



ALIA Board of Directors meeting

Take home messages

Monday 10 December 2018

ALIA House, Canberra

Present

Lyndall Ley (President and Chair)
Robert Knight (Vice-President)
Jonathon Guppy

Helen Ebsworth
Anne Reddacliff
Monika Szunejko

Meeting summary

The final meeting of the ALIA Board of Directors for 2018 provided an opportunity for the Board to discuss a broad range of issues including:

1. GLAM Memorandum of Collaboration

The Board was pleased to confirm a Memorandum of Collaboration with other peak Galleries, Libraries, Archives and Museums (GLAM) sector organisations. The agreement provides a cooperative framework for all parties to work in partnership towards the goal of improved public access to Australia's collections.


2. TIK Campaign

An update on the Truth, Integrity, Knowledge (TIK) campaign that will run throughout 2019 was provided to the Board. The campaign will focus on why librarianship is one of the most trusted professions in Australia and how people working in libraries promote the free flow of information and ideas. It will remind people that they can rely on libraries for quality information.

As part of the campaign, ALIA Board members will contribute to a TIK blog on the FAIR website to highlight the ideals that are so important to library and information professionals.

3. Research Grant Award

The Board confirmed the award of the 2018 ALIA Research Grant Award to Dr Nicole Johnston, Lecturer Information Science, Edith Cowan University. The grant will enable a study titled 'Living in the world of fake news: High school students' evaluation of information from social media sites.' The project will determine Australian students' ability to tell the difference between real and fake news on social media websites. The insights will provide evidence to education



departments and schools about the digital literacy skills of students, which will help develop services and resources to improve those skills.

4. Advisory Committees

The Board confirmed the appointment of Fiona Whalley to the ALIA VET Libraries Advisory Committee.

5. Policies and Guidelines

The review of ALIA policies and guidelines continues, with the assistance of several ALIA Advisory Committees and Working Groups. The Board approved:

- Minor amendments to the ALIA Statement on library and information services staff appointments.
- Minor amendments to the ALIA Statement on non-standard employment.
- Amendments to the ALIA Statement on library and information services for people with a disability. An expert panel provided guidance for the review of this policy that has been redrafted using more inclusive and active language.
- New Elending privacy guidelines have been developed by the ALIA Book Industry and Elending Advisory Committee.

The new and revised policies are available on the ALIA Website, along with all other current policies, standards and guidelines.

6. ALIA Member and non-member survey

The Board reviewed preliminary results from the recent survey with responses received from 1500 ALIA Members and non-members. Detailed analysis of the results in the coming weeks will inform future ALIA programs and operations.

7. Conferences, Forums and Symposiums

The progress of planning for upcoming events was noted by the Board including the:

- ALIA Information Online Conference to be held in Sydney from 11-15 February 2019.
- Australian Libraries Design Awards and Conference to be held at the State Library of Queensland on 14 March 2019. ALIA Members have the opportunity to help select the winner of the Member's Choice Award.

8. Reports noted

The Board noted a report produced by the ALIA SA Specials Group, '*Government special libraries in SA: will they survive?*' and thanked the group for its work. A number of recommendations contained in the report have already been implemented.



9. ILL Report

A significant report produced by the ALIA Interlibrary Lending Advisory Committee titled '[Snapshot of the Australian Interlibrary Loan Environment 2018](#)' was reviewed by the Board. The report conveys the results of a survey conducted in March/April 2018 with the aim of providing an understanding of the current interlibrary lending and document delivery processes and practice in Australia with a view to informing future directions. The report contains several recommendations, and the Board looks forward to receiving progress reports from the Advisory Committee.

10. Board election

The Board was advised that the nomination period for the [2019 Board election](#) had commenced and would conclude on Friday 11 January 2019.

11. Constitution Review

The Board considered potential amendments to the ALIA Constitution, in particular the length of the term of office of the ALIA President. There was a consensus among Board members that a one-year Presidential term is too short to enable the President to have a significant impact on the direction of the Association and to complete major projects including those undertaken as part of the Presidential theme. Board members are of the opinion that a two-year Presidential term would be more suitable.

There was concern that combining a two-year Presidential term with a two-year term as Vice-President, four years in total, would reduce the pool of potential Presidential candidates. Four years would be seen by many individuals and their employers as onerous given the level of demands on the President's time.

Board members discussed the impact on the Vice-President role if the Presidential term were to be changed to a two-year term. A solution was suggested whereby the President would be elected by ALIA Members to commence on the Board as President for a period of two years. The Vice-President role would be filled by the election of a Vice-President by the Board of a current Board member at the commencement of each new Board following the Annual General Meeting.

The Board will provide information about this proposal to ALIA Members and undertake consultation early in 2019, with the view to putting a special resolution to the 2019 ALIA Annual General Meeting proposing an amendment to the ALIA Constitution.

12. Financial Sustainability

The Board considered the financial report for October 2018, noting that the results were positive, and it is anticipated that the end of year outcome will be a deficit in the range of the budgeted amount.



The operating budget and capital expenditure budget forecast for 2019 were reviewed and approved by the Board. The capital budget allows for ongoing repairs to ALIA House and IT infrastructure while 2019 brings the operational budget back into surplus.

13. ALIA House maintenance

An update on the progress of repairs to the lift and bathrooms at ALIA House was provided to the Board.

14. ALIA House tenancy

The Board viewed the refurbished ground floor offices and looked forward to welcoming the Indigenous Allied Health Association as new tenants for 2019, joining Mental Health Australia and Museums Galleries Australia.