

Library stars: best of the best

The ALIA Public Libraries Reference Group (PLRG) is planning an inspirational forum to showcase successful public libraries, public library practitioners and their projects. The one-day forum, on 19 September 2006, will be a satellite event for the ALIA 2006 biennial conference at the Perth Convention Centre.

The themes for 'Library stars: best of the best' reflect the 'CLICK' theme for the ALIA 2006 Biennial conference.

- How do public libraries create value?
- How do they lead debate on literacy, reading and access to information?
- What innovations are occurring?
- How do libraries connect with their communities?
- Sharing knowledge with colleagues

Call for nominations for presentations

The PLRG invites nominations from the public library sector for presentations showcasing a library or a project or success achieved by a public library service.

From the nominations, the PLRG will select up to seven presentations that reflect the 'best of the best' across Australia's diverse public library services. Individuals or library services may nominate. Presenters will need to be self-funded, but will be eligible for free registration. In the forum program, 30 minutes will be allowed for each

presentation. Delegates to the forum will vote for the Delegates' Choice Award for the best project presented on the day.

To nominate a library service, project or success, please send a proposal of up to 300 words including:

- a brief description;
- how one or more of the above themes are addressed; and
- why you believe it is a 'library star'.

Include full contact details: the name or names of presenter/s, job title/s, organisation name and address and the e-mail address and phone number of the contact person for the nomination.

Please send nominations by **Friday 10 February 2006** to Susan Magnay, manager, planning policy, Australian Library and Information Association, PO Box 6335, Kingston 2604 (susan.magnay@alia.org.au, ph 02 6215 8225). The PLRG will select the presentations, inform those shortlisted and finalise the forum program by mid-April 2006.

The PLRG is an advisory group to the ALIA Board of Directors on strategic activities that will deliver services of particular interest and benefit to public libraries and increase the awareness and participation by the public library sector in ALIA services and activities (for more information on the PLRG see <http://alia.org.au/governance/committees/public-libraries/>).

LIS sector watch

Nada Anderson, ALIA research officer

Report on government online publications seminar

<http://conferences.alia.org.au/seminars/digital.amnesia2005/>

In April 2005, ALIA hosted the seminar 'Digital Amnesia: the challenge of government online' which focused on the key issues in identifying, providing access to and maintaining online government publications. A summary of the seminar presentations and the key issues to emerge, outcomes for the seminar endorsed by the ALIA Board of Directors and a number of the papers presented are available from ALIA's website.

Libraries Impact Project (UK)

Laser Foundation

<http://www.bl.uk/about/cooperation/laser.html>

The project proposes methodologies and measures for quantifying the impacts of public libraries on their communities in relation to four UK government priority areas: children, education, health and older people. The study was commissioned by the Laser Foundation and conducted by Price-

WaterhouseCoopers LLP and can be found at <http://www.bl.uk/about/cooperation/pdf/laserfinal6.pdf>.

Public libraries and the internet 2004: survey results and findings (US)

Bernot, John; McClure, Charles and Jaeger, Paul. Information Use Management and Policy Institute, College of Information, Florida State University <http://ii.fsu.edu/plinternet/>

The report presents national and state data from the 2004 Public Libraries and the Internet survey funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the American Library Association. The primary goal of the study is to provide the library community with current information that describes public library activities in the networked environment. The data will provide national and state policymakers, library advocates, practitioners, researchers, government and private funding organisations, and a range of stakeholders with a better understanding of the issues and needs of libraries associated with providing internet-based services and resources.

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