

Group roundup

Highlights from the last six months...

ALIA SA

Planning for the ALIA SA Regional Symposium, *Out of the blue: surfing the lake*, was a priority in the first half of 2003. The symposium, which was held in late October, investigated and discussed innovative technological and human-based solutions to information services and delivery mechanisms.

ALIA Tasmania

The Tasmania Group had a busy schedule of activities ranging from planning sessions to a metadata workshop and an International Special Librarians day.

Academic and Research Libraries (WA)

Student awards were presented for best research papers from library school students. The group also held a very successful 'Virtual reference initiatives' event which attracted approximately fifty people. Delegates learned about the AskNow! online reference service run by the National Library of Australia in conjunction with the state libraries, and 'Online librarian: real time/real talk' a collaboration between Murdoch University Library and Macquarie University Library. Ian Lee outlined 'Ten reasons why virtual reference sucks'.

ALIA National Acquisitions and ALIA Acquisitions (SA)

Both ALIA Acquisitions groups have been very active in the first half of the year. Acquisitions National has been busy organising a major seminar in Melbourne and Acquisitions SA has run a seminar and two very successful tours in the first part of the year with another seminar in August being organised as a satellite event for the Specials, Health, and Law Conference in Adelaide.

Asia Pacific Special Interest Group

This group has been particularly busy and have hosted seminars on a range of topics. The seminars have attracted wide audiences including those from professions outside the library and information sector. Four of APSIG's committee have been awarded the new silver ALIA pin to recognise their extensive committee work with APSIG and other ALIA groups. The last seminar for the year is planned on publishing and book selling in the Asia Pacific.

Central Australia Regional Group

The Central Australia Regional Group only met formally twice in the first half of 2003, there have been many informal discussions and networking. One highlight from this period is that the convenor of the group held discussions with senior government managers

to emphasise the importance of professionals in departmental libraries. This has been beneficial for the Association and positions have remained in these departments at professional levels. The group also made a submission to the Senate Inquiry on Libraries.

ALIA Children's and Youth Services (NSW)

The ALIA Children's and Youth Services (NSW) group held a very successful seminar entitled *Switching them on to reading: books and young children* at the State Library of New South Wales in April. Mem Fox was the keynote speaker. The group also worked with Wollongong City Council to host two pre-Book Week extravaganzas at the Burwood Council Chambers and Corrimal District Library and Community Centre.

Collection and Access Management (Qld)

The third in a series of three seminars on electronic resource management was held at QUT Gardens Point Campus in May. More than eighty people attended *Measure for measure: effective evaluation of electronic information resources*. Speakers included Heather Todd, Anna Raunik, Jacqui Porter and Martin Borchert.

Health Libraries Australia

Health Libraries Australia compiled an online census of Australian health libraries. Work on the census commenced in 2002, and was completed in early 2003. Available exclusively for ALIA members on ALIANet, the database can be searched for details and key features of health libraries around the country.

ALIA NSW Library Technicians

There have been two standout highlights for the year so far. The first was the Techs on Tour visit to Canberra [combined with ALIA Library Technicians (Vic)]; the second was winning the bid to host the 2005 Technician's conference in Sydney.

ALIA South Australia Library Technicians (SALT)

SALT held a social event with a difference — a secret haunts tour through the historic Port Adelaide.

Victorian ALIA Library Technicians

This group has had a particularly busy time and have made six different library visits within a few months. One of these was a two-day interstate visit to Canberra libraries.

ALIA Schools (Vic)

During March and May, professional

development sessions were delivered covering issues related to information literacy and diversity in learning. This group has been active in providing input to

1. a joint ALIA/ASLA statement on teacher librarians in Australia; and
2. the National Statement from the teaching profession on teacher standards, quality and professionalism.

ALIA Special Libraries (SA)

The e-list for this group has now been migrated to ALIA. The group toured the Parliamentary Library of South Australia in February, hosted a knowledge management presentation with ALIA Health Libraries and also hosted a panel session on casual/contract work in March.

ALIA Special Libraries (Victoria)

Special events have included presentations on e-books; creating a thesaurus on womens health and managing copyright. ■



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