

# Recently elected ALIA Board members profiled

## Vice-president (president-elect)

### Dagmar Schmidmaier AM

BA, DipLib, MLib, Hon DLitt, FALIA

#### Present position

State librarian and chief executive, State Library of New South Wales

#### Previous positions

Prior to 1995, senior academic and management positions in librarianship, education and information systems. I have worked in public, university and special libraries in the public and private sectors, and as a library educator. I have been a consultant to national and international organisations.

#### Professional activities

Awards for my contribution to the profession include: an Order of Australia (AM) in 2004; and Fellow of ALIA in 2000. Served on many professional boards and committees; convenor of the program subcommittee, 1988 LAA/IFLA Conference; chair, ALIA 2002 Biennial Conference; president, Aurora Foundation, 2004-. I have made a personal commitment to support the New Generation Group of ALIA.

#### Post-election statement of professional concerns

I have always been interested in innovation to develop services and systems to provide the best possible library and information services to our various and specialist communities. Our professional activities intersect with many other professional areas and I would like to use my term as president to support innovation and in particular the New Generation Group, to reposition ourselves in this most dynamic 21<sup>st</sup> century e-environment. The online world is challenging our work at all levels and I would also like to encourage more debate on issues including the impact of online publishing, the development of new models of service delivery, review of funding models and our relationship with and influence on other sectors. It is such an exciting time to be working in this field and, with fresh ideas for solutions and a strategic approach, we can shape our future together.

It was a great pleasure to attend my first Board meeting on 20 May and I look forward to working with my fellow directors on the Board and colleagues at ALIA Head Office.

#### Director

### Rachael Browning

BA, GDip LIS, MIMS, AALIA(CP)

#### Present position

Team leader, Arts and Humanities Team, State Library of Queensland

#### Previous positions

Co-ordinator, information and reference, Brisbane City Council Library Service; operational co-ordinator and trainer, State Library of Queensland BHP Billiton skills.net roadshow.

#### Professional activities

ALIA mentoring program, 1997; Pathways to CPD Group,



2000 and 2001; QUT mentoring program; program convenor, New Librarians Symposium, 2002 and 2003; Aurora 2004 participant.

#### Statement of professional concerns

As an ALIA member I seek to be involved in the delivery of ALIA towards 2010. It is vital that this framework is both informed and delivered by members of the Association who will be working in the profession in 2010 and beyond.

Continuing professional development is my main professional concern. In a changing environment it is important that we remain relevant to and valued by the community. It is also important that as an Association we are able to articulate the value and relevancy of our role. As an ALIA member I am motivated to work in this area to shape relevant and vibrant roles for library professionals of the future.

#### Director

### Ann Ritchie

BAppSc(ILSt), GDip (Health Promotion), MSc (Public Health), AALIA

#### Present position

Assistant director, Northern Territory Library

#### Previous positions

National Standing Committee, Education, Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, 2002-2004; reference librarian, Charles Darwin University, 2002; database consultant, EBSCO Publishing, Australasia, 2001; trainer/consultant, AIMA, 1999-2001; library manager, Hollywood Hospital, 1994-1999.

#### Professional activities

ALIA director, 2003-; member, ALIA Top End; professional development leader, ALIA Health Libraries Australia, 2001-2003; Editorial Board, Health Information and Library Journal, 2003-; IFLA personal member 2001-; chair, continuing professional development and workplace learning, IFLA, 2001-; Activities for WA ALIA (1988-1999) include: Health libraries secretary and Branch Council representative, training and development officer, chair/member mentoring committee, co-facilitator group mentoring. 1999 ALIA Study Grant. 1988 ALIA Sharr Medal.

#### Statement of professional concerns

Advocacy and lobbying on significant information/library-related issues are important and sometimes unique responsibilities of library associations. ALIA has a role in contributing to the debate and activities at national and international levels.

Improving standards and the quality of professional practice through education, research, including the application of research-based evidence, and CPD are areas to be encouraged and, where cost-effective, opportunities extended to regional areas.

Financial stability and growth in membership are fundamental to a healthy organisation, and ALIA depends on strong networks and communication to be able to represent the sector. Retaining and increasing memberships are priority issues. ■

