

## **RELEVANCE 2020: How LIS research can help sustain and develop library and information services across Australia**

**We are seeking expressions of interest for a rapporteur to attend events across Australia, identify themes from the discussions, and produce a report based on their content and also an accompanying online survey.**

### **LIS RESEARCH EVENTS IN SIX CAPITALS – A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN ALIA AND CSU**

#### **1. Background**

ALIA and CSU are partnering to present LIS research events in six capitals during the second half of 2016 (see Appendix).

The aim of these events is to connect academics and researchers from all Australian universities involved in library and information science with employers and practitioners.

The purpose of the events is to align future research projects more closely with the needs of LIS institutions and to connect academics with practitioners to encourage more research in practice projects.

#### **2. Research requirements**

ALIA has a grant of \$5,900, generously provided by CSU, to fund a rapporteur to design and conduct an online survey, and report on discussions from the six events, to determine the current level of engagement between the researchers and practitioners and point to ways forward for the sector's research and engagement ambitions. In addition, there is a modest travel budget available.

#### **3. Research output and audiences**

The research output will be a landscape report which will help:

- Guide researchers towards topics that will have a significant impact on the LIS field
- Inform future discussions between academics/researchers and employers
- Encourage more partnerships between LIS schools and employers; academics and practitioners
- Drive ALIA's research agenda.

#### **4. Scope**

##### ***Area 1: Description of current efficacy of LIS research***

Questions to be explored include:

- How does Australian-produced LIS research currently serve the Australian LIS community – LIS schools, institutions, patrons, academics, researchers, employers, practitioners?

- How do LIS employers see the role of LIS research in supporting their institutions and to what extent have recent LIS research projects met the institutions' needs?
- How do practitioners see their role in LIS research and to what extent do they feel engaged with academics and enabled to propose research in practice projects?
- What do LIS professionals need in order to conduct applied research and implement evidence based practice?

## **Area 2: Identification of opportunities for improvement**

- What improvements could be made to further align LIS research with the needs of the sector? This could include consideration of topics, methodology, access and discoverability.
- How could relationships between academics, researchers, employers/sector leaders and practitioners be strengthened to support more collaboration between organisations, library and information sectors, and academics and LIS professionals around research in future?

## **5. Methodology**

It is proposed that the report will be based on the discussions at, and feedback from, the events, together with an online survey of researchers, practitioners and employers.

It is unlikely that the researcher will be able to attend all six events, but it is anticipated that they would attend a majority of them and arrange a way of capturing themes from other events.

There may be other elements for the report that the successful candidate can suggest, for example comparing needs expressed by employers with the LIS research described in the [ALIA LIS Research Environmental Scan Report 2014](#) to assess the current level of alignment.

## **6. Process of appointment**

Expressions of interest are sought in the first instance from individuals or teams – academics, LIS professionals or other interested parties. These will be assessed by the ALIA Research Advisory Committee and the shortlisted candidates may be asked to attend a telephone interview with a panel comprising members of the committee. The successful candidate will be appointed at the end of this process.

Applicants must be Personal Members of ALIA. In the case of a team approach, all applicants must be either Personal Members of ALIA or the nominated representatives of Institutional Members.

## **7. Expressions of interest**

We require an expression of interest which includes your CV(s); a brief description of relevant experience; your initial response/thoughts on this research project (in the form of a letter); your availability and two referees who could be contacted in the event that you are shortlisted for the role.

Expressions of interest should be no more than six A4 pages, with font size no smaller than 10pt. They are to be received by 5pm (AEST) on Friday 19 August, 2016, and are to be addressed to Sue McKerracher, CEO, ALIA, [sue.mckerracher@alia.org.au](mailto:sue.mckerracher@alia.org.au).

## **8. Criteria for assessment**

Applications will be assessed on the following criteria:

- Clarity of understanding of the brief
- Response to the project – proposed methodology, gathering and analysis of data, preparation of final report
- Capacity to attend all or most of the events
- Relevant knowledge and experience
- Good writing style, accuracy and attention to detail
- Project management capability and ability to meet key dates.

## **9. Contract and payment**

The contract will be with ALIA and a sample agreement is provided (Appendix 2). Staged payments of the \$5,900 will be agreed with the successful candidate. This sum will be required to cover time and costs.

## **10. Reporting**

The successful applicant will report on at least a monthly basis to the chairs of the ALIA Research Advisory Committee in terms of the research project.

Responsibility for any issues relating to the contract will be with the ALIA CEO.

## **11. Important dates**

Call for expressions of interest	1 August 2016
Closing date for expressions of interest	19 August 2016 (5pm AEST)
Successful candidate advised by	31 August 2016
Research events	19 September – 30 November 2016
Draft report submitted	3 February 2017
Final report submitted	28 February 2017

## **12. Contact**

For any questions about this brief, please contact:

Sue McKerracher, CEO, ALIA  
E [sue.mckerracher@alia.org.au](mailto:sue.mckerracher@alia.org.au) T 0404 456749

## APPENDIX 1 EVENTS

### Proposed schedule and format of events

Locations	Possible dates	Special focus
Brisbane	Week beginning 19 September	Special libraries
Canberra	Week beginning 3 October	All
Melbourne	10 October	Public and school
Perth	Week beginning 24 October	All
Adelaide	Week beginning 7 November	All
Sydney	23 November?	Academic and TAFE

### Format

10am - 1pm Researchers meet senior library leaders

- Researchers explain what they have to offer
- Senior library leaders say what their research needs are
- There is an agreement about how we go forward to keep up the momentum established on the day and to improve communications in the longer term

1pm Lunch break (light lunch provided)

2pm - 4pm Researchers meet practitioners

- An 'open house' style afternoon, where people working across the sector with an interest in evaluation of programs and other studies with practical applications, can meet academics and researchers - a kind of matchmaking event.

## APPENDIX 2 SAMPLE CONTRACT

### AGREEMENT COVERING CONTRACT FOR SERVICES

#### RECITALS

The two parties to this agreement are **Australian Library and Information Association Ltd** (ALIA) ABN 40 090 953 236 and [insert name].

The agreement is for [insert name] to [insert activity].

#### 1. Responsibilities of [insert name]

[Name] is responsible for [activities]. [Name] will report to [Manager].

Responsibilities include (but may not be limited to):

- [Activities].

#### 2. Term of the agreement

The term of this agreement shall be from [date] to [date]. Thirty (30) days notice is required by either party to terminate the agreement at any stage.

#### 3. Terms of engagement

[Name] will be engaged as an independent contractor providing the services referred to in item 1 above, on the following terms:

- The rate of payment will be [sum].
- [Name] will submit to ALIA a taxation invoice for [sum] plus GST (if appropriate), [insert when and frequency].
- As a contractor to ALIA, [name] will not accrue leave entitlements or receive superannuation contributions nor be covered by ALIA worker's compensation arrangements.
- [Name] agrees to be bound by the *ALIA Code of Conduct for Staff and Contractors*, a copy of which has been provided.

#### 4. Confidentiality

Information confidential to any of the parties will not be disclosed to any other person or entity without prior written permission and confidential information will not be used by any of the parties other than as necessary for the purposes of this Agreement. [Name] is also bound by the ALIA privacy policy available on the website.

#### 5. IP and copyright

Intellectual property created in relation to this contract will be the property of ALIA.

## 6. Variation and termination

This agreement may only be varied by written agreement of all of the parties. A period of five (5) business days' written notice must be given of termination of the agreement as a result of breach of one or more terms of the agreement.

ALIA may terminate this agreement at any time by giving thirty (30) days written notice.

### Signed on behalf of the parties:

Sue McKerracher  
CEO for  
The Australian Library and Information Association      Date:

[Name] for  
[Organisation]      Date: