

# Members contributing expertise



**Jennefer Nicholson**

ALIA executive director  
jennefer.nicholson@alia.org.au

*ALIA's policy  
and expert  
advisory groups  
demonstrably  
increase the  
Association's  
capacity to  
achieve its goals*

ALIA's policy and expert advisory groups are a wonderful resource and have demonstrably increased the Association's capacity to achieve its goals and aims. Implemented as part of the new group structure a few years ago, they enable members to contribute their expertise on topical issues, establish strong networks with colleagues, and greatly assist me, ALIA staff and the Board in our work. Recent reports to the Board reveal the significant contribution being made to professional practice.

Our Expert Group on Government Publications has been actively advocating for equitable access to government publications in both print and electronic formats. In October it prepared ALIA's submission to the federal Parliament's Joint Committee on Publications inquiry into proposed changes to the distribution of the Parliamentary Papers Series, and will be giving oral evidence to the Committee in November. The Group also prepared our letter to the federal Parliament regarding the cessation of Parliamentary Papers Series (PPS) blister packs and the Joint Committee has requested that this be tabled for inclusion in their inquiry. The submission will appear on the ALIA website when permission is granted by the Committee. The Digital Amnesia seminar in April this year has proven an excellent lead-up to these activities. (<http://conferences.alia.org.au/seminars/digital.amnesia2005/>).

In April the ALIA and Australian School Library Association (ASLA)-endorsed *Standards of professional excellence for teacher-librarians*, developed by the ALIA/ASLA Joint Policy and Advisory Group, were launched. (<http://alia.org.au/policies/teacher-librarian.standards.html>).

This Group was recently invited to comment on an issues paper for the National Institute for Quality Teaching and School Leadership (NIQTSL) *Standards for school leadership* project. The Group stressed that the term 'school leader' should capture the multiple leadership roles within a school. The project is expected to create broader opportunities for staff such as teacher-librarians who wish to take on leadership roles without losing their teacher-librarian role. With their experience in developing the standards for teacher-librarians the Group was able to provide valuable input on the process for developing standards and the role of professional associations in standards frameworks.

The Interlibrary Lending Expert Advisory Group is reviewing the Interlibrary Resource Sharing (ILRS) Code and a revised draft will be released for comment in November.

The Online Content and Regulation Reference Group is monitoring recent media coverage of demands to protect children from possible exposure to internet pornography by installing mandatory filtering of internet services in public libraries. The group is also working with the Public Libraries Reference Group compiling 'Children and the internet', an information resource guide for members.

The Purchasing and Consortia Reference Group prepared the Association's response to the national licensing issues paper prepared by the National Library Making online information for all Australians a reality. Richard Sayers, from the Group, and Susan Magnay represented ALIA at the National site licensing forum held at the NLA on 12 October.

For the last two years the Association has been negotiating with the Australian Taxation Office and federal Department of Education, Science and Training for Approved Research Institute (ARI) status to qualify for Taxation Deductible Gift Recipient status. This would allow tax-deductible donations to the ALIA Research Fund and, hopefully, encourage contributions. The ARI status would increase our research profile and opportunities to participate in research partnerships. We are 'encouraging' DEST to make a decision soon. The ALIA Research Committee administers the fund under by-law.

Dale Chatwin has done a great job representing ALIA on the Standards Australia Knowledge Management Committee, developing the new Knowledge Management Standard. The standards are due for release and an article on them is being written for *inCite*.

Details on the ALIA policy and expert groups are located at <http://alia.org.au/governance/committees/> and joint or external committees with ALIA representation are at <http://alia.org.au/governance/committees/external/>.

The Board reviews these biennially and may call for expressions of interest or invite appointments. Terms of appointment generally run from May for two years with the call for expressions going out early in the year through *inCite* and *aliaNEWS*, so if you are interested keep a look out.

In October, staff and members who had worked with her sadly farewellled Emma Royan-Smith, our events manager. Emma was terrific to work with, extremely capable and had great ideas. Emma is taking a break before planning her next career move. ■