Library and Information Week activity ideas

**Monday:** Information and Research Day, the announcement of Australia’s Favourite Library and the launch of Library and Information Week.

It’s time to ‘Join the Dots’! Start the week out with a fun competition encouraging your users to ‘Join the Dots’. On the following pages, there are heaps of ideas for LIW activities for different types of library and information services.

On Monday morning, the announcement of Australia’s Favourite Library will be made. Make sure to follow ALIA’s Facebook and Twitter account to find out all of the latest information.

**Information and Research Day**

- ‘Join the Dots’ professionally by having a professional development day for your staff or clients on the latest information and/or research trends affecting your workplace. Consider bringing in local experts to spark discussion.
- Help your users ‘Join the Dots’ about all of the services your organisation provides by creating a display showing off the research being conducted at your library, at your service or with your collection.
- Invite colleagues from other library and information services in your area to discuss digital agility in the library and information space.
- Work with your local radio or paper to talk about the research or information services at your library or information service. Here is a great example of a Health Librarian talking about the services her library provides.
- Encourage your staff to take an hour to update information in their Linkedin profile and ‘Join the Dots’ by ‘linking in’ with at least one professional peer.
- Present awards to your staff for the excellent service they have provided over the last year.
- Help to ‘Join the Dots’ for your future colleagues—consider becoming a mentor for a student or new graduate.

**Tuesday:** National Library Technicians’ Day

- This day provides the opportunity for library technicians to promote ALIA, the profession, and their role in libraries.
- This day can also provide a platform to celebrate the important work performed by Library Technicians.

**Wednesday:** National Simultaneous Storytime

- Head over to the National Simultaneous Storytime webpage for ideas and resources.
Thursday: Cancer Council’s Biggest Morning Tea

- Celebrate LIW and ‘Join the Dots’ by supporting a worthwhile cause at the same time. Register to host a morning tea on the [Cancer Council’s Biggest Morning Tea website](#).
- Encourage connections in your workplace over coffee during the morning tea you host. Ask questions like ‘what’s the strangest thing you have been asked?’ or ‘what is the craziest thing that has happened at your workplace?’.
- Think of ways to use the ‘Join the Dots’ theme at your morning tea. You could ask everyone to wear polka dotted clothing or you could have a [geocaching](#) ‘Join the Dots’ treasure hunt.

Friday: Together we are stronger: ALIA day

- More information will be available soon

Ideas for your communication channels

- ‘Join the Dots’ in your professional and personal communication by using the free Library and Information Week [downloads](#). You can add a banner to your library or information services’ facebook page, an avatar to your Twitter handle, an image to your email signature or a banner to your workplace website.
- We also have a free poster, letterhead and flyer for you to use to spread the word about Library and Information Week.
- Use social media to get your users involved. Ask your clients to tell you how your service ‘Joins the Dots’ for them and with who (or what) it has helped them connect.
- Help ALIA ‘Join the Dots’ and find out what is happening around Australia by letting us know about your Library and Information Week event. You can email us at [events@alia.org.au](mailto:events@alia.org.au) or use #LIW14. We’d love to showcase your activities to your fellow ALIA members!
- Create a ‘snapshot’ of your day. Make a video or a series of photos that you can put up on your blog or website to share what ‘a day in the life of your library’ looks like.
- Set up an advocacy evening with the local community, community leaders and local politicians to highlight your library and information service.

Ideas for all types of library and information services

- Set up tours of your library to show off all the services your library or information service provides. You could give an old fashioned tour, or create a YouTube video that explains the different services.
- If your organisation has a staff intranet or staff newsletter, write a feature article about your service. ‘Join the Dots’ between your library’s services and your organisation’s strategic goals.
- ‘Join the Dots’ with other libraries and information services in your area. Team up to hold a special event, professional development workshop or morning tea. It is a great opportunity to network, make new connections and share resources.
• Set up a scavenger hunt using dots or QR codes placed around your workplace or set up a virtual scavenger hunt by adding the dots to your website. This is a great way to familiarise your users with your services.
• For Library Lovers’ Day, Rockhampton Hospital Library put on a morning tea for all of the campus staff at the hospital. They had many attendees, including many who don’t normally come to the library service. Delicious food is a great way to get your colleagues in the door and learning about what you can do for them.
• Use this week as an advocacy platform to discuss the value of your services to others in your organisation.
• ‘Join the Dots’ by having a library trivia competition with your coworkers.

**Ideas for public and school libraries**

• Use the ‘Join the Dots’ theme to encourage networking and connections in your community.
• Host a family book event with a ‘Join the Dots’ theme.
• Run a family genealogy workshop to help users discover how to use your resources to ‘Join the Dots’ with their own family history.
• Invite guest speakers from the local community. They could be local leaders sharing their success stories, volunteers sharing their inspirational stories, Australians sharing their multicultural stories, business people sharing their careers advice or authors sharing their information about their craft. Ask your guest speakers how libraries have played a part in their life.
• Invite local authors to visit your library for readings and book signings.
• Use a morning tea as a platform to solve a problem at your library. For Library Lovers’ Day, the staff at Mareeba Library encouraged users to submit requests for purchase after a deamalgamation from another library service left their collection with large gaps.
• Start a community storybook by asking your users, community and colleagues to share why their library is important to them. Collect their stories in a physical book or an online blog.
• Create a ‘Join the Dots’ mural. On a large piece of butcher’s paper, ask your users to draw, write or add photos around the theme. It could be an image of a book or a reflection on how the library ‘Joins the Dots’ for them. Make it as serious or as fun as you like.
• Create ‘Join the Dots’ printouts for children to complete. You can theme them around favourite children’s books. You can use our *Too Many Elephants in this House* printout to get started.
• Dress up! Ask your users to dress up for the day in a costume as their favourite character or with a ‘dots’ theme.
• ‘Join the Dots’ to solve a murder mystery! Hold a [murder mystery](#) morning tea, lunch, afternoon tea or dinner.
• Hold a dotty board game afternoon. Play a good old-fashioned game of *Connect Four*, *Twister*, *dominos* or *draughts*. Or hold a retro electronic game night with dotty games like *Pacman* and *Pong*!
• Hold a dot-to-dot drawing morning. Check out these ‘Join the Dots’ printable pages for older children or adults or create your own.

**Publicity Ideas**

Use our media resources page to invite local media or politicians to your workplace to share the story about what you do and value of your service to the community.

Download LIW images and letterhead to create newsletters, media releases, email signatures or screensavers to promote your LIW event.