



Election of ALIA vice-president and two directors

Call for nominations

Nominations are called for ALIA vice-president [president-elect] and two positions on the Board of Directors of ALIA as incorporated under *Corporations Law*.

The vice-president [president-elect] will be elected by the membership at large. One director is to be elected by the membership at large, and one director elected by the nominated group representative to the National Policy Congress.

Nominees should be personal members of the Association and will represent the interests of the organisation as a whole rather than those of a particular constituency.

The vice-president and directors will assume office immediately following the 2003 Annual General Meeting (May).

The vice-president [president-elect] will assume the presidency at the Annual General Meeting of the Association in 2004. The term of office of directors will be until the Annual General Meeting in 2005.

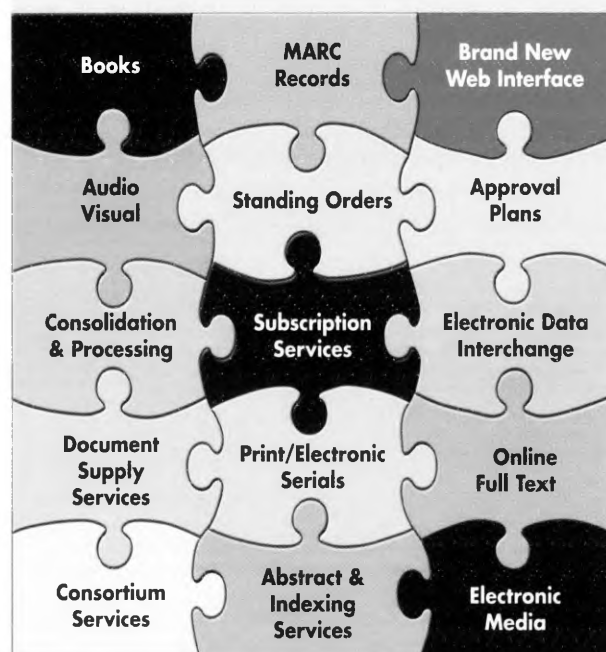
Nominations must be in writing and must be signed by two financial members of the Association and include the consent in writing of the nominee. Nomination forms must be accompanied by a 100-word current *curriculum vitae* which provides full details of academic and professional qualifications and a 100-word statement of professional concerns. The curriculum vitae should be arranged under headings of present position, previous positions and professional activities. A standard colour portrait photograph *must* be included.

Nomination forms are available from ALIA National Office, or via ALIANet.

Nominations close at 5:00pm AEDT on 3 February 2003 and should be sent to the ALIA executive director, PO Box E441, Kingston ACT 2604, e-mail enquiry@alia.org.au, or fax 02 6282 2249.

Forms and information available from <http://www.alia.org.au/governance/elections/2003/>

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The 'new era' – what will it mean for you?

Elizabeth Swan, convenor of the *Information Online 2003* conference, reflects on the opportunities and threats for information professionals in the new era

A dozen recent magazines sit on the floor beside my desk waiting to be thoroughly read. Bold headlines on their covers trumpet the changes occurring in our field.

- 'A new era of search engines' is splashed across the *Online* cover for September/October 2002;
- 'Our environment: Part 1 general sources' is slashed across a murky, smoggy looking cover of *Searcher* for September 2002;
- 'Working virtually' features on the cover of the April 2002 *Searcher*.
- *Online Currents* in July/August 2002 on its cover reported on the Australian Senate 'Inquiry into the Role of Libraries in the Online Environment'.
- *The Cyberskeptic's Guide* in July/August 2002 evaluated <http://www.zapdata.com> and <http://www.business2.com> on its front cover;

...and there is more, much more waiting to be read and digested in this new era for information professionals.

Browse inside any of these journals, or inside *inCite*, and you will find large advertisements now from a wide range of global electronic information providers.

- Factiva promises to upgrade your organisation with the world's best news and business information.
- Embase 'the intelligent gateway to biomedical and pharmacological information' announces new search features.
- Lexis Nexis invites us to 'share information' on our websites, intranets, extranets or portals.

- Proquest tells us they can give us (and our clients!) 'instant access' to information in the humanities and social sciences.
- Elsevier Science invites us to customise online services for a specific science and technical research community.
- Thomson's Dialog tells us their new DialogLink 3.0 software will help us 'save money and time'.
- Ovid is 'transforming content tools' and services.
- But the ad that made me smile was the ad from Thomson Gale which features a photograph of Mike Davis (business reference librarian) and Gino Sorcinelli (Professor in the Department of Accounting and Information systems at UMass). The two men are described as 'technology geniuses' because they successfully partnered to deliver information to the students through a web portal site. 'Two heads are better than one' the ad says because Mike and Gino have shown students how this new technology affects actual organisations and so the students will be 'above the rest in business education'.

There are many other advertisements from the new global electronic providers offering information solutions to us as information professionals — and also directly to our clients who, having mastered HotBot, Google or AltaVista, are quite interested in these large, professional, targeted services that promise quality and speed to our clients' desktops.

These journal articles and adver-



tisements in our professional literature reflect the dramatic changes occurring right now in the library and information sector worldwide. Globalisation has reached us too! Technology is reaching our clients!

So what role will we as librarians have in this new era?

In the few short years since consumerisation of internet access occurred, already we have learned that many people (including some who should know better) assume that 'everything is available and free on the internet'. As information professionals we know there is a lot of great stuff on the internet and it is a great platform, but we also know how to search the invisible web and we know that relying solely on the internet for information can be a fool's game — don't we?

What impact is this love affair with the internet as a source of free information having on all libraries — especially special libraries and public libraries? What are the threats for our colleagues in these sectors? What are the opportunities too in special and public libraries, and in the larger institutional libraries? What are the challenges for those in the education sector — from primary school to universities?

In my view there are serious threats

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