

ALIA's Brisbane Board meeting



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The Board of Directors met in Brisbane on 22 July, hosted by the Queensland University of Technology's School of Information Systems. The previous evening some of the directors enjoyed the hospitality of Quorum at a social function. During the function ALIA president, Gillian Hallam, presented Richard Sayers, Jennifer Parker, Jennifer McCarthy and Lynn McAllister with silver pins for their service to ALIA.

A new reporting framework for the Board has been developed that brings together agenda items and the two-year plan initiatives under five perspectives: members, communication, education, innovation and learning, and finance and management.

Members

The good result for the last membership year was acknowledged.

The report of the selection committee for the 2005 Dunn and Wilson Scholarship was accepted and the successful recipient will be announced at the *neXt 2005* conference dinner in September.

Directors are keen to foster a culture in our sector of applying for research awards and the benefits of taking up awards will be promoted at every opportunity. A workshop on applying for research awards is to be scoped to supplement the tools currently available on ALIANet (<http://alia.org.au/awards/>).

Communication

The draft advocacy framework and the key advocacy areas for 2005–2006 will be further discussed, with priorities determined, at the September Board meeting. The broad areas in the framework include access to information, workforce, education and futures planning. It is anticipated that the framework will be discussed at the National Advisory Congress to be held in November in conjunction with the Board meeting. Gillian Hallam, Dagmar Schmidmaier and Jennefer Nicholson are to meet with representatives from a number of associations at the IFLA World Library and Information Congress in Oslo in August to discuss successful future directions and policy-setting strategies.

The Purchasing and Consortia Reference Group will report to the Board in September on the consultation paper for a national site licence.

The document on *Access to government online publications* was endorsed as an outcome of the Digital Amnesia seminar and the actions proposed in it are to be incorporated into the advocacy framework for 2005–2006. Details of the seminar outcomes can be viewed at <http://conferences.alia.org.au/seminars/digital.amnesia2005/outcomes.html>.

Maxine Brodie is chairing the Board's newly established Taskforce on Future Directions for ALIA Publishing, with Kim Moody and Norman Horrocks. The taskforce will report to the Board in November on the future purpose and directions for ALIA publishing, taking into consideration the relationship of publishing to the Association's Objects; and actions to be taken over the next two years to build a longer-term program. Promotional and marketing materials are outside the scope of the review. The taskforce will consider future models, recommended formats and coverage for scholarly publishing by the Association.

The Association has renewed its memorandum of understanding with the Australian Society of Archivists and will actively collaborate on advocacy, professional development and issues arising in areas of practice common to both sectors.

The Board endorsed the establishment of an Australian National Committee of the Blue Shield in its capacity as the Australian representative of IFLA, one of the four international 'pillar' organisations.

Education

The revised education policy statements were endorsed.

The Bachelor of Arts (Library and Information Science), including the Hong Kong and Mauritius programs, offered by Charles Sturt University was recognised until December 2011.

The Education Reference Group is reviewing the process and policy issues for recognition of courses based on the revised Library and Information Services Industry Training Package being implemented this year and will report to the November Board meeting. As an interim arrangement the recognition period for those courses currently recognised has been extended to December 2006 to allow for the transition to the new package.



I-r: Lynn McAllister, Gillian Hallam, Jenny McCarthy, Jennefer Nicholson at the Quorum function where Lynn and Jenny both received silver pins for service to ALIA



Jennefer Nicholson, ALIA executive director, and Catherine Robinson, ASA president, signing a Memorandum of Understanding between the Australian Library and Information Association and the Australian Society of Archivists

LIS sector watch

Nada Anderson, ALIA research officer

Australians' use of and satisfaction with e-government services

Commissioned by the Australian Government Information Management Office http://www.agimo.gov.au/publications/2005/june/e-government_services

The report gives a snapshot of how Australians use e-government services and how satisfied they are with them. The study covers federal, state, territory and local governments. It examines people's preferences for certain services and contact methods including phone, face-to-face and the internet. The study found that 70 per cent of Australian adults had used the internet in the past year and that 40 per cent of these had used it to contact a government agency.

Adult literacy and numeracy: at a glance

Sue Foster and Francesca Beddie

National Centre for Vocational Education Research <http://www.ncver.edu.au/publications/1584.html>

The report shows that literacy and numeracy practices change over time, and that the literacy challenge is not confined to those people traditionally considered to

be poorly educated or unsuccessful. The report also considers Australia's place in the international arena, and looks at strategies for integrating literacy into unconventional learning environments and at ways to ensure the continuing strength of the teaching workforce.

Public libraries: efficiency and stock supply chain review

PKF Consultants (UK)

Published by the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA) and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) http://www.mla.gov.uk/action/framework/framework_04b.asp

The review examines the best and most cost-effective way to operate the book supply chain, and to look at budget issues and efficiency in public library services. The review recommends examining the case for a national procurement agency and sets out some options for the type of agency that might be considered. MLA and DCMS will now develop these options in more detail in consultation with all interested parties, including the library community, to understand the cost implications and possible implementation timescale of each option.

Regional telecommunications: an overview

Jeffrey Robertson

Information and Research Services, Parliamentary Library, Canberra, Research Note N° 52 2004-05 <http://www.aph.gov.au/library/pubs/RN/2004-05/05rn52.htm>

Debate over unequal access to information and communication technology services between regional and metropolitan Australia often focuses on infrastructure. This research note finds that infrastructure is just one aspect of a wider host of problems that reinforces the digital divide.

Geeks bearing gifts: open source software and its enemies

Nicholas Gruen

The Centre for Independent Studies <http://www.cis.org.au/policy/winter05/polwin05-7.htm>

The paper discusses the merits of open source software and the counter-arguments of corporate interests. The paper concludes that Australia should be wary of extending its intellectual property law.

Directline (continued)...

The Board is preparing a paper for discussion at the September meeting on the key issues for ALIA relating to the recent closure of two schools of library and information studies and the impact on sustainability and quality of education for the profession.

Change in *inCite* editor

I would like to acknowledge the terrific job Julie Stokes has done editing *inCite* for us since March while we have been filling the position. This is the second time Julie has helped us out and her knowledge of the sector and experience in editing have on each occasion provided us with quality issues. Karen McVicker has commenced with ALIA as managing editor and will take over *inCite* from the next issue. Karen has wide experience as an editor and I'm sure will make her own impression on *inCite*.



ALIA president Gill Hallam presenting silver pins and certificates to Richard Sayers and Jennifer Parker for their service to ALIA

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