November and an ill-fitting horse-hair wig.

The first thing Barry did for Melbourne was to make a lending library available from the kitchen of his house on Bourke Street. He was a frequent (and long-winded) speaker at the Melbourne Mechanics Institute (now the Athenaeum) and on its committee. He was on the first committee for the Parliamentary Library and founding Chancellor of the new University of Melbourne. He established the university’s library and conceived and established the Library of the Supreme Court of Victoria, setting up a unique system of funding whereby every new legal graduate today still makes their way to the Library at the Supreme Court to hand over their admission fee before they can commence the practice of law.

Redmond Barry – man about town, library patron and the man who sentenced Ned Kelly to hang – is Sue Reynolds’ library hero.

Where would Melbourne be without Redmond Barry? And I don’t mean that it would have been at the mercy of rampaging bush ranger Edward Kelly and his gang if Sir Redmond Barry had not sentenced Ned to hang. It is not Barry’s legal work that Melbourne should appreciate the most; it is his zeal for bringing the culture of Europe to the colonies and his apparently boundless energy for getting things done for which we should be grateful.

On arrival in New South Wales Barry was shunned by Sydney society for having an affair with someone else’s wife and so he came south to the District of Port Phillip in Victoria. It has been said the Barry’s success in Australia was because he was lucky in time and place but really Melbourne was lucky to have a man such as Barry come its way. Redmond Barry was a leader in the establishment of the Philharmonic Orchestra, the Horticultural Society, the Melbourne Hospital, the Royal Society and more, including libraries.

The Group also maintains a Celebrations and Acknowledgements blog at aliaretirees.blogspot.com/ where ALIA members, the profession and the wider community can contribute information about retirements, awards and honours, and news about retiree or retiring members and colleagues.

Contributions are welcome. Contact Faye Lawrence at flawren@bigpond.net.au.

**KEEPING THE FAITH**

Sometimes when INCITE celebrates the life of a library professional known for a great contribution to our profession in decades past, newer colleagues wonder who they were. Our forward focus is vital, but an understanding of how we came to do what we do, the way we do it, is also important and so is knowing who has led the charge to make us better at what we do.

ALIA celebrates some great Australian contributors to the profession through awards made in the name of FA Sharr, Redmond Barry, HCL Anderson, Metcalfe, Ray Choate and Ellinor Archer, amongst others. Valerie Johnson, on behalf of the ALIA Retirees group, has taken up the task of ensuring the people behind the ALIA awards are remembered for their contributions. Valerie is in the process of collecting biographical information to be used to enhance Wikipedia entries and the ALIA website, both to keep this information available to the profession and to raise our profile amongst the general community.

The group also maintains a Celebrations and Acknowledgements blog at aliaretirees.blogspot.com/ where ALIA members, the profession and the wider community can contribute information about retirements, awards and honours, and news about retiree or retiring members and colleagues.

Contributions are welcome. Contact Faye Lawrence at flawren@bigpond.net.au.
Although how we catalogue has drastically changed, why we catalogue, and the conceptual foundations of our work, have not. Those foundations are the work of cataloguing heroes – the likes of Charles Cutter and Seymour Lubetzky. Never heard of them? Read on.

Our early modern era cataloguers – which for this article I am considering to be from the 1870s or so – routinely created and administered card catalogues housing one or more cards for each item held in a library. Today’s cataloguers cross-search large cooperative databases for ‘copy’ or create their own machine readable cataloguing (MARC) records to include in their library’s online public access catalogues (OPACs). Throughout our working days we are keyboard jockeys, clicking and typing our way through databases, online cataloguing tools, our library management systems and specialist software packages as we perform our work.

Cataloguers old and new do this work not because we love to debate the placement of a full stop or the correct application of the Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules, but because we want users to be able to find items and the information therein. But where did the rules we use come from – or rather, who created them?

Charles Ammi Cutter formalised a structure in his 1876 Rules for a Dictionary Catalog, in which he stated that the first objective of a catalogue is to enable users to find an item for which the author, title, or subject is known. This is why today’s cataloguers, over a century later, will think about how users might search for an item and add series titles or variant titles to records. This is why we wrestle with subject terms, trying to match what users might think an item is about and what the Library of Congress authorities say we can actually use. And this is why we mutter darkly at typos in author, title or subject fields of a record.

Typos in card catalogues didn’t necessarily prevent users from finding items, but in an OPAC? It’s only 2011 and our OPACs can’t think yet, so the item authored by ‘Meyer, Stephanie’ rather than ‘Meyer, Stephenie’ won’t be found.

Although Cutter formalized why we catalogue, he did not explicitly define the first thing that cataloguers consider when we think about how to ensure users find items: access points. Access points come from the Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules (AACR), and these rules, in turn owe much to the work of Seymour Lubetzky.

In 1953, Lubetzky published Cataloguing Rules and Principles, a report advocating a move away from a cataloguing code based on cases, toward cataloguing practices based on principles. He produced a draft of such a code, Code of Cataloguing Rules; Author and Title Entry in 1956, which then went on to inform the 1961 Paris Principles, preceding the AACR we know today.

Lubetzky’s contributions to what became AACR inform key aspects of the cataloguing that we perform today. When we are faced with originally cataloguing a CD containing Damien Leith performing cover versions of Roy Orbison songs, for example, we can thank AACR and Lubetzky for clarifying that Roy Orbison is primarily responsible for the artistic content of the work (main entry) and Damien Leith is merely performing the work (added entry). And thanks to the deep thinking of this 20th century librarian, today we can confidently assign a title main entry to a video adaptation of Winnie-the-Pooh with an added entry for A.A. Milne, and not the other way around.

At first glance this distinction may seem unimportant to users; whether main or added entry, any entry serves as an access point that enables users to find an item. But as we transition from AACR to Resource Description and Access (RDA), it appears we will have to be very careful about which name goes where in a MARC record in order to ensure that items gather in the proper relationship sets. Lubetzky’s considerations of relationships between items and bibliographic entities aren’t really reflected in AACR, but they are in the Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records (FRBR)-based RDA.

And so Cutter and Lubetzky continue to guide the work of cataloguers today, and will into the future. Our primary goal will always be to make items and information findable. With RDA our goals will also include creating and describing meaningful relationships. Of course, if RDA doesn’t work out we may have to find a new cataloguing hero.

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Cataloguer
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“Cataloguers old and new do this work not because we love to debate the placement of a full stop...”
FA Sharr:
A Hero to Live Up To

When Anna Hudson decided to nominate for the ALIA FA Sharr Medal late last year, she realised she really didn’t know much about the man himself. Anna went on to win the 2010 Medal and is now intent on living up to this hero of Australian librarianship.

Last year I was encouraged to nominate for the FA Sharr medal. I’d seen a few posts doing the rounds on the e-lists about an award. You may be shocked but I had little idea who FA Sharr was, so I found a book, *Recollections: Forty Years of Public Library Service*. I learned Francis Aubie (Ali) Sharr came out to Perth in Western Australia from England to help create the WA Public Library System in 1953. He was the State Librarian of Western Australia until 1976. Sharr was also heavily involved in establishing Western Australian library studies courses.

What struck me when reading about him was, yes; he did a wonderful job in creating the public library system. I also sensed a great dedication to the library profession.

ALIA commemorates FA Sharr’s contribution through the FA Sharr Medal, first awarded in 1976 to Jean Ryding. The Medal is “awarded to a Western Australian librarian or library technician in their first year of employment who exhibits the most potential to make a significant contribution to the library profession in Western Australia”.

So I applied, agonised over the selection criteria and worried about the right font to use in my resume. Then the phone call to organise an interview came. Then the panic set in – what to talk about for ten minutes? The interview for the award involves a series of questions put by the assessment panel, followed by a presentation on what you consider to be a future issue for the library profession.

“Books are like packets of seeds. When they are opened and their contents are read, new thoughts like seedlings germinate in the mind of the reader.” – FA Sharr

I learnt more about Mr Sharr just before and after the FA Sharr Medal but they have been fun. I have been an ambassador not only for the Medal but also my profession. My responsibilities also include membership of the ALIA West Committee and promoting this award. Through doing this I have gained a lot of new ideas. I do not yet know how I will fulfil the “recognition of the potential” of the FA Sharr Medal but I hope to continue working in the library world and contributing to the profession, no matter where I end up. In the short term, I am currently completing my Masters in Librarianship at Curtin University and I am about to travel to Vancouver to soak up as much knowledge as I can and bring it back to share.

I encourage all new graduates residing in Western Australia to consider nominating for this award and ask employers, colleagues and friends to consider nominating someone and support and encourage them in the process. Writing the application, being interviewed and giving the presentation are all important and valuable experiences for a new graduate and there is a broader benefit in encouraging thought, development and growth of the profession in its newest members – those with a stake in the future.

I know that so many of my friends who have recently finished their professional studies and those who will finish in the next few years will make worthy recipients of this award. We all have the potential to contribute to ALIA and to our profession.

Anna Hudson
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I always saw Hamlet as an android kinda guy

A few weeks ago, I went to one of the National Library’s Innovative ideas talks – this one from William Powers, author of Hamlet’s Blackberry, where he spoke in general about his work (he came to Australia for the Melbourne Writer’s Festival and then spent a few weeks in residence at the University of Canberra). After talking for half an hour and giving out a few teasers about his book, he took several questions from the audience. His idea of taking an Internet Sabbath every weekend struck a chord with many of us. He also had a few good observations about education and the importance of allowing kids to become bored, and then use their imagination. If you can’t get your hands on his book, he wrote during a semester at Harvard ([tinyurl.com/chtkm]) which is really worth reading. And for the record, Laertes would have had an iPhone and Fortinbras the Blackberry.

How to do it right

There’s a fascinating peek behind the scenes in the blog post at tinyurl.com/3pp32af about the National Library’s digitisation of the Australian Home Journal and the Band of Hope, a 19th century periodical. I was encouraged to see that so much attention was paid to occupational health issues, and the lessons learned from the project will be shared by other libraries engaged in such activities.

Unruly posters

I’ve noticed a problem with a Twitter account that I monitor: a person with a single-item agenda who keeps posting obnoxious variations on their theme. This presents quite a problem for the organisation concerned. Most people read the tweets relating to the account by searching on a hashtag (a string of letters with ‘#’ in it, like #qanda) and there’s really no way to stop anyone at all using any hashtag in their tweets. The result is that anyone searching on the hashtag will pick up all sorts of posts – good and bad. And of course, any approach to a serial poster to address their issues is not guaranteed to work; indeed it could backfire, with the offender complaining that they were being censored and the organisation attracting bad publicity.

I do think though that it’s best to try this case, because the poster has gone beyond fair comment and is cluttering up the conversation. For less contentious posters though, the issue would be much less clear. It just reinforces my belief that the internet really does survive because of general goodwill; cases like this are quite rare.

How seriously do we take data.gov?

In a thoughtful post at www.phaseonecg.com/blog/archives/616, Dan Morgan looks at the ‘data’ part of the Open Government movement and highlights one of the serious problems of the various initiatives: that people aren’t doing much planning in making the government data available. (He also promotes the use of librarians in organising the data – and that’s always a good thing.) But back to his main point: have we really looked at what we’re doing and how to do it best? For the most part, the response to the call for publishing open government data was met with agencies whining, “Do we have to?” and then doing a quick scan of their systems to find out what might possibly be found with minimal effort. I believe that there’s been no concerted effort (as does Dan) to make the gathering and linking of data some sort of project, with a plan and targets.

The reason for this? Well, it’s going to take time and effort - and commitment. Too many senior managers seem to think that this is a fad that will go away soon and then they can get on with their ‘real work’, a bit like those who deride social media and don’t recognise that it really is part of the new landscape.

Prepare to be entranced

I think I may have mentioned that I like graphics. You’ll see then why I was so impressed with the animation from Derek Watkins (derekwatkins.wordpress.com/) representing the spread of US Post offices (and by extension, civilisation) from 1700 to 1900. The fun is in analysing why certain patterns emerge when they do.

Think (and think again) before you write

Despite all sorts of warnings, people still don’t understand that you can be held accountable for what you write on social media. A judgment by Fair Work Australia at tinyurl.com/3mtwlzw has reinforced the fact that what goes online can’t be regarded as private (even if you think that you’ve done all you can with privacy settings) and on the same day there was a report about a tram driver who felt that he was similarly immune from what he does “in private”. Stories like this are well worth noting if you’re putting together a social media policy for your organisation. And speaking of such a policy, I was very impressed by the Victorian Department of Justice video (www.youtube.com/watch?v=8lQLkts5CG8I) that summarises what you should and shouldn’t do in using social media as an employee. I think the edgy style and music works extremely well in this case.
The National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER) has launched VOCEDplus - a free international tertiary education research database with expanded features for research in the field. In the first 15 weeks of operation, the new database has had 81,977 visitors to from 181 countries.

VOCEDplus was launched at a cocktail reception at the University of Canberra, attended by many long-time supporters of its predecessor VOCED, first created in 1989 to provide access to English language bibliographic records of Australian and international research related to vocational education and training (VET).

VOCEDplus focuses on research and statistics examining the links between education, work and social engagement. Content in the VOCEDplus database has now expanded to include all post-compulsory education, including university, adult and community education, prisoner education, lifelong learning, workplace and work-based learning. The new website features include a digital repository, making more full-text documents available online. It is now possible to search both bibliographic records and within full-text documents in the repository, and to use the facets feature to refine search results.

VOCEDplus offers social networking applications to share search results. It also has the ability to set up customised RSS feeds from searches and QR codes to capture content on mobile devices. A webinar demonstrating how to use VOCEDplus was also held and is available to view on the VOCEDplus homepage.

The National Centre for Vocational Education Research says the project has taken two years from concept to delivery and it’s been well worth the effort. VOCEDplus is supported by funding assistance from the Australian Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) and is endorsed by UNESCO.

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This is just a taste of the ALIA events on offer. For a comprehensive and up to date list, check the website at www.alia.org.au/events/.

Want to list your event on the ALIA website? Group members and office bearers – don’t forget to upload your event at www.alia.org.au/events/add.

Not an ALIA event? Your LIS event may also be eligible to be added to our non-ALIA events. Contact: events@alia.org.au for more information.
US TEST RESULTS FOR RDA

Resource Description and Access (RDA) is the new descriptive cataloguing standard set to replace the Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules (AACR2). From June to December 2010 a group of libraries in the United States, including the Library of Congress, the National Library of Medicine, the National Agricultural Library and over 20 partners from the broader American library community tested both RDA and the online Toolkit.

This test aimed to test the operational, technical and economic feasibility of RDA, and generated much interest in the US and around the world. Over 10,000 bibliographic records and over 12,000 authority records were created using RDA. The Test Coordinating Committee also surveyed libraries and users about their views on the implementation and received over 8,000 responses.


The key recommendation was that the US national libraries should implement RDA no sooner than January 2013, subject to the satisfactory progress or completion of tasks and actions arising from the findings of RDA Test. The key tasks include rewording the instructions, defining the process for future updates and improving the functionality of the RDA Toolkit. A copy editor will be engaged as soon as possible to work on rewording the instructions, with the aim of having 5 chapters completed and accepted no later than June 2012.

AND THE WINNER SAYS...

As INCITE went to press, we heard about Cathryn Harris, Mt Gambier Library Manager, winning the Nokia Business Innovation Award in the Telstra Business Women’s Awards (see pic on contents page in this issue). Here’s what Cathryn had to say on hearing the news.

“I am overwhelmed by the win considering the calibre of business women in the competition. This is a win not just for me personally but for librarians who dare to be different and take the necessary risks to secure the gains which can be made. Libraries are at the cusp of becoming the next third place in our communities we just need to be brave enough to accept the challenge. Libraries are a business and we must treat them accordingly – our product may be free, but we still need to produce the results in order to gain the funding to continue. Until now, I had never considered myself a business woman – I am just a librarian doing her job. Having to reflect on my achievements has really made me aware of what I have achieved over the last six years. Speed dating, fashion parades, Sunday farmers markets, author talks, native animals in the library – all this and more makes our library special. As do the people who work in it – I could not have achieved so much without the support of my family, Council and my wonderful staff.”

The Coordinating Committee also recommended that substantial progress be made towards a replacement for the MARC (machine readable cataloguing) encoding standard to take full advantage of bibliographic relationships recorded using RDA rules. The three US national libraries accepted all the recommendations of the Coordinating Committee. They acknowledged that although there were some anxieties about changing over to RDA, especially in the current economic climate, any further delays will only impact on the relevance of library metadata to the wider information community.

The national libraries of Britain, Canada and Australia discussed their responses to the US decision at the meeting of the Committee of Principals (CoP) in August. All three libraries, along with the Library of Congress, confirmed their agreement of October 2007 to co-ordinate implementation, not sooner than early 2013. A formal announcement on implementation in Australia will be made on the Australian Committee of Cataloguing (ACOC) website soon, but it is likely that we will implement in the first quarter of 2013. In the next 18 months the NLA and the Australian Committee of Cataloguing ACOC will continue to keep the cataloguing community in Australia informed on the progress of implementation and training options via the “RDA-Aust” email discussion list, the ACOC website (www.nla.gov.au/lis/standards/grps/acoc/rda.html) and journal articles.

Specific queries about RDA implementation in Australia can be directed to the RDA Implementation Project team at nlarda@nla.gov.au.

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Re-conceptualising and Re-positioning Australian Library and Information Science Education for the 21st Century is a research project funded by the Australian Learning and Teaching Council. Led by Professor Helen Partridge from Queensland University of Technology, the project has been undertaken with a team of 12 university and vocational library and information science educators from 11 institutions around Australia between November 2009 and December 2010. The final report is now completed.

Collectively, these 11 institutions represented the broad spectrum and diversity of library and information science education in Australia, and enabled the project to examine education for the information profession in a holistic and synergistic manner. The purpose of the project has been 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 mediated in a cohesive and sustainable manner.

The project’s primary objective was to develop a Framework for the Education of the Information Professions in Australia. The intent of this framework is to present a series of recommendations to progress the national approach to library and information science education, and to guide Australia’s future education for the information professions.

The final report for the project is now complete and is currently awaiting endorsement for publication by the Australian Learning and Teaching Council. This report presents the key findings and observations from the project along with the Framework for the Education of the Information Professions in Australia. It is anticipated that the report will be published by the end of 2011 and made available for download from the project website at www.liseducation.org.au.

In the meantime, dissemination activities to communicate other facets of the project’s findings will continue. Recent examples of this include two presentations delivered during September in Perth at the ALIA National Library and Information Technicians Conference and the 5th New Librarians Symposium. Two further discussion papers are also planned for release in the coming months and will likewise be made available through the project website.

The project team would like to extend our thanks to all members of the library and information science profession who generously gave their time to participate in data collection activities, and to all members of the project reference group for their support and contributions to the project.

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INTERNATIONAL STAR FOR SHARING

CSIRO Library Services and University of Newcastle Library recently qualified as the first Australian libraries to be awarded a Rethinking Resource Sharing Star.

Awarded by the Rethinking Resource Sharing Initiative, the Star acknowledges libraries that demonstrate best practice in improving users’ access to information through resource sharing. The Initiative itself is an international ad hoc group first established in 2005 and endorsed by a wide range of groups, including IFLA. The Resource Sharing Star arose from the work of a group of library professionals, product vendors and library technology specialists and has resulted in a manifesto for putting the user ahead of the system in developing resource sharing protocols (rethinkingresourcesharing.org/manifesto.html).

Libraries can apply for a Star by achieving a sufficient score through an online checklist covering areas such as the simplicity of resource sharing transactions between libraries, ease of identifying materials, straightforward requesting for borrowers, user friendly services, access to materials across formats, and fees. The checklist (rethinkingresourcesharing.org) also provides library staff with an opportunity to review resource sharing policies and processes, ensuring the library is committed to international best practice.

Qualifying libraries will then receive a Rethinking Resource Sharing Star certificate and a letter of recognition which affirms the library’s commitment to rethinking resource sharing.

Sharon Howells
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At noon on May 28th this year, 80 librarians and library lovers from twelve different countries gathered outside The Black Diamond Library in Copenhagen to embark on an ‘unconference’. And we mean “embark” - because they were about to bicycle to Berlin.

The concept of librarians cycling approximately 650 kilometres while discussing library strategies was developed through collaboration between Danish, Finnish and German library professionals. The original idea was to have 100 librarians on the trip; although not all participated in the whole journey, 100 librarians did indeed cycle into the Berlin train station on June 5th.

The event started at the Danish Royal Library courtyard in Copenhagen, and ended at the 100th Deutsche Bibliothekstag in Berlin. About 80 cycling library professionals from all over the world congregated in the courtyard outside The Black Diamond Library to collect their itinerary and bright yellow vests before hopping on our bikes and riding out of Copenhagen through the Danish countryside to our first destination, the Greve Library.

While cycling, the common language for communication between cyclist/librarians was English and various library-related topics and ideas were debated and discussed between Germans, Finns, Russians, Norwegians, Americans, Canadians and one lone Australian (me) as we cycled through the Danish and German countryside. The topics ranged from services for immigrants to libraries as a public space. Most of us were based in public libraries, but there were also representatives from academic and special libraries – and a film crew, who launched a documentary of the event in Helsinki in August.

Along the 650km route Danish and German libraries welcomed the cyclists with water, healthy snacks, toilet facilities (a necessity) and library tours. Each day brought on a new unexpected experience, such as a three course dinner provided by Claus Meyer, co-owner of the world famous Michelin-starred restaurant Noma. After crossing the Baltic Sea from Denmark to Germany we were met by the Mayor of Rostock and various journalists and escorted by police through the Rostock highway tunnel that had been closed to all traffic just for us as cyclists are not normally allowed through tunnels in Germany.

All 80 of us are now ready for the second Cycling for Libraries event, wherever that may be (www.cyclingforlibraries.org will be the place to check for details if you want to join us).

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Our welcome in Rostock
MY HERO IN THE LIBRARY
(NO CAPE REQUIRED)

Two of the criteria against which a Research Higher Degree at CQ University student is judged are that the candidate must demonstrate that they have produced “a body of work that has made a significant original contribution to the knowledge of a subject area” and have demonstrated “knowledge of the research topic and the discipline(s) it embraces”. These goals cannot be reached without a range of support mechanisms including academic supervisors, chocolate, family, friends, the stoic spouse, and perhaps most importantly, library and information professionals.

When I selected my thesis topic, the decision was based on a long-standing love of crime fiction and fond memories of escaping into books such as Dorothy L. Sayers’ Strong Poison (1930) and Agatha Christie’s The Body in the Library (1942). When I embarked on my doctoral studies it soon became very apparent that there are many more heroes than bodies in libraries, both around Australia and around the world.

The librarians from my university library were always on hand to provide advice and training and arrange for the delivery of items on a long list of interlibrary loan requests. Public library staff also assisted me during the early stages of my research when they coerced often recalcitrant microfilm readers and printers into action as I scrolled through hundreds of metres of film. These professionals never said they were too busy to help and they never asked me to leave on those hot days when I wanted to work in a space with air-conditioning and natural light.

I was very fortunate that, two years before I completed my degree, I found myself working at a library. My new colleagues patiently answered my questions, taught me to make the most out of databases, helped me find obscure references to support some of my arguments and proofread passages that I was having difficulty with (they also made some very fabulous wine recommendations when times were tough). More importantly, their enthusiasm for my project never wavered, even when I experienced a loss of confidence.

The librarians at the Manuscripts and Archives Division at the New York Public Library facilitated access to that library’s Edgar Allan Poe Collection. This beautiful suite of letters, photographs, manuscripts and ephemera provided a wonderful insight into the world of one of my favourite writers. The collection also includes a number of personal items, including one of Poe’s calling cards, an ivory Chinese puzzle and a lock of his hair. These unique items were carefully laid out on a table for me while protective mats and small pillows were arranged to support the more fragile objects within the collection.

One librarian went to the main reading room and brought back a variety of critical texts on Poe’s life and work to provide context to some of the items that I was viewing. Another librarian brought in a newspaper for my husband to read (his interest in my research having waned slightly after I tried to show him the hair of a man who has been dead for over 150 years).

Another excursion in search of original materials led me to the British Library. After navigating a maze of paperwork and reading rooms I found myself sitting at a table holding a first edition of Matthias MacDonnell Bodkin’s classic work about Dora Myrl. There were occasions when it was not possible to travel to a library to review a particular text. For example, very few first printings of Harlan P. Halsey’s novel The Lady Detective (1880), published under the pseudonym Old Sleuth, survive today but one of the remaining copies of this story about Kate Goetel resides at the Kent State University Libraries. As I was unable to go to Ohio, one of the Rare Books librarians digitised and sent through to me the pages that I needed for my review of early female protagonists in crime fiction.

These, and the many other library and information professionals with whom I have worked over the last five years, do not fit the stereotype of a traditional superhero. They do not deploy superpowers, wear capes, or wield weapons - they do something much more important. They facilitate access to information.

The many library and information professionals with whom I have worked over the last five years do not fit the stereotype of a traditional superhero. They do not deploy superpowers, wear capes, or wield weapons - they do something much more important. They facilitate access to information.

Rachel Franks
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Rachel Franks recently completed her PhD at CQUniversity, Rockhampton. Her thesis explored representations of class, gender and ethical questions attendant on the act of murder in Australian crime fiction. Rachel is now studying for a Master of Information Studies (Librarianship) at the University of Canberra. Follow her on Twitter (@cfwriter).
For the past two years the Health Libraries Australia group (HLA), supported by a small grant from ALIA, has been engaged in a research project with two main objectives: to determine the future skills requirements for the health library workforce in Australia and to develop a structured, modular education framework (post-graduate qualification and continuing professional development structure) for health librarians to meet these requirements.

The first objective was achieved with the launch of the project report at the New Librarians Symposium in Perth on 18 September 2011. Four of the project team, Cheryl Hamill, Catherine Clark, Carol Newton-Smith and Project Leader Ann Ritchie, were on hand for the launch together with ALIA Executive Director Sue Hutley. The other members of the team, who were unable to be at the launch, include Principal Researcher Gill Hallam, Suzanne Lewis, Patrick O’Connor, Melanie Kammermann.

The report, entitled *Health Librarianship Workforce and Education: Research to Plan the Future*, is the culmination of a rigorous research methodology which included a literature review and environmental scan, online surveys of health librarians and health library managers, and semi-structured interviews with employers.

A number of critical competency areas for health librarians were identified in the research, with the highest priority given to the use of technology and systems, management of health information resources and providing information services to meet users’ needs. The report was presented, and its recommendations endorsed, at the May 2011 meeting of the ALIA Board of Directors.

Recommendations include development of a framework of competency-based standards which will delineate the scope of practice for the health library and information profession, development of a specialist postgraduate certificate and a three-year cycle of professional development activities and establishment of a certification and revalidation program for health library professionals, based on member enrolment in the ALIA Professional Development Scheme. Members of the HLA executive and the Project Reference Group are currently consulting with ALIA national office to facilitate implementation of the recommendations.

Twenty-seven percent of respondents to the survey of health librarians indicated that they would be leaving the health library sector within five years, therefore it is to be hoped that some of the delegates at the New Librarians Symposium are considering a career in health librarianship. However, currently they would find that there is no postgraduate qualification available to prepare them for entry into this specialist field, and no structured, systematic continuing professional development opportunities.

The relevant knowledge and skills required by health librarians are usually acquired informally in the workplace and through *ad hoc* continuing professional development.

The launch of this report marks the first step towards ensuring the future of the profession by laying the foundation for a systematic approach to educating the health librarianship workforce of the future in Australia.

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The ALIA Training service draws on the experience and expertise of leading universities, TAFEs and adult educators to deliver professional development courses focused on meeting the diverse needs and interests of the library and information management industry. In 2010, ALIA commenced a partnership with TAFE NSW, Sydney Institute, to provide a number of Library and Information Studies (LIS) units via ALIA Training. The first three units have now been presented and the teachers at Ultimo TAFE were keen to share the experience, so ALIA’s Kirrin Sampson and TAFE NSW educator Julie Barkman have prepared this report.

The units in this course were drawn from the Diploma or Advanced Diploma courses and were offered via online distance-based learning over six weeks (condensed from the usual 17 week delivery). Each unit provides a useful, stand-alone training opportunity or can be credited towards future formal study. Both ALIA and TAFE NSW staff consider the program to be a success, with teachers reporting they themselves have developed improved skills in online distance-based learning facilitation, contributing to their own professional growth and inspiring them to continue along this pathway.

All content and assessments are delivered online, using the Moodle learning management system. Unit content is organised in topics which are opened progressively throughout the duration of the unit. Resources include professional readings and practical applications, and learning tasks are incorporated to link theory to library experiences. Online forums enable participants to share their library experiences with others and discuss current issues and trends, exposing participants to a range of library and information services issues and the challenges facing those services in different geographic regions across Australia, New Zealand and beyond.

Some participants found peers who were in similar situations to themselves and were therefore able to discuss issues and share ideas specific to their needs. The discussion also helped teachers gain an insight into the ‘big picture’, adding to their working knowledge of the library industry today.

The first unit, Promote Client Access to Literature, covered reader advisory skills, arrangement of literature in libraries and genre specific issues, and the promotion of literature and reading. The forum on genres prompted some interesting comments on ‘chick lit’ and speculation about the existence of a male equivalent: ‘lad lit’? This unit will be offered again at the beginning of 2012 to coincide with the National Year of Reading 2012.

The second unit offered was Manage a Budget and focused on budgeting methods, types of budgets, monitoring budgets and financial reporting, current issues in library funding alternatives such as outsourcing and privatisation of library services, sponsorship, volunteers, networks, and consortia. Once again the online forum discussions provided an avenue for participants and teachers alike to discuss in depth the issues of funding cuts, outsourcing and privatisation making this a truly holistic learning experience for all actively involved.

Web 2.0: Why? What? How? was the third unit and this focused on Web 2.0 applications across a broad range of library services – reference and reader’s advisory, access to collection, training, promotion and marketing, local history, special libraries. The participants were very proactive in forums, often creating their own discussion topics. A fourth unit is currently running and this focuses on collection development and acquisitions for libraries. There are 43 enthusiastic participants completing this unit.

Overall, feedback from students and teachers alike has been very positive, with students enjoying the flexibility of the online learning format and both teachers and participants alike gaining new knowledge and developing their personal networks through the online forums. Information about the 2012 course calendar will be published from next month, check the ALIA website, e-Lists, newsletters and INCITE for more information on TAFE NSW, Sydney Institute and other ALIA Training courses.

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ALIA Training presents courses designed to refresh and update skills and knowledge or to learn something new to broaden your professional scope. Course fees contribute to the education services provided by the Association, including supporting further professional development opportunities, assisting national advocacy campaigns and the development and dissemination of professional education standards.

“Hi all, I’m sitting at my laptop with a coffee when I should be buzzing around preparing for work. I haven’t been onto this forum for a while but have been quite riveted to the recent postings … The sharing and input into this course by all has been a highlight and has added to the overall experience and learning…. It’s great to read that our course teachers are learning as well… This is all proof (if you need it) that we never stop learning and while we as individuals maintain this approach and attitude we will continue to have something to offer anyone and everything involved in our lives.”
ASSOCIATION NEWS

Copyright Q&A

ALIA's Copyright Advisor Helen Roberts, shares the answers to a few frequently asked questions.

No new books

Our borrowers say there are no new books in the library but actually they are out on loan. Is there anything that can be done within copyright about copying book jackets for display during the National Year of Reading? A display of the jackets of new books would be a good way of telling everyone what is available so popular titles can be reserved.

There are a number of ways of highlighting new books for users that will not cause a problem with copyright. While book covers have traditionally been displayed by libraries to show what new books are available, and libraries that do their own cataloguing can still do this, many libraries do not have separate covers to display as their books arrive shelf-ready. The Copyright Act provisions do allow some exceptions:

• Copies of the book covers can be displayed for a limited period for the special purpose of the National Year of Reading under Section 200AB of the Copyright Act. This is called the “flexible dealing exception”. More information on the exception is available at www.digital.org.au/documents/FlexibleDealingHandbookfinal.pdf.

• Online newsletters are another way to provide information about new books and can include images of the covers of new books. This may be done under the fair dealing exception for reporting the news Section 42(1) of the Copyright Act. Some libraries may get images of book covers from suppliers who will allow them to be used this way to publicise new books.

• An online list of new books, including images of covers is another way to highlight new books added to the collection. Many libraries post monthly lists of new items hyperlinked to the catalogue. Users can reserve them online and are notified by email when they can be borrowed.

Out of copyright?

Is the poem ‘In Flanders Fields’ by John MacRae still subject to copyright in Australia? The poem is available online through Project Gutenberg, which is for works in the public domain under US Copyright Laws. However, the poem’s status may be different here.

In a case such as this, you first need to check if the author is alive and, if not, when he died. Copyright now continues in both the United States and Australia for the life of the author plus 70 years under the Australia US Free Trade Agreement. In this case however, John MacRae was a poet writing during the First World War and he died in 1918. So the poem is now out of copyright in both the US and Australia.

How many forms?

If a client makes multiple interlibrary loan requests for articles, does each article request need a form with a signature for copyright?

One signature is sufficient for all the requests from the client. A client could provide a valid signature by, for example, typing their name at the end of an email, typing their name into a web-based form or pasting a scanned signature into an email.

Paper trail

Is it OK if we want to discard the paper and keep an electronic or scanned copy of requests?

It is not necessary to receive or keep signed forms in hard copy and many libraries now keep them in digital form. However, the forms (whether hard copy or digital) need to be filed in chronological order and kept for four years in accordance with Sections 50(7A) and (7B) of the Copyright Act. If your library accepts email or online requests and declarations, you do not have to print these out, but you must store the files and keep them in date rather than name order.

Helen Roberts
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The ALIA copyright advice service provides members with up-to-date information on copyright and how it affects the library and information sector. The service responds to members’ queries about implementing their obligations under copyright and intellectual property law. For more information, visit www.alia.org.au/advocacy/copyright/

GET READY FOR THE AMAZING READ!
WEBSITE LAUNCHES DECEMBER 1

This year, the Summer Reading Club is getting set to take you on The Amazing Read.
You’ll find all the resources you need on the Summer Reading Club website at www.summerreadingclub.org.au, which will be launched on December 1. The site will include FAQs, resources, ideas for interpreting and promoting this year’s theme and much, much more.
Mark the date in your diary and get ready to be part of one of our most popular public library events.
Summer Reading Club 2011 will be coordinated by the State Library of Queensland with support from ALIA Public Libraries Advisory Committee. More details in next month’s issue of INCITE.
Contact: Katie Gibbs at k.summerreadingclub@slq.qld.gov.au
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MEMORIES ARE MADE OF THIS

Do you remember your first ALIA Biennial Conference? Jan Richards, a past President of ALIA and now on the committee for the 2012 ALIA Biennial does.

“Do you remember your first Biennial?" was yesterday's question as I began writing this column. The discussion topic was cause for a good deal of reminiscing about locations and their chronological order, speakers, colleagues, the social program, accommodation, food, weather, shopping, and wardrobe. In fact all the things which taken together make a Biennial – at least in my workplace! I’m sure you'll have some additions or subtractions of your own.

The ALIA Biennial Conference has been held since 1990, although the ALIA Conference, in one form or another has been held since the 1950s and has always been recognised as the flagship conference in our industry’s calendar. They have been held across the breadth of the country. In the ‘only’ stakes we can list Perth as the only city (to date) to host the event twice, and Albury on the NSW/Victorian border as the only regional location. Wellington New Zealand certainly wins the offshore prize from when ALIA teamed with LIANZA to deliver a joint conference there in 1994.

My first Biennial was in Albury in 1992 and I still remember the collegiate atmosphere as people milled about in the large marquee discussing the day, long after the formal proceedings had concluded. After that I became what some may describe as a Biennial groupie, having missed only one (and I can’t for the life of me think how I could have let Wellington pass me by!).

Adelaide (1998) was the first Biennial at which I delivered a paper, Competition or Collaboration, in partnership with my colleagues Robert Knight and Marion Bannister, Canberra (2000) the first at which I was an exhibitor, and Sydney (2002) the first time I contributed as a member of the Organising Committee and the first time I chaired a session.

Why the fixation on my personal Biennial ‘pioneer’ moments? To me they demonstrate the many facets of an ALIA Biennial Conference and the ways in which each of us can contribute. Experience has shown me the benefits of being involved are huge. Not only can you expand your horizons through stimulating presentations, discussions and exhibitions, you will profit from the unlimited networking opportunities and experience of just being there.

The theme for Sydney 2012 is Discovery – I know this as once again I find myself on the Organising Committee! I challenge you to take the theme of this conference to heart and discover how you can contribute to your professional and personal development and to your industry as a participant, as a presenter, as an exhibitor or as a volunteer. Our 2012 theme offers enormous scope and the Organising Committee is developing an exciting program which also pays tribute to those other 2012 milestones, ALIA’s 75th birthday and the National Year of Reading. Elsewhere in this edition of INCITE you’ll find the Call for Abstracts which is your chance to contribute. So mark the dates in your diary Tuesday 10 – Friday 13 July 2012 in the Emerald City.

And if Sydney 2012 will be your first Biennial - trust me, it will be an experience to remember.

Jan Richards
ALIA 2012 Biennial Conference Organising Committee
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“Experience has shown me the benefits of being involved are huge.”

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Pssst! Got a secret?

December INCITE will be featuring our best kept secrets and library treasures. It’s time to share your library’s stories of your very special collections, hidden treasures, precious things and precious people.

Check the guidelines for contributions at http://www.alia.org.au/publishing/incite/guidelines.html and email your stories and images to incite@alia.org.au.

Please note all images must be high resolution (at least 100Kb) and sent separately as jpg files. Images may be reproduced in print and online.

Deadline for stories is November 1, 2011.
Call for Abstracts Now Open!

Abstracts can now be submitted on-line at conferences.alia.org.au/alia2012/
Abstract Submission Deadline – 30 November 2011

The ALIA Biennial Conference Organising Committee invites abstract submissions relating to the themes outlined below. Abstracts on other topics which are deemed to be of interest to the library and information science sectors are also welcome. Content streams will be based on the following subject areas:

- **Digital Assets and Rights Management** – Is it all gloom and doom? What are you doing and/or thinking about in discovering and managing resources?
- **Interesting things** - Tell us about all things Bold, New and Different. What excites you right now? What do you think everyone should know about?
- **Spaces** – Physical space, virtual space, mind space, outer space. What is your vision for libraries?
- **Connecting clients with content** – How are your collection and services discovered? What tools do you use? What tools would you like to use?
- **Opportunities** – Discover the similarities and differences in our libraries. What interesting projects are occurring in health, law, TAFE, special, public, arts, school and academic libraries that can be shared by like-minded and not-so like-minded colleagues?
- **Valuing our services** – Tell us your story about how your library proves worth. How do you know you are doing a good job?
- **Emerging Technologies** – e-books, social networking, augmented reality. Is your library content discoverable wherever your clients are? How do these tools facilitate changes in your services?
- **Redesigning, Rediscovering, Rethinking, Rebooting** – How does the changing nature of client behaviour influence the way we deliver our services? What sort of staff do libraries need?
- **Year of Reading** - In the *National Year of Reading* 2012, what authors have inspired you, changed your life or simply been a great pleasure? [And get ready to participate in the Conference’s Twitter Reading Group!]

Enquiries regarding submission guidelines and further information on abstracts can be directed to the Conference Secretariat:

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