Call for proposals

ALIA Information Online 2019 will be an exciting and innovative conference experience. We need your help to deliver a fresh, engaging and stimulating conference program.

We invite proposals that address the conference theme: Infinite Possibilities.

We are seeking submissions that sit in the Galleries, Libraries, Archives and Museums (GLAM) space to create opportunities for delegates to think beyond libraries and explore opportunities presented by what is happening now and on the horizon in the broader GLAM context.

You are invited to consider a range of topics relevant to information and the online environment. You might share
- an idea for a new initiative
- your experience in developing and delivering innovative services
- findings of research
- an up-to-the minute overview of a key issue or contentious topic
- thought pieces that provide perspectives on key issues or provoke discussion.

All proposals must be relevant to the GLAM context and have a focus on the online environment or technology more generally.

We have expanded the types of submissions for Information Online 2019 to create a more interactive conference program. You can submit a proposal for a paper, poster, panel, debate, lightning talk, or experimental session.

Focus areas

We are looking for proposals that address one of the following focus areas:

Challenges

What are the big challenges the industry needs to address or contribute to solving? Proposed sessions will explore and provoke discussion about challenges at all levels and of all types, including technological, organisational, political or social challenges; from relatively simple challenges, to complex and wicked problems.

Example: Propose a panel session of researchers and information practitioners that explores digital exclusion and its impacts

Opportunities

What opportunities exist for change, creativity, innovation or radically redefining work in the GLAM context? What catalysts exist? How can we leverage them, or how has your organisation leveraged them?

Example: Propose a lightning talk that highlights a potential catalyst for change, with an emphasis on the opportunities it presents

Solutions

What new, novel or innovative solutions exist – or can be imagined – to address the problems and opportunities on the horizon? Don't limit yourself to libraries – what can we adopt from other sectors?

Example: Propose a presentation that explores a novel approach to solving a problem in your organisation

Possibilities

What's on the horizon for GLAM organisations? What possibilities can you imagine? What can we learn from other industries? What possibilities are you exploring in your organisation? Submissions in this focus area will be future-focused, visionary or exploratory.

Example: Propose a debate in which opposing sides make a case for a vision of academic libraries in the next decade

Potential topics

The following keyword lists provide some guidance on suitable topics. Please note this list is not exhaustive. Remember, we are looking for new, novel or previously unexplored ideas.

- **Creativity and innovation:** experimentation; makerspaces (with an emphasis on technology); co-creation; innovation; crowdsourcing innovations; transformational organisations and services
- **Digital transformations:** collections as services; collections as data; digital innovation; digitisation; digital humanities; how people engage with information
- **Digital inclusion:** impacts of exclusion; digital citizenship; online identity; digital divide
- **Discovery:** search; retrieval; search engine technology; is the catalogue dead?
- **Emerging technologies:** customising technologies; integrating technologies; trend scanning; impact of technologies (including algorithms, machine learning, AI, the cloud, or other new and emerging technologies)
- **Literacies:** gaming; online learning environments; text, visual, multimedia and information; new technologies
- **Openness:** open source; open access; open data; open education
- **Our staffing profile:** skills diversification; professional education; networking; collaboration
- **Publishing:** datasets; publishing trends; publishing models; vendor/library partnerships; promoting research; library publishing
- **Service design and delivery:** client focus; non-users; client needs; client experience; future services
- **Value of libraries:** assessing our value; how do we demonstrate impact?; initiatives to improve quality and return on investment; strategic planning

Submission types

Attending a conference is about more than seeing papers presented. It's about connecting with your peers, participating in discussion, and being exposed to a myriad of ideas from within the sector and beyond. With this in mind, we have broadened the submission types for the 2019 conference to encourage submissions that will allow you to actively engage in the conference experience.

You can submit a proposal for any of the following:
- **Presentations** on research studies, case studies, evaluations, or projects. Presentations may also be more exploratory, highlighting a key problem, opportunity or possibility. Presentations will be 20 minutes in length with an additional 5 minutes for question time. Accompanying papers are optional. Papers have a maximum length of 10 pages including references. All papers will undergo an editorial review. Peer review of papers is available on request.

- **Posters** on topics of interest to the sector, including research studies, case studies, evaluations or projects. Posters may also be more exploratory, highlighting a key problem, opportunity or possibility. Posters should be A1 size.
- **Panels** on hot topics. Panels will be for no more than 50 minutes (including question time) with around three panel members speaking to the topic.
- **Debates** that take different sides on a critical issue. Debates will be no more than 50 minutes (including question time).
- **Lightning talks** that provide a very short overview of a project, showcase a technology or implementation, or highlight a key issue. Lightning talks are an ideal space to float ideas or gain speaking experience. Lightning talks are 5 minutes in length.
- **Experimental sessions** take an innovative approach to creating engaging audience interaction. Examples include design sessions, unsessions, maker or hackathons, or interactive experiences. Experimental sessions will be either 25 minutes or 50 minutes in length.

Please note: Information Online typically attracts more than 1000 attendees. Three concurrent sessions run across the conference and sessions potentially attract several hundred delegates. We encourage non-traditional sessions, however, please bear in mind that all sessions must have a large capacity.

What to submit

Submissions should include
- an abstract (no more than 200 words)
- a biography for each speaker / debater / panelist, which should include an outline of relevant speaking experience and their content expertise
- a photograph of the presenter
- an overview of:
  - what attendees will get out of your session
  - who the session is aimed at
  - how the session fits the conference theme.

If proposing an experimental session, you will also need to provide a brief statement of the goal for the session and how it will operate, including any logistical information the committee may need to know to assess your submission.

If proposing a presentation, please indicate whether you plan to write an accompanying paper and whether you would like your paper peer reviewed.

Proposals should be submitted via the online portal.

Key dates

Call for abstracts close	23 April 2018
Author notification	11 June 2018
Peer review paper submission	6 August 2018
Final paper and presentation submission	28 January 2019

We are unable to offer financial assistance to attend and all presenters must register for and attend the conference. Speakers are eligible to receive a discounted conference registration fee.

Enquiries regarding proposal submissions can be directed to ALIA at events@alia.org.au.