why I love my library

Jennifer Byrne, Charlie Pickering, Claudia Chan Shaw and you – why we all love libraries

incite talks to NLA chief
Anne-Marie Schwirtlich

National Year of Reading – 2012
unveils their patron
is the news magazine of the Australian Library and Information Association. It presents perspectives on issues relating to library and information science.

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Brand new brilliance
The Footscray Park Learning Commons
of Victoria University opened in January 2011
“Public libraries are more relevant and heavily used today than ever before, and public libraries are one of the better uses of the taxpayers’ dollars.” - CHICAGO PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMISSIONER MARY A DENPSEY
The Asia Pacific region has become the dominant producer of research papers in chemistry, contributing 43% of papers published in the internationally influential journals indexed by Thomson Reuters. Australia has recorded a score of 12.44 citations per paper, ranking second overall indexed by Thomson Reuters. A high concentration of major publishers and book distributors is essential.

The continued support of, and engagement with, ALIA of library technicians, librarians, library educators, and institutions is essential.

I not only love my job and my library but I’ve also loved being ALIA President. It’s been interesting, challenging, demanding, it’s stretched my boundaries, and it’s been rewarding. History will tell whether the Board of 2010/11 did a good job...

I started my first Frontline column as follows, “One of the most daunting things for me when I found out that I was to become Vice President/President elect of ALIA was the realisation that I’d have to write Frontline almost every month for a year.” Well, I guess I’m now past being daunted, having penned my final column. I’ve had a great (sometimes very interesting) time with a great bunch of people – members, National Office staff, and my Board colleagues.

So to all the members I’ve had the privilege to meet, National Office staff I’ve interacted and worked with, and my fellow Board members, thank you for your assistance, hard work, perseverance, and support. On the Board we bid adieu to Gillian Hallam and Kate Sinclair, we say bonjour to Vanessa Little, Kathryn Cass and Joseph Cullen, and we welcome Margaret Allen as President.

Being President can take you from your work and home quite a bit at times, so thanks to my colleagues at CQUniversity Library who at times must have wondered whether they really had a Director (at least the jokes about my never being on campus should subside a bit). Finally, a very special thanks to my lovely wife for putting up with our dog’s company while I’ve been travelling or working on ALIA business. Minty is a nice dog but not a terribly good conversationalist.

In signing off for one last time I’ll use the words of Edward R. Murrow, “Good night and good luck”.

Graham Black
ALIA President
graham.black@alia.org.au

Lightning Source comes to Melbourne
Melbourne has been announced as the location for Ingham’s forthcoming Lightning Source print-on-demand book manufacturing operation in Australia. The Lightning Source operation in Australia will be Ingram Content Group’s fifth networked book manufacturing facility. The location was selected for its proximity to a large concentration of major publishers and book distributors and to key metropolitan regions in the country.

Aussie citation impact
The Asia Pacific region has become the dominant producer of research papers in chemistry, contributing 43% of papers published in the internationally influential journals indexed by Thomson Reuters. Australia has recorded a score of 12.44 citations per paper, ranking second overall and ahead of countries such as Japan, New Zealand, South Korea, India and China, and is placed 16th globally in terms of citation impact.

Copyright licensing: from national to global?
Francis Gurry, Director General of the World Intellectual Property Organization says we should go global.

OA world snapshot underway
UNESCO, with the support of Colombia, Norway and the United States of America, is developing a portal on Open Access (OA) to present a high-level snapshot of the state of OA around the world. Entitled Global Open Access Portal (GOAP), the tool is supposed to be the first destination for users seeking information on OA. UNESCO is soliciting the interest of individual experts and institutions working on Open Access to serve as short-term consultants to provide content from the five regions: Africa, Arab States, Asia and the Pacific, Europe and North America, and Latin America and the Caribbean.

**MERRY MAY**

The merry month of May will have libraries on the run from event to event as we celebrate information awareness, cyber safety, thousands of children reading simultaneously and more.

May is always a big month for ALIA, and this one will be no exception. It starts with MayDay, it’s Information Awareness Month, we hold our Annual General Meeting, the ALIA Roundtable, ALIA’s Annual Higher Educators’ Meeting, new Board inductions and transferring to new board members, Library and Information Week, National Simultaneous Storytime, National Library Technicians Day, and the Biggest Morning Tea. There’s so much happening, all of our members will be involved in these at some stage – I hope you take time to enjoy being a part of it.

Volunteers play such an important role in our organisation – they are the lifeblood that flows and keeps us alive and thriving. May is also a month to say a big Thank You to our dedicated volunteer members who contribute their time, expertise, organising abilities and encouragement as we partake of celebrations for National Volunteers Week.

In celebrating our achievements this month we can chalk up another significant moment in the launch of Beyond a Quality Service, Strengthening the Social Fabric: National Standards and Guidelines for Public Libraries. Incoming President Margaret Allen and I were proud to launch the Standards and Guidelines alongside our public library association colleagues in Perth at the Public Libraries Western Australia conference. Along with important reports due out in May such as Dollars and Sense: Value of Public Libraries in Victoria, these resources give us even more tools to demonstrate our value and argue for funding and resources for this sector.

**May is also budget month and ALIA will again be analysing the Federal Budget when it is released, with a summary for members being made available on the ALIA website.**

As I write this, we are preparing for the 2011 Annual General Meeting.

That means it is also time for me to personally offer my thanks to our outgoing Board Members who are finishing their terms at the AGM on 17th May, and to welcome Vanessa Little, Joseph Cullen and Kathryn Cass as they start the ALIA Board journey. My thanks to them and all who support ALIA with your precious time and expertise.

**Sue Hutley**

ALIA Executive Director

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**Donate to Kay Poustie travel grant online**

At the conferring of the Library Board of WA Fellows Kay Poustie in late 2010 the establishment of a travel grant in Kay’s honour was announced in recognition of Kay’s commitment to, and belief in, the vital role of the international perspective for our profession. The travel grant is being funded by donations to establish an inaugural award for 2012. You can donate online to support the profession by visiting www.statelibraryfoundation.org Just roll your mouse over the map of WA, click on Donation and in the fund allocation line In Memoriam write Kay’s name. You will be sent a tax deductable receipt. Further details can be obtained from Ms Bronwyn Lewis - Executive Director, State Library of Western Australia Foundation bronwyn.lewis@slwa.wa.gov.au.

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**Reward yourself!**

Completed your ALIA PD scheme triennium and earned the minimum 120 PD points? Apply for your Certified Practitioner Certificate. It’s FREE!


**Check your membership category**

Recently qualified and now eligible to be an Associate or Library Technician member? Complete an Upgrade form so you can join the ALIA PD Scheme and get started on the pathway to Certification and the (CP) post nominal.


**Standards and Guidelines for Australian Public Libraries launched**

ALIA’s President-elect Margaret Allen and Executive Director Sue Hutley launched the new national standards for Australian public libraries last month

www.alia.org.au/publiclibraries

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**YOUR ALIA SNAPSHOT**

Margaret Allen (ALIA Vice-president), Sue Hutley (ALIA Executive Director) and Julie Caddy (President, Public Libraries Western Australia) launching the National Standards and Guidelines for Public Libraries in Perth.
Your future as a library leader starts here

AURORA INSTITUTE FOR EMERGING LEADERS

Applications are now invited for the Aurora Institute for Emerging Leaders 2011.

With fresh content, state-of-the-art approach, mentors, engaging and stimulating presenters and a wonderful venue, the program provides the opportunity for you to:

• Engage with experts
• Build your knowledge
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• Extend your networks
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• Capitalise on career opportunities

Institute details, application forms and eligibility requirements are available at

www.aurorafoundation.org.au

AURORA INSTITUTE FOR EMERGING LEADERS 2011

Monday, 25 July 2011 to Friday, 29 July 2011.

Applications now open

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Passionate and proud about your LIS career? Use the ALIA PD Scheme as your pathway to professional perfection

The ALIA PD scheme is growing in uptake with an average of one additional ALIA member applying to join the PD scheme each working day. More and more ALIA Associate and Library Technician members are using the ALIA PD scheme as a framework for their professional development. The trend is noticeable. Start earning your right to use the CP post nominal, secure certified practitioner status and be amongst the dedicated professionals who are reaping the rewards of their demonstrated commitment.

ALIA launches new personalised PD and career advisory service

Library and Information Week 2011 will see the launch of a new member-only, personalised Professional Development and Career Advisory Service, assisting members to identify ways to make the most of professional development, upgrade skills, and improve job satisfaction and employment marketability. This service complements ALIA’s website resource Career Connect.

If you need assistance with re-entering the workforce, changing LIS sectors, finding the right training to develop your skills or maintaining your professional currency, the Professional Development and Career Advisory Service can help. No matter what your current employment status or career stage - ALIA is your connection to career support.

How does it work? Email pd@alia.org.au to make a booking.

Competitive spirit pays off with free PD

With strong backing from her manager, Victoria Park Library E-Services Librarian Hoi Ng applied for an ALIA PD competition and won a free registration, valued at over $2000, to attend the Library 2.0: Advancing library and information services using Web 2.0 tools forum in Sydney, organised by The Ark Group Australia and supported by ALIA.

This one-day forum with speakers from different library sectors and the post-forum workshop facilitated by Kate Davis, Associate Lecture at Queensland University of Technology, has not only given me new insights and practical skills related to the current 2.0 tools, it has also enhanced my understanding of planning and implementing 2.0 services in my library and possibly for other departments within my organisation, including being able to contribute effectively and confidently to the development of my organisation’s digital communication strategy. Not to mention all the exciting new web 2.0 plans and training programs which I have in store for my library’s customers.

I am a strong believer in ongoing professional development. It is not only a great way for us to take charge of our career development, but by keeping current about the ever-changing information needs, we can provide better library services to our customers. Look out for future editions of PD Postings and take advantage of what may come your way!

Hoi Ng
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NEW! Web 2.0 Why? What? How?
For your Library: Monitor and Enhance Information Access

Course Date: 16 May – 30 June
Delivery: Online
Open to: Members, Non-members and Partner Associations
Course Presenter: TAFE NSW Sydney Institute
PD Points: 30

Content: Web 2.0 ...even Web 3.0! Does your library make the best use of these technologies? Are you relevant? Are you missing opportunities? Want to learn what's out there and how it could work for you? Join TAFE NSW, ONLINE for this short course to learn more about this crucial aspect of modern information management. Earn a TAFE Statement of Attainment.

NEW! Design and Deliver Information Skills Training Courses

Course Date: 6 June - 22 July
Registrations Close: 23 May
Delivery: Online
Open to: Members, Non-members and Partner Associations
Course Presenter: FOLIOz at the University of Sheffield
PD Points: 30

Content: A core skill required by many librarians is that they master the art of designing and delivering effective face-to-face information skills training. This train-the-trainer course explores the theory of information literacy and provides lots of practical tips for successful planning and delivery of information skills training.

SPECIAL OFFER! Once you've got the basics of information skills training in hand why not explore how to do it online? This course will be followed by another FOLIOz course e-FOLIO: an introduction to e-learning. Beginning in September the course will introduce you to designing and delivering e-learning courses.

Enrol in both FOLIOz courses and receive a 20% discount. (You must register for both courses by 23 May to take advantage of this special offer).

1 HOUR TELECONFERENCES
Engage, discover and contribute.
Professional development at your desk

Disaster Preparedness

Course Date: 19 May 2pm for 1 hour
Registrations Close: 12 May
Delivery: Teleconference
Open to: Preference will be given to ALIA Members
Course Presenter: Sue McKerracher
PD Points: 1

Content: Disaster preparedness within the LIS sector with a focus on the ALIA Guide to Disaster Planning, Response and Recovery for Libraries. FREE for members. Non-members $60 inc GST, Partner Organisations $40 inc GST.

ON DEMAND

Please check the ALIA Training web page for details of a range of on-demand courses that may be arranged for your workplace or area and for the ‘anytime’ course for individuals Writing to Selection Criteria.

For all ALIA Training 2011 course information and to register visit www.alia.org.au/education/pd/pd.services/

There are just too many to fit them all here: check the back cover for the full lowdown...

Flexible training opportunities

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- Certificate II in Library/Information Services
- Certificate III in Library/Information Service
- Certificate IV in Library/Information Services
- Diploma of Library/Information Services

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DO SCHOOL LIBRARIES REALLY MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

Karen Bonanno, Executive Officer of the Australian School Library Association says personnel in the departments that oversee our education system may not be up-to-date with the facts – but school library staff are. And the answer is a resounding yes. Karen tells us how.

During the House of Representatives Inquiry into School Libraries and Teacher Librarians in Australian Schools, the principals and personnel from the State and Federal Departments of Education were asked if they were aware of the research. The definitive answer was, no.

I find this staggering, especially when it is these decision makers who espouse either the ‘Google it’ approach or ‘everything is available online’ so we don’t need school libraries. Obviously they do not practice what they preach, as a simple search – “school libraries make a difference” - results in over 16,000 hits and, with a filter for Australia only, brings this down to approximately 2,500 hits.

The international and national research provides strong evidence that school libraries do make a difference to the educational outcomes of students. Decision makers need to take the initiative to engage in an evidence-based approach to consider the question; do school libraries make a difference?

School libraries make a difference to literacy results

One of the main findings from the 1996 national school English literacy survey was “students in schools where teachers make greater use of the school library with their classes tend to have higher levels of literacy achievement” (Mapping Literacy Achievement: Results of the 1996 National School English Literacy Survey, 1997). School libraries continue to support literacy learning with specific connection to the National Assessment Program for Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) and corresponding teaching and learning activities to develop these skills. School libraries ensure all students have access to a wide range of reading material and encourage students to love reading. Research has shown that school libraries and teacher librarians are related to better reading achievement.

School libraries make a difference to inquiry based learning

An inquiry learning approach is evident in the Foundation to Year 10 Australian Curriculum for English, mathematics, science and history. School libraries provide students with access to a variety of rich information sources and teacher librarians engage students in the inquiry process to develop their knowledge and understanding of the world within which they live. The joint ASLA & ALIA Statement on Guided Inquiry and the Curriculum (2009) addresses the full extent of what it means to learn in a 21st century environment and the crucial need to develop essential skills to not only survive, but thrive. As Kuhlthau and his co-authors write, guided inquiry “is grounded in sound research findings and built on solid professional practice.”

School libraries make a difference to the development of ICT capabilities

School libraries advocate for and practice the integration of information literacy across the curriculum. Even though the Australian Curriculum does not explicitly refer to information literacy, the ‘general capability’ of information and communication technology (ICT) competence (ACARA) endorses the strong positioning of school libraries and teacher librarians as curriculum leaders in this field. The profession has the opportunity to pursue the potential scope for and extension of information literacy in this general capability which embraces digital global citizenship.

School libraries make a difference to information and learning

With over 3,000 new and refurbished school libraries built through the Building the Education Revolution (BER) Primary Schools for the 21st Century, some principals are reconsidering their staffing mix to address their vision of a curriculum and technology leader. The emergence of the iCentre as what has been described by Hay as a “central facility within the school where information, technology, learning and teaching needs are supported by qualified information and learning technology specialists” (Shift happens, ACCESS 2010) provides an opportunity to re-engineer school libraries within the context of 21st century learning. The ‘one-stop-shop’ brings together the facilities, technology, resources, curriculum and human personnel to create what Kuhlthau calls the “third space” (Guided Inquiry; Learning in the 21st Century, 2009).

School libraries make a difference to staff professional learning

During the Inquiry examples of informal professional learning being delivered by the teacher librarian during a teaching session with the students and the teacher in the library were presented. Pre-service teacher training has not included courses related to information literacy or digital media literacy.

School libraries make a difference to student enrolment

To end on a wildcard, I would propose the statement that, under the BER, school libraries are education real estate. In the majority of cases I’m sure the parents are taken to the ‘new’ school library as part of the tour when considering a suitable school for their child.

Karen Bonanno
kbonanno@bigpond.net.au

Making the case – want to know more?

Anne-Marie Schwirtlich is Australia’s eighth Director-General of the National Library. She comes to the position with a broad background in the cultural sector and a passion for the possibilities libraries offer our communities. So what’s on her mind as she settles in at one of Australia’s most cherished libraries?

inCite: After your broad experience in various cultural institutions, what is it that has now drawn you towards wanting to take on this role at the National Library of Australia?

A-MS: For the last eight years it has been stimulating and nurturing to work with colleagues in the State Library of Victoria, in Victorian public and university libraries and at the National and State Libraries Australasia table, on reimagining libraries for the 21st century. The allure of the National Library is the opportunity to play a role in reimagining libraries from a different perspective, to explore what the ‘national’ in our title signifies in the 21st century and to get to know a little about an astounding collection built over decades by clever and determined colleagues and generous donors.

inCite: What challenges do you see as priorities for the National Library right now?

A-MS: Developing the capacity and the capability to acquire, document, preserve and make accessible Australia’s digital documentary record, increasing the opportunity for Australians to have access to the National Library’s, and other, collections and services – particularly on digital platforms, and continuing to demonstrate that the National Library has a significant role to play in the intellectual, social, cultural, educational and economic lives of Australians.

inCite: Do you see the role of the Director-General of the National Library of Australia as a leadership role for the sector and/or the profession in Australia? Why? How will this affect your objectives for the National Library?

A-MS: It has been a matter of great pride to the staff and Council of the National Library that the Library has been innovative and effective in animating the clause in its Act that it ‘co-operate in library matters’. As appropriate, the National Library has led, it has facilitated or it has collaborated with remarkable results like Libraries Australia, PANDORA and Trove (and Trove’s antecedent services such as Pictures Australia, Music Australia and Australian Newspapers). I see this as important work to advance.

inCite: What challenges do you see as critical to the library and information profession in Australia right now?

A-MS: Articulating the compelling role of libraries in the educational and productive lives of Australians and seeing this reflected in the National Cultural Policy, exploring and piloting possible services for the National Broadband Network and continuing to harness and translate the wellspring of support for (and the evidence and statistics about the impact of) libraries into financial support for our collective enterprise.

inCite: And finally, what is it about your library that you love?

A-MS: When we arrived in Australia, the public library in Gordon, Sydney, was the first public library I had encountered. It was magical – teeming with books of all sorts, light and airy, encouraging – and libraries remain wonderful because they continue to offer us unimagined possibilities.

I am particularly looking forward to the opening of the Treasures Gallery in October where many of the National Library’s greatest treasures, including James Cook’s Endeavour Journal, Ellis Rowan’s exquisite images, the papers of Edward Mabo, Patrick White’s notebooks – and indeed his spectacles - and what is believed to be the earliest known printed document in Australia, the 1796 Sydney theatre playbill, will go on permanent display. It will mark an exciting new chapter for the National Library and the culmination of many years of work by National Library staff and our supporters.

“...The allure of the National Library is the opportunity to play a role in reimagining libraries from a different perspective, to explore what the ‘national’ in our title signifies in the twenty-first century...”
National Cyber Security Week is an Australian Government initiative held annually to help Australians better understand cyber security risks and the simple steps they can take to protect themselves and their children online. Stephen Conroy, the Minister for Communication, together with Robert McLelland, the Attorney-General, will jointly launch the Awareness Week on 30 May.

The Awareness Week is held in partnership with industry, the community sector and all levels of government, to promote awareness through online activities and events that are held across the country. Throughout Australia, libraries support the Awareness Week by displaying and distributing promotional material, such as postcards and bookmarks, and by holding local level events to educate their patrons about the practical steps they can take to better protect themselves online.

Libraries have a great capacity to reach their patrons and deliver important messages about keeping themselves, their families and their businesses safe and secure online. These messages include the need to install and regularly update security software and to turn on the updates for all their software, to be careful about opening links and attachments, particularly in emails and social network sites, to take steps to keep their information private, including taking care when posting photos online or giving other personal or financial information online, and to use strong passwords, changing them at least twice a year.

The Australian Government is working towards helping Australians understand that no matter where they are or what they are doing, they need to protect themselves online – whether they are on their home computer or laptop, iPad, smartphone, or even their gaming console. They need to use safe and secure online practices.

There are many tools and information sources advising Australians how to stay safe and secure online, including the Stay Smart Online Top Tips, the Buddie E-security Education Package for primary and secondary schools, the Government’s Cyber Safety Help Button and the free Stay Smart Online Alert Service. All of these tools along with more detailed information can be found on the Stay Smart Online website at www.staysmartonline.gov.au.

Libraries interested in displaying or distributing material can order these from the Awareness Week tab on the Stay Smart Online website (www.staysmartonline.gov.au/awareness_week) and are invited to seek support for local and regional events by contacting the Department of Broadband, Communication and the Digital Economy at awarenessweek@dbcde.gov.au.

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Kingfisher™ offer the most comprehensive and sophisticated solutions for your Information Resource Centre. Recognised as Australia’s most trusted and renowned library systems for over five decades. Discover how Kingfisher will transform your library today.
Just why do we love our libraries?

We (as in library professionals) can be expected to be pretty enthusiastic about libraries in general – after all, it’s where we spend our working days and, if we weren’t happy about that, those days would seem very long indeed.

Our contributors in this issue come from every walk of library life and they are very excited about their libraries and their jobs. Prepare, then, to be enthused all over again in the following pages. You are about to be introduced to fancy new libraries and old favourites and take a peek into your colleagues’ professional passions for their buildings, collections, fellow staff and their patrons.

We’ve also had a word with a few library fans who don’t actually spend their days tending the information needs of their communities, though it sounds like they wouldn’t mind doing what we do.

May these pages inspire us all to set out to make this month of library and information awareness and celebration truly one we all enjoy. Happy LIW to all!

Lee Welch
Acting Editor
incite@alia.org.au

PENRITH LIBRARY IS A GEM

My library, Penrith City Council Library, is an absolute gem! Why do I love it? Because it is a hub of learning, engagement, development and expansion.

I see my library like a giant garden. There are all sorts of different plants in here, but they’re all thriving and growing because there is SO MUCH FOOD!!! The library is a brilliant resource for the community whether you’re looking to meet your entertainment and recreation needs, your information needs for school or work, or your own personal and professional development needs.

Which leads me to my next point – I love my library, not just because it’s a pleasure to be in an environment where you’re fostering the growth and advancement of others, but because it is an environment conducive to my own development too. There is always something new to challenge, interest and excite me, each day that I come to the library to work.

My most recent project has been to individually review each of the online resources that we have catalogued or provided a link to through our FreeNet websites (selected websites that are viewable in the library free of charge with no time limit restrictions). As I review each site, I am familiarising myself with the information the site provides and how to navigate it for maximum advantage, and I’m also considering why these resources could be useful for and how. I’m putting all my notes into a searchable word document, in part to help me remember more easily, and in part because I know I’m bound to forget when there are so many different resources available.

When I’m finished with this project, I’m considering using the HSC Board of Studies syllabus documents to create a database to list library resources relevant to each subject or study area. My personal interest lies with English and History subjects so I will probably start with those and see where I end up. The journey is interesting for me, and hopefully will help to make my library an even more dynamic and relevant place for students, teachers and parents.

But, no matter what my next project, there’s always something stimulating to think about, learn, or do at my library. And the best bit is, everybody wins - the more I learn and grow, the more my library develops, the better we meet the needs of our community – it’s no wonder the library is such a loveable place, really.

Adrianna Demmocks
Librarian, Penrith City Council Library
addy.demmocks@gmail.com

“I love my library because...

“My first experience of libraries was of my junior school library back when I was in grade one. If my memory serves correctly, the librarian was a magnificent woman named Mrs Lewenberg. Twice a week we would visit her, sit in the sunken carpeted area called the reading pit, and listen to her read us a story from a book plucked from the shelves.

Early on it was picture books, later it would be short stories until finally, by about grade four, she would read full novels to us as our imaginations ran wild. I remember sitting there and thinking ‘if this is just one book from the library, imagine how many thousands of great stories there are filling up all these shelves’.

At the end of story time, we would have ten minutes to look around the library and pick out something to take home and read. Initially I was overly ambitious (a grade three boy is probably not ready for a John Le Carre spy thriller), but with Mrs Lewenberg’s help I was soon on a path to making my way through those thousands of stories. Thankfully, I’m still working my way through them.”

Charlie Pickering
YOU GOTTA LOVE THIS!

I’ve never had someone ask me why I love my job. I’ve never had someone say, “what is it about your job that has you come home every evening with a skip in your step and a smile on your face?”

People don’t have to ask, because I don’t give them a chance; I talk about my job constantly.

Sometimes it’s about the little girl who came in to the library to show me her brand new brother. Sometimes it’s the teenagers having a breakdance battle at Lalor Library’s Teen Night. Sometimes it’s the look on someone’s face when you tell them that the self check-out machine can speak to you not only in English, Chinese and Italian, but Pirate as well!

As a full-time children’s librarian it’s hard to find something I don’t like about my job. Every day is different, rewarding and amusing. I’ve dressed up as a witch and the Easter bunny, turned toy libraries into dungeons, and used a lot of crayons. I’ve also shared stories with hundreds of children, met some amazing families and been a part of a fantastic team.

The most rewarding part of my job is the chance to be a part of so many different people’s lives, even if it’s only a tiny part. Four times a week I share my love of libraries and stories with the adults and children who attend storytime. Once a week I run an after-school program for primary students where we play games, make art, eat lollies and gossip. Every Thursday evening I help many of those students with their homework. I might struggle to remember how to multiply a fraction, but it is so rewarding when I see the children help each other with their spelling sheets.

“I can make at least one person happy today, and the smile on my face is because they make me happy too.”

Every single day I help at least one person. And on weekends, I do it all over again at my casual children’s librarian job at a different library service.

So even though I didn’t give you a chance to ask, the thing I like most about my job is meeting and helping people. That skip in my step comes from knowing that I can make at least one person happy today, and the smile on my face is because they make me happy too.

Annie Bourne
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I love my library because...

There are always books nearby as journalist Jennifer Byrne dashes between her multiple radio and TV commitments for the ABC. Jennifer says hosting The First Tuesday Book Club is her “dream job.”

I love bookshops with their shining new books - what reader doesn’t? - but I love libraries even more. They are a book’s true home, the place where it can relax among friends without needing to follow fashion or turn a profit. I don’t think of the books in libraries as “used” but shared and that gives them a special resonance, the pages infused with the scent and touch of other readers’ explorations. Even when I go to my library in search of a specific book, I always have a good dig around the returns trolley to see what others have enjoyed and carry unexpected treats home to my reading lair.

I can’t remember when my library love affair started but it goes back to before I could actually read or in fact walk - I know because I remember seeing a photo of me settled happily in a pram surrounded by library books. And I took my son from year dot too. A grand library is a fine thing, but it’s the local libraries I love best, for their familiarity, the cosiness of their collections and because the librarians do so much so patiently with such limited resources. They are the custodians of our community treasures. I want to express my gratitude to them all.

Jennifer Byrne
In 2010, the Brownless Biomedical Library at the University of Melbourne reopened after a dramatic rejuvenation. Along with the new look, we also realigned and improved our services to the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry & Health Sciences (MDHS) staff and students.

An evolving library staff mix of highly experienced librarians along with new librarians and enthusiastic student library assistants has resulted in a keen focus on adopting new services and technologies, all with the aim of providing a more seamless experience for our users. We enjoy working at the Brownless and would like to share our experience of the library with you.

As you enter the building, the first thing you’ll notice is the colour of the interior decoration (a lot of vibrant pinks!) and the standout feature of the architecturally designed refurbishment, the circular staircase with its encasement of pale pink perspex. On the upper floors you will find the MDHS Student Centre, and the Medical History Museum, together creating a precinct for the faculty. At our frontline service point, knowledgeable and friendly staff will welcome and assist you. Senior Library Service Officer John says he really enjoys the diversity of work this precinct design has created.

“We deal with different students and a variety of different queries, and we’ve become a hub of activity for our faculty’s students,” says John.

During semester the ground floor study hall, furnished with ottomans, booths, desks with computers, and group study rooms, is always abuzz with students and the design of this level means that even when the rest of the library and building is closed students can still use the study hall from 7am until 2am every day. The University-provided wireless network is also heavily used by people with laptops and an increasing array of other mobile devices.

On the ground and first floors, seven group study rooms with wall to ceiling whiteboards and LCD screens are used for study, interviews and other student support activities. A self-booking system for the rooms is largely self regulating, and students share these popular facilities well.

Student Library Assistants Gala and Nadi are both studying post graduate courses at the faculty of MDHS. Nadi loves the colours and the environment of the building but, like most students, she would like to see more computers available. She enjoys working with the library staff and when she is studying she often uses the group study rooms for team projects but also appreciates the attractively furnished quiet study rooms on the second floor provided exclusively for our post graduate and higher degree students.

Gala feels at home in the Brownless and also likes being able to study with a group in one of the project rooms or on her own at one of the PCs.

“"I like the library’s electronic resources. The staff are also friendly and helpful when I need assistance navigating my way through the databases and connecting to the wireless network” she says.

Self check-out and self check-in, a facility that has been rapidly adopted by many public libraries in Australia, is proving to be very popular at the Brownless, where students are able to collect high use books and items held for them directly from the shelves in the high use area and check them out using these machines.

“We enjoy working at the Brownless and would like to share our experience of the library with you.”

Liaison librarian Patrick loves the life science and medicine collections held at the Brownless. According to Patrick, “the library is leading the way for this material in Australia”.

Our liaison librarians provide an increasingly embedded information literacy service, as well as research consultations, classes and workshops on the wide array of online specialised resources and bibliographic management tools that are vitally important to academics and students alike. The team is noted for going the ‘extra mile’ in supporting MDHS academic staff.

Academic staff member Dawn says, “I love my library because the staff are so efficient – whenever I have dealt with them I have had nothing but great service.”

The last word comes from our newest liaison librarian Glenda.

“Surrounded by all these fabulous facilities and services, it’s not hard to appreciate and enjoy the sense of satisfaction in what our library provides.”

Brownless Biomedical Library Staff
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Brownless Biomedical Library Staff
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Whenever I visit a new city or town, the first establishment I tend to gravitate towards is the local library. A library always feels like a second home to me – the smell of books are heaven scent (pun intended) and knowing that I will be snuggling up in a cosy library corner with one or more of those aromatic compositions just tantalises my appetite. It is no wonder that when I first moved to Hobart, it wasn’t the cafés or mall that I first checked out – it was the library.

One of the things I love about the LINC (Learning and Information Network Centres) Tasmania (formerly known as the State Library of Tasmania) is its reserve system. It’s a fantastic service locating resources ordered via the internet, phone or face-to-face. Sometimes there is a wait, especially for popular resources. However, the system lets you know where you are in the queue and how long the approximate wait is. Once you’re logged in to your My Library account you can also keep track of your library loans by creating a Library Elf account. I like this feature because I can keep up with the many books and DVDs that my two year old son has borrowed. The Wiggles DVDs are a must in our household for fun, entertainment (his) and sanity (mine).

“...when I first moved to Hobart, it wasn’t the cafés or mall that I first checked out – it was the library.”

Speaking of children, the LINC offers Rock & Rhyme – an interactive session for mums and bubs. The Rock & Rhyme facilitator is excellent at getting mothers/parents/carers and their babies/toddlers together for a song, nursery rhyme or story. Each library branch offers a half hour session, one day per week. It’s a great way to meet other parents and their children.

There is much more that the LINC offers of course, like the new e-Books Plus, book suggestions, and the wide and varied collection catering for all Tasmanians. But most of all I would like to commend the committed and hard-working SLT staff for giving Tasmanians a place for the community to interact, and the opportunity to access free resources and information in a variety of formats.

Karina Tumon
ALIA Tas New Grads Coordinator
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GREAT BUILDING + GREAT STAFF+ GREAT USERS – WA’S FORREST LIBRARY HAS IT ALL

Hale School Forrest Library in Wembley Downs is a significant new school library in Western Australia. The library was completed just over two years ago after many years of thought, design discussion and considerable expenditure. The design and environment of the library allow it to be a centre of significance for the school and the students.

The library is a vast, welcoming space that has been designed to be attractive, functional and to serve the needs of the boys, parents and staff. It can comfortably cater for at least six classes in a variety of teaching areas. These range from beautiful self-contained glass walled teaching rooms that have comfortable couches as well as a more formal desk area, computer areas with incredible information technology, lounges for reading classes and small group areas.

The shelving has been arranged so it is easy to see throughout but still provides some nooks for students to read or work quietly on the couches that can be found throughout. The circulation system, with RFID (radio frequency identification) technology, allows the boys independence with their borrowing. It also allows for a new style of inventory which would make any library professional smile.

Apart from the amazing physical features of the Forrest Library, those who contribute to the work environment make the library a vibrant, productive, happy place to thrive. There is a collegiality and collaboration amongst all the staff, both library and wider school staff, which is a direct result of the library being such a pleasant and stimulating place to be.

The students enjoy the atmosphere and the facilities along with the substantial collection of resources which allows them to achieve excellent results and satisfaction with their learning. They also like to use the library to relax and make use of it throughout the day. Boarding students also come in during the evening for both study and personal reading.

The amazing facilities of the library, the staff who allow it to function so effectively and the boys who make use of the library all go towards making a library environment that is to be envied. The teaching and management of a library such as the Hale School Forrest Library is stimulating, exciting and certainly never boring. It is a joy to arrive at work each day.

Anette Ainsworth
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ROCKHAMPTON HOSPITAL LIBRARY, WHERE THE UNTHINKABLE IS A DEFINITE POSSIBILITY

When someone asks me what I do for a living, I say, “I am a medical librarian at the Rocky hospital”. Usually the reply is one of curiosity as most folk hereabouts don’t realise that the hospital has a library, let alone one staffed by three professional librarians.

Then I go on to explain that it is a Corporate Library for Queensland Health staff use only and that we do not offer our services to the public or our patients. We support the clinical staff with their evidence-based patient care decisions and directly contribute to patients’ health and well-being during and after their time as a patient here at the Rockhampton Hospital.

I also get asked if it’s an interesting job and, unfortunately, this is where I tend to lose my audience. With their eyes glazing over or the sudden need to be elsewhere, I explain the wonders of the modern medical library, the array of databases and internet-based resources we have at our disposal to source clinical information for our clients, the raft of training we offer our clients from Winton in the Far West to the Bundaberg Hinterland in the South of Queensland, servicing around 4600 staff and the value of hallway conversations to improve our service delivery and drive our service innovation to assist with patient care.

Maybe this is the point at which they realise that I love my library! And that I want to share the love. There is nothing more effective than a happy librarian to promote services and become a valued asset to the organisation. This attitude overflows into many aspects of the working day and can become infectious (please excuse the pun!).

Even though the workload is too high sometimes and the routine core jobs can’t be left for tomorrow, my job encourages me to think outside of the boxes that we tick each day, deliver services at a high standard, drive innovation, say “yes” and think of the unthinkable as being a possibility.

This is why I love my job.

Sue Druskovich
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"Maybe this is the point at which they realise that I love my library! And that I want to share the love."

I love my library because…

Fashion designer and retailer and Collectors co-host Claudia Chan Shaw admits to an addiction to crime fiction.

When I was a teenager I spent a lot of time at the City of Sydney Library. It was in the Queen Victoria Building, in the days before the QVB was restored as a magnificent shopping centre.

I’d push open the black and silver Art Deco doors on George Street and run up the staircase to level one, where the library was situated. I’d visit the library not only for its reference books, but also to sit and do my school assignments. No distractions. No noise. Disciplined. I’d sit in my chair. In my library. It was part of my routine. It got to the point where the people who seemed to live in the newspaper room became my library family. We never exchanged a word, but always nodded a greeting.

Funnily enough, the QVB is still my home. We have our boutique on level one, not far from where the library used to be. I still run up the stairs to the first floor, but now the work I have to do is just a little different.

Claudia Chan Shaw

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Zdenka Ižanc is a primary school librarian and teacher of Slovene at II. OŠ Rogaška Slatina, Slovenia, where she has worked for 26 years. Like her Aussie colleagues, she loves her library. Zdenka wrote to inCite to tell us about her library and we are featuring her contribution here as a taste of what’s to come when ALIA members share your experiences in libraries around the world - as visitors or employees – in our library tourism feature in the August issue. (That’s a hint! – Ed.)

We have 534 students in our school and around 50 of them visit the library every day, where I work with one assistant. We lend about 15,000 materials every school year, most of them before the holidays. Our library has more than 14,000 books.

The school library is an essential resource at our school and is intended to be used by pupils, teachers and other workers from our school. Academic resources can be borrowed from 11am to 2pm every day from Monday to Friday. Students have access to computers and the internet and are encouraged to use both as it relates to their academic studies.

In order to develop and improve the reading habits and reading culture of our pupils our school joined The Reading Badge Project in 1985. I have found it to be an excellent opportunity to make important books more popular. At the same time, students are directed to technical literature and shown how to use dictionaries, encyclopedias and various handbooks. Thus the slogan ‘With Books into the World’ is definitely appropriate. Each student who reads at least five books in a school year and talks to his/her mentor about them, gets a reading badge certificate at the end of the school year. If they read for all nine years of their primary schooling, they can be awarded with a Golden Reader certificate and a book.

The main goal of our school library is to encourage reading and expand the reading habits of all library users. This has been done in several ways. Firstly, I organise book exhibitions of both fiction and non-fiction. Pupils can look at them together with their teachers, within their lessons or by themselves on their own. We also arrange exhibitions for newly released books.

Secondly, teachers can schedule library time when library skills and materials are needed as part of the classroom learning experience. We prepare the lessons together. Teachers teach according to their curriculum and I develop and implement curriculum related to information literacy and inquiry.

Thirdly, I prepare a book puzzle that is related to recent cultural events once a month. Last February, for example, the topic was culture and Slovenia’s greatest poet, France Prešeren, was our focus as we celebrated a national holiday on the day of his death.

I also encourage our students to take part in the Library-Museum MEGA quiz which requires students to use various information sources like libraries, museums, and galleries.

And I organise book clubs for our readers to exchange opinions on books they have read. I have found book clubs to be the best way of promoting reading.

I strongly wish our students to approach reading as something enjoyable – and not painful! I want them to be able to find a piece of information in the shortest possible time, and I expect that they become functionally literate.

Zdenka Ižanc
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WOULD YOU LIKE TO READ A BOOK WITH THIS BLOKE?

We’re guessing the answer’s yes, so it is with great delight we can reveal William McInnes has accepted the role of patron of the National Year of Reading 2012. While we can’t promise he will be dropping in to read to you at home, he will be helping library professionals everywhere spread the good word about the critical life skill that is literacy.

Chair of the National Year of Reading founder partners (not to mention incoming ALIA President and State Librarian of Western Australia) Margaret Allen says the award-winning actor and bestselling author will be a highly credible and enthusiastic advocate for reading.

“We wanted someone who was familiar to all Australians, both keen readers and people who struggle with literacy,” Margaret says.

“William McInnes is the author of four highly-regarded books, including The Making of Modern Australia, which became an ABC TV series in 2010. He writes with humour and affection, and we’re sure this, combined with his status as a much-loved household name, will add considerable weight to our campaign.”

There are 15 organisations behind the National Year of Reading, including all the state libraries, territory libraries, the public library associations across Australia and ALIA. Although libraries are the driving force behind the campaign, partnerships are being forged with writers, publishers, booksellers, schools, government, media and the companies behind some of Australia’s most famous household brands.

The founders recognise the great work that Australian reading promotion and literacy organisations already do and hope that by attracting further attention to the issue for a 12 month period, there can be a step-change in people’s awareness of the enormous value of books and the joy of reading.

“Being asked to be Patron of the Year of Reading is as great a pleasure as it is an honour. It’s easy to be blasé about reading and books - easy to take them for granted. Yet when I think about it, reading to me is the key to so much. The key to a wider reach of information, a path to learning, the joy of entertainment and the exciting of the imagination. It’s just so much fun. Helping to encourage people to remember that and maybe to discover that, is something I look forward to very much.”

William McInnes

Because the shocking truth is that, according to the 2006 Adult Literacy and Life Skills Survey*, nearly half of all Australians (46%) don’t have the literacy skills they need to cope with everyday life and work. And we can help change that.

“If we can use the National Year of Reading to help embed a reading culture in the home and at school, we can improve the lives of current and future generations of Australians. Recreational reading has the power to influence well-being in the way it inspires, informs and transforms our thinking,” Margaret said.

The official launch of the National Year of Reading will be on 14 February 2012 and the countdown has already begun. Watch each issue of inCite for updates on the program and the people and start planning now for your organisation’s Nyr2012 events.

More at www.love2read.org.au

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WHERE WOULD LIBRARIES BE WITHOUT OUR VOLUNTEERS?

ALIA couldn’t do what it does without the hundreds of active member volunteers in the groups and on the committees throughout the organisation and many libraries also have a cohort of faithful community volunteers who make a significant contribution to their success. South Australian-based member Lisa Preston has some tips on the work volunteers can do in libraries and what makes a good volunteer manager.

Have you ever thought about the volunteers in your organisation? The volunteer provides the extra special community services to any organisation without the expectation of monetary gain. Having good volunteers is an advantage to the library and the community.

Volunteers in libraries add free community connection, taking on a wide variety of very important internal and outreach tasks. Many libraries use volunteers to shelve items, repair books, coordinate book discussion groups, run English classes and deliver resources to home-bound clients. The State Library of South Australia volunteers make the collections more accessible to researchers and provide services that would otherwise not be possible.

“The are the people in your communities that do advocacy work on your behalf. What better way to connect to the community than supporting and encouraging volunteers?”

The National Survey on Volunteering Issues 2010 reported that people volunteer because it gives them a sense of belonging and making a difference to the community (www.volunteeringaustralia.org).

According to VolunteeringSA, volunteer activities provide personal development, social interaction and development of skills. Volunteers expect to share their skills and knowledge in return for gaining experience and networking. Volunteers also volunteer to network in areas of interest or keep connected to their profession. One example here in South Australia is the Royal Geographic Society of SA, which runs completely on volunteers, many of whom are retired librarians who want to continue making a contribution but without the pressure of paid employment.

It’s important for volunteers to have a meaningful role, enabling them to not only provide a welcome service to the library but also be an advocate for these services of the organisation. If you are setting out to attract, or retain, volunteers for your library or information service, a great place to start is ALIA’s policy of volunteers (www.alia.org.au/policies/volunteer.workers.html).

The next step is to make it easy for volunteers to find out what roles and benefits there are for volunteers in your organisation. Too often this information is buried deep in the organisation website. But probably the most important resource to have is a good volunteer manager. It is their job to enthuse and encourage the volunteers, making sure the tasks are appropriate and relevant to the organisation and each individual. They also need to make sure that all volunteers are valued and recognised.

Volunteering is also beneficial to new graduates of library programs. Many small research libraries would welcome new graduates and appreciate the extra knowledge that new graduates can share. This is a good way for new graduates to connect to the professional community and learn about different kinds of libraries without the pressure of a placement or paid employment.

Many libraries use volunteers to promote and provide services that would not otherwise be available for the public. These are the people in your communities that do advocacy work on your behalf. What better way to connect to the community than supporting and encouraging volunteers?

Lisa Preston
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National Volunteers Week runs from May 9 to 15 – How will you celebrate your volunteers?

www.volunteeringaustralia.org

Quality volunteer management means:
- Comprehensive induction processes
- Daily interaction with staff
- Recognition for achievement
- Ensure tasks are meaningful to the organisation
- A good balance between the needs of the volunteer and the organisation

INNOVATIVE MANAGEMENT WINS AWARD FOR YARRA PLENTY

Yarra Plenty Regional Library (YPRL) has won the innovative management initiative award at Victoria’s annual Local Government LGPro Awards for Excellence.

YPRL won the award for its involvement with the Being the Best We Can project, delivered in partnership with the Public Libraries Victoria Network and the State Library of Victoria, with advice and support from the Australian Continuous Improvement Group.

YPRL Chair, Councillor Jenny Mulholland says the Being the Best We Can evaluation enables public libraries to understand the effect they have on individuals and communities and how well their service meets users’ needs.

“Being the Best We Can has enabled us to identify and understand our strengths, as well as pinpoint areas for improvement,” Councillor Mulholland said.

“We are continually working towards making YPRL the best it can be so we are delighted to receive this recognition.”

The Innovative Management Initiative award rewards initiatives that demonstrate new ways of leading, facilitating, administering, controlling or ensuring a particular outcome is achieved in the local government sector. These are initiatives that make positive changes to the management of organisations, processes, practices or projects.

The library undertook extensive self-evaluation and focused on quality assurance for the pilot project, and was awarded a four-star accolade out of a possible five stars by external reviewers.

The audit found YPRL to be an innovative industry leader with an excellent range of programs and services, and ground-breaking in the e-library area.
On reviews

By the time you read this, Jacqueline Howett’s life may have returned to normal – I hope so. As at the end of March, this latest internet sensation was probably starting to regret a few of her recent actions, or maybe not. It all started with a polite but unfavourable review at tinyurl.com/4jzko8v. She took umbrage. Of course, everybody knows that an author is mad to hit back at reviews that they find objectionable (do they really expect the reviewer to say that they were wrong?) But that didn’t stop Ms Howett reacting in terms that fully justified the reviewer’s initial assessment. Thankfully, he closed comments on the blog after over 300 people had their say – but by then the damage had well and truly been done. The story had been picked up on Twitter and Facebook and in various online news outlets and gone viral.

I’ll admit that I started off enjoying the to-and-fro of the blog’s commentariat, but it soon became a little boring and I began to notice other sub-threads. One of them was disparaging of self-publishing and crowing about how a good proofreader would have picked up the obvious errors and an editor might have been able to advise the writer that their style was clunky at best. Well, maybe. I’ve seen quite a few books in recent times from proper publishing firms that could have done with a couple more checks and better advice.

Then, wonder of wonders, the self-publishers started to turn on each other with a harangue about the misuse of the term ‘indie’. Well, here’s a bulletin for them: we .. don’t .. care. You may feel strongly about that sort of terminology – and if we’re polite we’ll note that – but the rest of us are mostly unimpressed.

The great thing about the web these days is that anyone can air their views or their artistic endeavour. The worst thing about the web is the same. Long live the web.

The other Tim

Tim O’Reilly has built a reputation on spotting trends and incorporating them into his publishing empire; many internet professionals have at least one of his books on their shelf - or their e-reader. In a perceptive interview with Forbes magazine at tinyurl.com/6k62lkt he speaks about e-books and makes a lot of sense. He also says that he arranges to donate the books returned by retailers to less-developed parts of the world. Bravo!

Protecting your data – or yourself?

I had a great experience in March at BarCamp Canberra 2011, which was a free-wheeling but quite organised unconference. (And their description of it as unorganised is quite ironic - it ran much better than many of the organised events that I’ve attended over the years.) Despite my expectation that it would be all about the 2.0 world, the topics ranged quite widely - from how to give a great presentation and how to develop standards better to a fair bit of 2.0 stuff. One topic that I was interested in was the creation of more useful bus timetables and route finders, something that government people are trying to do in the traditional ways, while enthusiastic developers in the community try to produce the same products in a more agile manner. One of them was really very impressive, the developer had put a lot of time into the project and was able to demonstrate a good prototype. But then I looked at the disclaimer he’d put on his site:

“The content of this website is of a general and informative nature. Please check with printed timetables or those available on http://action.act.gov.au before your trip. Whilst every effort has been made to ensure the high quality and accuracy of the Site, the Author makes no warranty, express or implied concerning the topicality, correctness, completeness or quality of the information, which is provided “as is”. The Author expressly disclaims all warranties, including but not limited to warranties of fitness for a particular purpose and warranties of merchantability. All offers are not binding and without obligation.”

I was inclined to scoff at this, until I checked around and found very similar comments in all of the state and municipal transport sites - but if you look at their online timetable data you don’t get the same weasel words. I can’t see any good reason for the difference. There’s a certain amount of fear that if they provide the data for other people to do what they want with it and someone misses a bus by relying on out-of-date or incorrect data, there will be some come-back. So? Once you release that data, it’s out there. Better to just make it available, and see what happens.

Snapshot required

A note on the Link list (mailman.anu.edu.au/mailman/listinfo/link) has raised a point that I’ve not considered so far. When you click on the ‘I accept’ button for a user agreement on a site, do you keep a copy of the terms and conditions that you’ve just agreed to? You really should, because they change from time to time and one day you just may need to show what you agreed to.
NEW ECOSCIENCES PRECINCT LIBRARY THROWS OPEN THE DOORS

Library staff from CSIRO, the Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation and the Department of Environment and Resource Management in Queensland recently moved into their shared library at the new EcoSciences Precinct (ESP) in Dutton Park, Brisbane, and ‘threw open the doors’ at the end of March to invite library colleagues to view and tour the new facility.

Over 50 staff and visitors from government, academic and corporate sectors attended the EcoSciences Precinct Library Open Day, and saw firsthand the results of collaboration between the three agencies over a number of years. In the spirit of collaboration the centre is designed to encourage, library staff from the three agencies now work together to provide services to over 1000 ESP staff and researchers.

The modern world-class facility comprises three multi-storey towers housing laboratory, office, wash-up and storage spaces. The building incorporates green energy and recycling initiatives, and is designed to encourage interaction and collaboration amongst occupants. Well-appointed communal and food preparation areas are placed outside work areas to encourage staff to leave their work areas for tea and lunch breaks, and very appealing garden and seating areas are established in atriums between the towers. The library is very prominently placed on the ground floor of the central tower, directly opposite the main lifts, (and near the coffee shop!) and provides ample seating, reading and working space.

As part of proceedings for the Open Day, representatives from each library service outlined the resources and services available for clients, how their work fitted in with that of their wider agency library team (distributed around Australia in the case of the CSIRO) and discussed the preparatory work done to enable collection moves to occur.

Library clients at the facility work in diverse areas including animal nutrition, climate change and adaptation, agricultural sustainability, soil science, and weed management. While researchers from all agencies access the majority of library content via organisational intranets, library staff are kept busy conducting advanced literature requests, conducting training courses, and supporting citation management software EndNote and Refworks.

A real benefit for library staff working at ESP has been the cross-fertilisation that has occurred, and the sharing of information and skills.

Potential developments in the ESP library service include the creation of a union library catalogue and possible shared access to electronic resources. A shared site intranet would also be a welcome development should a platform be made available, enabling the library to project a more unified presence to clients.

Jeanette Clarkson
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www.alia.org.au
It’s all about the people

Why does Alana Read love her library and her job with Rockhampton Regional Council Library Services? It’s all about the people.

Coordinating a large public library branch as a new graduate is certainly a challenge, but a very rewarding one. This job is what I had always dreamed of achieving one day, but have been fortunate enough to experience much sooner.

It’s not just the interaction with people from all walks of life that venture into the library daily, but also the wonderful staff that I have the fortune to work alongside every day.

To work in the kind of job that we do, you need to be a certain kind of person. The best kind. You need to be caring yet firm, supportive yet fair. Fairness in all things is what is at the core of what libraries are and do. Making all kinds of information and resources available to all is what makes libraries great and another thing that I love about them.

As I am sure many other public library staff will agree, we have a wonderfully diverse range of clientele that frequent our establishments. From the very young (babies) up to our elderly patrons, from students to local experts in family history, from international tourists to indigenous members of our community; we enjoy serving everyone in our library.

This sometimes makes for an interesting blend of generations, opinions and cultures. As staff though, we like to think that we provide a safe environment for all people - even if sometimes we need to act as a buffer.

I like to think of a public library as a place that epitomises an ideal of hope and a reflection of a world where we would all like to live, where everyone is welcome and everyone is tolerant of everyone else. The public library is a place where people of all backgrounds, all ages and all levels of knowledge come for a common purpose: to find out something. This is what I love about my job, the fact that I get to be amongst it all and help those who venture into the library, to find what they are looking for and help them on their road to discovery. I love being part of a team of wonderful staff who make this happen every day.

When you are next visiting Central Queensland, please come in and visit us at the Rockhampton North Library or any of the other welcoming branches of the Rockhampton Regional Library Service. It will be our pleasure to assist you in any way we can.

Alana Read
Coordinator Rockhampton Northside Library
Rockhampton Regional Libraries
alana.read@rrc.qld.gov.au

Alana Read began her career in libraries five years ago as a casual Library Assistant. She then went on to become a Home Delivery Officer and is currently the Coordinator of the Rockhampton Northside Library. She graduated in 2009 from Charles Sturt University with a Graduate Diploma in Library and Information Management.
Associate Lecturer Kate Davis has been mulling over the EEI column published in the March issue of InCite. Here, she gives a view from the other side of the lectern.

In the March issue of InCite, Elizabeth Caplice wrote a thoughtful piece on distance learning in library and information science (LIS). As someone who actively sought out a face-to-face course in LIS myself, I read Elizabeth’s column with interest, and some of her thoughts really resonated with me.

The face of higher education is changing. Universities are responding to student demand by offering increased flexibility in course delivery – students choose how – and indeed whether they will – engage. Universities are also responding to industry demand for graduates with relevant and current skills and knowledge by embracing blended learning. The traditional lecture and tutorial model that has been the hallmark of university education is no longer considered to be the best way to facilitate learning. Being a face-to-face student no longer means rocking up to class once a week, doing a reading in the interim, and submitting work for assessment.

“It’s just as easy to be disengaged face-to-face as it is to be disengaged online... at a certain point, I have to pass the baton of responsibility to the student.”

I do not doubt that distance learning can be challenging. I’m even willing to admit that I failed at distance learning myself, back when it meant reading and working through a course brick.

Distance learning has changed. It’s no longer about working independently through a course brick, submitting assessment, and getting some feedback. Online learning today uses a mix of synchronous and asynchronous methods to maximise student engagement with course content, each other and the teaching staff.

Students have the opportunity to participate in virtual classrooms that offer all the functionality of a well-equipped lecture theatre – application sharing, whiteboards, presentation tools, web cam, breakout spaces and more. Social media provides teaching staff with a barometer to gauge student progress and engagement, and a way to connect informally, allowing a relationship to develop between teacher and student. A real sense of student cohort can be built across geographical and temporal boundaries, with students developing the beginnings of their professional personal learning networks through online interaction with their peers.

I cannot speak for other institutions, and I probably shouldn’t assume even to speak for colleagues in my own institution. But I can speak to my own philosophies as an educator who works with a dual mode cohort of internal and online learners.

As an educator, I expect my online students to engage with content at the same level as my internal students. I expect the two groups of students to interact with each other. I expect students who identify as internal to undertake particular components of their learning online, because there are some skills and knowledge that are best taught in that environment. Internal and online students will never have the same learning experiences, but they can have equitable learning experiences.

It is my job to provide the learning resources, activities and environments to support equity of learning outcomes regardless of mode of study. But there is one factor that is completely outside my control: student engagement.

I can build the sexiest of course sites with the latest and greatest functionality. I can prepare exciting learning resources and activities designed to encourage experimentation and play. I can develop assessment that is practical, interesting and stimulating. But at a certain point, I have to pass the baton of responsibility to the student.

I have learnt from experience that I cannot force engagement. It’s just as easy to be a disengaged face-to-face student as it is to be a disengaged online student – you only need to turn up to any lecture theatre, stand up the back, and observe the prevalence of the Facebook logo on students’ laptops to understand this. I can’t force students to be as excited about libraries as I am, or to invest in themselves and their professional futures by maximising the opportunities the learning environment offers. All I can do is model what it means to be an engaged, passionate professional, and provide every opportunity possible for my students to become engaged, passionate professionals themselves.

Yes, LIS education is changing – and rightly so. We are educating professionals who will enter a dynamic profession, and our courses need to have a similar level of dynamism. But LIS courses are not moving to distance learning across the board. We are responding to student and industry demand, incorporating flexibility and embracing blended learning, but this does not mean we are compromising learning outcomes. Nor does it mean that we are eradicating face-to-face study options. We are simply evolving our courses to produce the best graduates we can.

I encourage you to contact your local LIS education provider and find out about their courses – how they’re changing, and how they can offer you a positive experience as an online learner. You just might be surprised at what you find.

Kate Davis
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Twitter: @kattedatwork.

Kate Davis is an Associate Lecturer in the Information Systems Discipline at Queensland University of Technology. Kate teaches and researches around web technologies in libraries.
**SOME STUDENTS DESERVE HONOURS**

Reflecting a strong commitment to research training for information professionals, the School of Information Studies at Charles Sturt University (CSU) is now providing high achieving students with an opportunity to distinguish themselves from their classmates and/or embark on a pathway to doctoral studies through the introduction of an Honours program.

Students with a bachelor degree in library and information studies (LIS) (or equivalent) with a credit average or better are encouraged to consider enhancing their career by enrolling in one of the few available dedicated Australian LIS Honours programs.

The CSU program will enable students to develop research skills that are of value in the workplace, to the profession and to the LIS discipline. Research is all about finding out answers to questions or problems in an organised, systematic, critical and often scientific way. Good research gathers information, reflects on its meaning, arrives at conclusions, evaluates them and then puts forward an interpretation. Outcomes of research can be new discoveries, the creation of understanding or knowledge, theory building, testing, confirmation or refutation, and/or investigations of issues and problems for local decision-making.

During the course of their Honours program, students will be supported by experienced senior researchers as they delve deeply into a subject, issue, or problem in which they have an interest or about which they have curiosity. Honours classes will be small and, being comprised of high achievers with an interest in research, provide an exciting and challenging study environment.

Candidates who are accepted into the program will work closely with an experienced supervisor, who will guide them through their research program. Students may select to undertake their research in a range of topics, including information literacy, information seeking, digital libraries, library management, human computer interaction, bibliographic organisation, or may even consider a topic related to their workplace. A list of areas and staff expertise can be found at [www.csu.edu.au/faculty/educat/sis/research/areasofexpertise](http://www.csu.edu.au/faculty/educat/sis/research/areasofexpertise).

Honours candidates will undertake training in research methods, develop a research proposal and complete their research project, reporting their results in a dissertation. Students will be encouraged to publish the findings of their research in a journal or as conference papers. Graduates will enter the workforce at the forefront of the evolving information professions. They will also be qualified to undertake a career in the information studies field, to work as researchers, or be in a position to undertake a further research higher degree. The program is also available via distance education using an innovative suite of interactive technologies.

Some scholarships are available from CSU on a competitive basis and more information on these can be found at [www.csu.edu.au/student/scholarships/honours/](http://www.csu.edu.au/student/scholarships/honours/).

If you are interested in undertaking the Honours program at CSU or wish to make further enquiries, please contact Dr Annemaree Lloyd, Honours and Higher Degree Research Coordinator in the School of Information Studies, Charles Sturt University on (02) 69 33 2468 or email anlloyd@csu.edu.au.

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- Access to statistical transaction information in real-time

www.bibliotheca-rfid.com
Libraryhack is the NSLA (National and State Libraries Australasia) Re-imagining Libraries Community Created Content project. And they are inviting the community in Australia and New Zealand to join in.

Libraryhack is a great opportunity for us to learn more about open data and the creation of new content. At its most successful it will deliver new applications and community created content that will contribute to library services and collections. It will also provide an opportunity for us to present libraries in a ‘different’ space. One that encourages, enables and respects community content. Anyone can get involved and mashup library data to create innovative new content and applications.

“At its most successful Libraryhack will deliver new applications and community created content that will contribute to library services and collections.

Data is being extracted for ‘mashing’ by the State and National Libraries and made available on Australian (data.gov.au) and New Zealand (data.govt.nz) data repositories. This data includes digital collections and metadata, records from convict transportation records, the Journal of the HMS. Endeavour, the First Fleet journals, search transaction logs and much more.

A range of prizes are available to encourage participation in Libraryhack. The Ideas Competition was open to anyone with an idea for a new mashup or application. This links those of us with a great idea but not the skills to deliver on the concept with those who are more tech savvy, and also gives talented developers an ideas bank to use for inspiration. This competition closed on March 30 and the winner will be announced soon. The best idea for 2011 will win $1000.

Be part of Libraryhack 2011!

• Follow us on Twitter (Libraryhack2011)
• Become a fan on Facebook (facebook.com/libraryhack)
• Promote Libraryhack to your clients and staff
• Visit the website...share your thoughts
• Have an idea...and enter the ideas competition
• Run a brainstorming session with staff to generate new ideas
• If you already know how...make something
• Support an event in your area
• Enter the competition

There are three categories for the ‘mix, mash and win’ prizes. These are: application/data mashup, photo mashup and digital media mashup. They provide a variety of options for technical and creative participants to develop new content. There is a $6000 prize for each category with an iPad2 on offer for the youth (under 18) prize. (NSLA library staff also have the opportunity to win an iPad2 kindly sponsored by Ex Libris.)

Entries will be accepted from the 1st – 31st May 2011 and there are mashers and hackers already working on entries for the competition. Winners will be announced on 24 June.

A range of events are underway across Australia and New Zealand, beginning in April and with many in May, coinciding with Library and Information Week. Events include training sessions and mashup opportunities, and working with mentors and ‘like minded’ enthusiasts to create new content and apps. Online learning tutorials and videos will be part of the mix.

The website, Facebook and Twitter stream for Libraryhack (www.libraryhack.org) are generating interest from a range of followers in Australia and overseas.

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NSLA Community Created Content Project Manager
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Anna Raunik
State Library of Queensland
NSLA Community Created Content Project Manager
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www.alia.org.au

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NEW APPOINTMENTS

The Australian Catholic University is growing rapidly and has now appointed a full time Director of Libraries and will represent the ACU on CAUL. Fides Lawton has been appointed to this role and will begin in July. Jim Graham will be acting Director until that time.

New Zealand’s new National Librarian has also been announced. Bill Macnaught, currently Manager of New Plymouth’s Puke Ariki took up the post on May 2nd, bringing to the role a strong understanding of the opportunities and issues facing libraries and the wider sector in New Zealand.

ASSOCIATION NEWS

ERA 2012 UPDATE

The current Australian Research Council ERA rankings process and consultations for the 08 FoR codes are attracting a lot of attention in library academia. Sue Hutley has this update.

ALIA has joined with Computing Research and Education (CORE, www.core.edu.au) and the Australian Council of Professors and Heads of Information Systems (ACPHIS, www.acphis.org.au) to jointly tender to the Australian Research Council for funds to undertake the analysis of the 08 FoR ranked outlets. CORE is the lead agency on this tender. By joining with other peak bodies in the IT field we are able to achieve much more and have access to the right expertise to ensure the process is successful and productive.

The ALIA Board approved the formation of the ALIA ARC ERA Working Party 2011-12, to conduct a consultation through the library and information community during Phase 2 of the 2012 ARC process. This will include email and ‘virtual’ consultation and correspondence, as well as a roadshow of consultation meetings in capital cities which will be open to library and information professionals in order to consult as widely as possible.

Ainslie Dewe, University Librarian at La Trobe University, has been appointed to lead the ALIA ARC ERA Working Party and other members of this group are being finalised as InCite goes to print.

Further updates will be provided to LIS Educators at the ALIA Higher Educators Forum In May, via e-lists and through the ALIA Research Committee.

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

ACHIEVEMENTS REWARDED

Congratulations to these Northern Territory Library Studies students on their achievements as they start out on their new careers.

ALIA NT Manager Jayshree Mamtora, presents the ALIA Encouragement Award to Robyn Cormac.

Ruth Quinn, Director, Charles Darwin University Library, with student award winner Joan Schiller

L to R: Jayshree Mamtora, Joan Schiller, Robyn Cormac and Kathy White, LIS Lecturer, Charles Darwin University
**ALIA MEMBERSHIP**

It’s an exciting time to be a member of the Australian Library and Information Association!

ALIA can help you contribute to your learning. We offer a comprehensive range of discounted professional development services and activities together with the ALIA Professional Development (PD) Scheme [www.alia.org.au/education/pd/scheme/](http://www.alia.org.au/education/pd/scheme/). You can discover what’s happening in your area and around Australia at [www.alia.org.au/events/](http://www.alia.org.au/events/) or attend any of ALIA’s conferences, seminars and workshops, at our special discounted member rates.

Let ALIA help you broaden your career prospects. If you’re looking to move on, up or even take a sidestep in your career, you can subscribe to recruitLIS, our members-only vacancies e-list that will keep up with the latest positions vacant. Visit our employment pages at any time for a list of the latest vacancies or other key employment resources and call on the expert advice of your industrial relations advisor at [www.alia.org.au/employment](http://www.alia.org.au/employment).

ALIA is the voice of your industry. It is through your support that the Association has the opportunity to influence the development and quality of the profession. The Association is constantly advocating and lobbying for our profession and for library and information services in Australia and making opportunities for our profession to discuss the big issues. Visit [www.alia.org.au/advocacy](http://www.alia.org.au/advocacy).

Discover critical information and access the latest research. ALIA provides a free Copyright Advisory service, providing members with up-to-date information on copyright and how it affects the library and information sector. Did you know that the Copyright Notices for Libraries were updated in December 2010? Discover what’s changed at [www.alia.org.au/copyright/](http://www.alia.org.au/copyright/).

ALIA has a diverse publishing program, including our members news magazine inCite, and our two journals Australian Library Journal (ALJ) and the Australian Academic Library Journal (AARL). Explore the trends emerging in your industry today at [www.alia.org.au/publishing](http://www.alia.org.au/publishing).

Keep your eye out! Your membership renewal will be arriving shortly, and our team are ready to assist in renewing your membership for the next year. Do you know a colleague who could benefit, as you have, from being an ALIA member? Tell them to check out all the benefits of being an ALIA member today at [www.alia.org.au/membership.benefits/](http://www.alia.org.au/membership.benefits/).

**NEW MEMBERS**

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<th>Member to Associate</th>
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<td>Angela Ort</td>
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<td>Fiona Grigg</td>
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Jessica Lee Brooks | SA |
Hope Do | VIC |
Lesley Sanford | VIC |
Maureen O’Loughlan | VIC |
Lauren Scoby | QLD |
Rose Holley | ACT |
Lisa Gold | QLD |
Jennifer Gibson | VIC |
Darren Rawlinson | NSW |
Anna Stolies | VIC |
Kaylee Phuss | QLD |
Deborah van der Meer | NSW |
Duncan Loxton | NSW |

Rearmitting Associate | QLD |
Renee Hall | QLD |
Pauline Burgemeister | QLD |
James Bligh | QLD |

Rearmitting Member | QLD |
Kathryn McSherry | QLD |
Maree Bricker | NT |
Rebecca Morgan | NSW |
Amanda Myers | WA |
Out & About @ Information Online is a regular ALIA Information Science (SA) event, enabling those lucky enough to attend Information Online to share their impressions and highlights with library professionals unable to make it to Sydney for the conference. This year, four guest speakers shared their insights with an eager audience.

John Banbury, from Flinders University, summarised the presentation Why Popeye is still right about an eye tracking study conducted at the University of New South Wales Library. The study used the Tobii T60 XL eye tracking system to test the effectiveness of the library’s new SearchFirst search interface by plotting what students were looking at on the website as they completed several activities. This study showed that eye tracking is a useful tool for usability testing when it is used as an iterative process for improving the design of websites.

Hayley Morton, from SA Water, provided an overview of three presentations. The first, Revolutionising digital content ingest: building a newspaper clippings collection using practical automation to assist with selection and classification, was about the Parliamentary Library’s contract with SAIC to “revolutionise and automate” the labour intensive manual processes of selecting articles and categorising them using the Parliamentary Library Thesaurus.

Sink or Swim: the Water Corporation Library’s experiences from diving into e-services outlined the effective use the library has made of blogs, podcasts, screen casts and free applications (including an Advent calendar for Christmas) for promoting library services.

Mobile, social, digital collections was a standout presentation for many conference delegates. Exploring ‘The Band Stand, Hyde Park’ is a truly breath-taking must see in the Powerhouse Museum’s Flickr collection and the Electronic Swatchbooks on the Powerhouse Museum’s website are very impressive.

The third guest speaker on the night was Jenny Quilliam, from the University of South Australia, who spoke about four presentations. Library space-Living space provided an insight into the project to plan and build the new non-traditional library in the City of Ryde.

The actual importance of RDA elements in supporting key user tasks was about a study which used think-aloud usability testing techniques and sets of typical bibliographic tasks to gauge which of all the RDA (Resource Description & Access) elements are the most critical in a university library context.

Preparing library staff for research support services at QUT described a staff development program at the Queensland University of Technology, designed to help library staff develop expertise in new eresearch methods and technologies to provide the best possible research support services to the university.

Ebook readers: separating the hype from reality presented objective evidence and information about ebook readers and which ones are most suitable for a university library, based on research at the University of Queensland which involved both library staff and students.

Our fourth and final speaker, Tricia Genat from ALS Library Services, gave an overview of topics discussed at the Book Industry Strategy Group meeting, including how the Australian book industry can prosper in the digital marketplace and how print and electronic supply chains might be integrated through the development of various business models.

You can find these and other papers at www.information-online.com.au/

ALIA Information Science (SA) Committee
Tracy Gamlin
tracy.gamlin@ncver.edu.au
Registrations now open
The Organising Committee is pleased to announce registrations for the ALIA National Library & Information Technicians 2011 Conference are open. For more information, and to register for this exciting event, please visit the website: conferences.alia.org.au/libtech2011/.

Program Chair Michelle Coles on what’s in store at Back to Basics
What excites you most about the upcoming ALIA National Library & Information Technicians Conference?
Michelle: I am really looking forward to seeing all our hard work develop into an exciting and dynamic technical program filled with wonderful speakers. We have really thought about how to do things differently from past conferences so that delegates will remember Perth 2011 as being the best conference they have ever attended.

What are some highlights of the Technical Program?
Michelle: Highlights include Rachel Green, who will present our opening keynote address – a truly inspirational speaker. I’m also looking forward to expert storyteller Andy Wright, who will mesmerize delegates with his interactive storytelling session.

As the Program Chair, what has been involved with organising the technical program for the Conference?
Michelle: One of the most satisfying moments was finally putting together all the pieces of our program puzzle together and aligning our fabulous speakers to the three exciting streams to formulate the Back to Basics technical program.

You just have to be there.

Keep informed
- conferences.alia.org.au/libtech2011
- www.flickr.com/photos/libtech2011
- Search - ‘ALIA National Library & Information Technicians 2011 Conference'
- ALIALibtec, hashtag #ALIALibtec
- email libtech2011@iceaustralia.com.au

Metamorphosis: What will you become today?
5th New Librarians Symposium (2011)

Early bird registrations now open: Make sure you get in with the Early Bird and register for the ALIA 5th New Librarians Symposium. This Symposium is one not to be missed! Visit the Symposium website conferences.alia.org.au/nls5/register.html to register and for detailed registration information.

Program Chair Gemma Lyon talks about NLS5
As the Program Coordinator, what has been involved with organising the program for this Symposium?
Gemma: I’ve had the pleasure of working with an amazing committee and sub-committee to devise themes and streams, review abstracts and papers, negotiate with speakers, and all things in between. It’s been a great professional experience and I would recommend involvement with a conference committee to all new librarians. You can check out the program here: conferences.alia.org.au/nls5/

What excites you the most about the upcoming ALIA 5th New Librarians Symposium?
Gemma: We’re excited to be including workshops as well as papers in the program this year. We hope this will give the delegates more opportunities to work together and get more out of their conference experience. This will be an enticing complement to the exciting satellite events in store.

What are some highlights of the Symposium program?
Gemma: The major highlight is our lineup of exciting keynote speakers. David Lee King will be joining us from the Topeka & Shawnee County Public Library in Kansas, USA. We also have Mal Booth, Kate Davis and WA’s own Kathryn Greenhill. This lineup is already creating a lot of buzz amongst new librarians. Whoever you catch throughout the conference, our speakers will be sure to inspire, challenge your thinking, and perhaps be the catalyst for your own metamorphosis. See you there!

Keep informed
- ALIA NL5 2011
- twitter.com/nls5  #nls5
- conferences.alia.org.au/nls5
- alianls5.wordpress.com
- email nl5@iceaustralia.com

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HAVE YOU CONSIDERED SUBMITTING YOUR RESEARCH FOR PUBLICATION IN AARL?

Australian Academic & Research Libraries is ALIA’s journal devoted to all aspects of librarianship in university and college libraries, including the Technical and Further Education sector, and in research libraries of all types.

AARL publishes original, refereed contributions on all aspects of librarianship past and present, pure and applied bibliography, publishing, information science and related subjects.

AARL also reviews publications in these areas. You can view titles for review or suggest a title for review at www.alia.org.au/publishing/aarl/book.reviews/

AARL is abstracted or indexed in Australian education index, Australian library and information science abstracts, APAIS: Australian public affairs information service, Information science abstracts, Library and information science abstracts, and Library literature.

All articles appearing in AARL are fully peer-refereed.

For more information, contact the editor, Dr Bob Pymm, at aarl.editor@alia.org.au

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Why I love my (ALIA) job

Well...to call it a "job" would be a misnomer, as I’m not actually paid for it...not in tangible currency, anyway. But now, as my two year term on the ALIA Board of Directors comes to an end, it's an opportunity to reflect on what the Board experience has meant for me and how I have found it rewarding in many other ways.

Many people come to the Board with different backgrounds and skills. I joined after a long history ‘flying the ALIA flag’ as an enthusiastic volunteer in a range of groups, conference committees and national advisory committees. The two years I have served as Director have seen ALIA face significant challenges, with the cancellation of IFLA, the Global Financial Crisis and the need to plan for long-term financial sustainability. Despite this, we have also marked some major achievements with our government submissions on the National Broadband Network and school libraries, the Library Initiative and the success of the ALIA Access conference. Last but not least, the 2010 increase in ALIA membership is a big reward for everyone who believes that our members are the heart and future of the organisation.

Through my work on the Board in these interesting and challenging times, it hasn’t been easy but it has been deeply rewarding. I can honestly say I have gained a perspective of our profession that is wide and not just focused on my sector. I now have a complex knowledge of issues, initiatives and advocacy which would otherwise be outside my scope.

Being on the Board has been an opportunity to work with, and learn from, outstanding and emerging leaders in our profession and inspiring ALIA members - on the Board, standing committees, conference committees and National Office staff. I also relished the chance to be involved in the organisation of the ALIA Access conference, which set a number of ALIA conference firsts by changing the traditional conference model. Most importantly, with my Board colleagues, I’ve been able to ‘be in the room’ – to contribute in a small way to the sustainability and future of the Association.

In President Graham Black’s last Incite column, he lamented the lack of formal elections at Board level for the last couple of years. I share his concerns for two reasons. Firstly, that ALIA needs a talented, robust and representative Board to ensure a strong and sustainable Association into the future and secondly, that the Board experience is immensely valuable as an individual, to widen your perspective, broaden your thinking and face challenges you may never encounter in your day-to-day role as an information professional.

One of my favourite quotes is from Gandhi, “You must be the change you want to see in the world”. The library profession and our Association face some big challenges in the future which will require changes to the way we have always done things. Looking on from the sidelines will not be enough. It’s time for us all to get involved and engaged in shaping the future of our profession. I’m proud that through my role as ALIA Board member, I have put my hand up to be counted, and been active in trying to make a difference to my association and my profession. I urge you to think about how you can contribute, be it on an ALIA group, committee or as a Board member, to “being the change” you want to see.

Kate Sinclair
kate.sinclair@flinders.edu.au

The last word

Call for Expressions of Interest for ALIA Advisory Committees

ALIA’s Board of Directors is calling for interested members to join Advisory Committees. The following advisory committees looking for members are:

- ALIA Public Sector Information Advisory Committee
- ALIA Interlibrary Lending Advisory Committee
- ALIA New Generation Advisory Committee
- ALIA Special Libraries Advisory Committee
- ALIA Research Committee

For further information on the committees and guidelines go to: www.alia.org.au/governance/committees/

The term of appointment is for three years with the option of renewal for another three years. The nominations will be considered by the Board of Directors with appointments to commence from mid 2011.

For further information on the working of any of ALIA’s Advisory Committees, please contact Sue Hutley, ALIA Executive Director sue.hutley@alia.org.au or 1800 02 0071.

A CV and a 100 word statement in support of your expression of interest is to be forwarded to ALIA Executive Support Officer, enquiry@alia.org.au by close of business 1 June 2011.
NATIONAL EVENTS

There’s so much going on this month and so much to celebrate – so it’s time to remind the world that you are a proud member of ALIA by wearing your ALIA pin. Bring it out of retirement, give it a bit of a polish and get ready to be asked all about what it means to be a member of your professional association.

Where will you wear your pin?

May 1-31  National Information Awareness Month
May 1      MayDay
May 3      World Press Freedom Day
May 9-15   National Volunteers Week
May 17     World Telecommunication and Information Society Day
May 18     International Museum Day
May 21     World Day for Cultural Diversity
May 23-29  Library and Information Week
May 24     National Library Technicians Day
May 25     National Simultaneous Storytime
May 30-June 5  National Cyber Security Week

Don't forget to take great photos and send inCite your LIW news!  incite@alia.org.au

LOCAL EVENTS

3 May ALIA 20x20: Working Together - Sydney  Putting the spotlight on collaborative projects, 10 presenters will have 20 slides and 20 seconds per slide to tell us about their project. Contact Kate Byrne, ph 0414 955 258, aliasydneygroup@gmail.com

10 May Library Folk in the Pub - Melbourne  Come and join us for dinner and drinks. All welcome. For more information, contact Daniel Giddens, danielg@elitenet.com.au

14 May Library Ninja Chats (New Grads)- Hobart  Afterword Café at Fullers Bookshop 131 Collins St Hobart. All welcome. RSVP by end April at http://www.doodle.com/hvuextada4bhnzr For more information, contact Karina Tumon, karina.tumon@gmail.com

24 May TAS National Library Tech’s Day Breakfast - Hobart  Annual breakfast at Banjo’s Bakery, Elizabeth St, Hobart, from 7.30 am to celebrate National LTs Day. For more information, contact Jen Johnson, ph 0409 193 104, jjohnson@gyc.tas.edu.au

25 May Trivia Night - Brisbane  Lots of fun, lots of prizes! Contact Vicki McDonald, vicki.mcdonald@qut.edu.au