

Report of the March Board of Directors meeting



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Awards

Kate Sinclair is the first recipient of the new peer-nominated Metcalfe Medallion Award which recognises high achievement by a personal member in their first five years of practice. The achievement should show a contribution beyond the nominee's employment and can include initiative, a commitment to innovation in practice, and leadership. In its report to the Board the National Awards Panel noted that Kate's referees consistently commended her professionalism, her commitment and her role as an enabler.

Natasha Griggs, from the City of Belmont library (Perth), was awarded the peer-nominated National Excellence Award for her role as the driving force behind the *Finding My Place* career development program for at-risk students. This program was developed in partnership with the Department of Education and Training and local secondary colleges. An excellent initiative, it promotes libraries as community hubs and places for lifelong learning.

Congratulations to both Kate and Natasha.

Financial report

The Board signed off the annual financial report following the completion of the external audit. In other financial items the Board received the auditors report to management, endorsed a 5 per cent increase in membership fees for the 2005–2006 membership year, and endorsed group budgets for Information Science (SA), Riverina (NSW), SA Library Technicians, TALIA Tecs, TAFE National, National Library Technicians, and ALIA West and ALIA Tasmania.

Conferences

The budget for the third International Evidence Based Librarianship conference in Brisbane on 16–19 October 2005 was endorsed, as was the theme of *Pathways and Possibilities* for the New Librarians' Symposium 3. With the bidding process now open for the IFLA conferences in 2009, 2010 and 2011, the Association has been approached by both the Sydney and Melbourne convention bureaux with offers of assistance should ALIA wish to bid. The Board resolved that ALIA would not be bidding to host any of these conferences.

Groups and a new associate fellow

New groups — ALIA Mentoring Group (National) and ALIA Mentoring Group (SA) — were endorsed; and the ALIA Children and Youth Services Group (ACT) was dissolved.

Julie Fawcett was confirmed as an Associate Fellow (Library Technician).

Committees

At its March meeting the Board reviews those policy and advisory committees due for their two-year cycle review. Seven committees were endorsed for a further two years — By-Laws, Copyright and Intellectual Property, Expert

Group on Government Publications, Interlibrary Lending Expert Advisory Group, International Relations, Online Content and Regulation, and the Research Committee. Heather Drummond was appointed to the Purchasing and Consortia Reference Group. Margarita Moreno was appointed to the Interlibrary Lending Expert Advisory Group. Jan Houghton was appointed as ALIA's representative for the Australian Civil Society and related WSIS activities. All appointments are until the 2007 ALIA AGM. Expressions of interest for committee vacancies will be called for in *inCite*.

Amendments to the Constitution

A special resolution will be put to the 2005 AGM to amend the Constitution to change the name National Policy Congress to National Advisory Congress. In discussing the planning for the 2005 Congress the Board decided that the Congress should be held in November each year. The model would be a series of meetings open to any member and held around the country throughout the year to communicate and exchange information about the work and planning of the Association and the interests of members and groups in that area. These meetings would be attended by a director if possible and a member of ALIA staff. Attendees at regional meetings could nominate someone to join representatives from relevant policy areas in attending the Congress meeting held in conjunction with the November Board meeting.

The Board is proposing changes to the election of directors and an article on this for comment by members will appear in the next issue of *inCite*.

Education matters

Planning for the ALIA Education Forum to be held at the State Library of NSW on Monday 11 April was noted, as was an update on the current review of our education statements, both activities being led by the ALIA Education Reference Group.

Performance evaluation

The Board discussed the results of the survey and issues raised in the Board performance evaluation and agreed that the survey be used again for the next evaluation in late 2005/early 2006.

Future directions

Work commenced on clarifying the Association's advocacy goals and activities for 2005–2006 and will be further developed at the May meeting.

The Board considered the issues raised in *Preparing for demographic change*, a report on workforce and succession planning released by the Librarians of the Australian Technology Network (LATN), which are relevant to Initiative 2 in the *ALIA 2005–2006 Plan* (Research and report on trends in employment in the sector). ▶

LIS sector watch

Nada Anderson, ALIA research officer

Managing information in the digital age: the ATN libraries respond

ATN Conference Papers (2005), Huthwaite, Ann (ed). *Libraries of the ATN*, \$44.00 to purchase, e-mail glenys.cook@unisa.edu.au

The conference papers address the challenges facing all academic libraries and include the consequences of rapid growth in electronic resources; changing patterns in scholarly publishing and communication; increasing use of multimedia; changes in the management of copyright and intellectual property; and succession and workforce planning.

Peak Bodies Forum

Agenda, papers and minutes can be viewed at:

<http://www.nla.gov.au/initiatives/meetings/peakbod/2004.html>

The 2004 meeting of the Peak Bodies Forum was held at the National Library of Australia on 10 December 2004. The forum was attended by representatives of peak library sector organisations. Among the items discussed were Kinetica developments, copyright, resource sharing, education for librarianship and access to and preservation of information resources.

Site Licensing Forum

Issues paper, responses and minutes can be viewed at:

<http://www.nla.gov.au/initiatives/meetings/sitelicense/slindex.html>

Representatives of key library organisations attended a forum con-

vened by the National Library of Australia on 8 December 2004 to explore the issue of national access to online information resources.

The Digital divide in 2025

An independent study conducted for British Telecom. December 2004

<http://www.btplc.com/Societyandenvironment/Reports/Reports.htm>

The report forecasts that 23 million people in Britain, or almost one-third of the adult population, will be at risk of being 'digitally excluded' in 2025. The report defines digital exclusion as not having access to the internet at home. On this basis, 51 per cent of the adult population in Britain is currently digitally excluded. The report finds that the main obstacles to digital inclusion are, firstly, problems of access associated with income, ability to pay for technology and issues such as disability and lack of skills; and secondly, problems of engagement with the online world. The people excluded risk losing access to fundamental services like medical information and education.

Recommended practices for digital preservation

National Library of Australia

<http://www.nla.gov.au/preserve/digipres/digiprespractices.html>

The pamphlet contains advice for those with long-term responsibility for management and preservation of digital materials. ■

Board report continued...

Imogen Garner is a member of LATN and will discuss further with LATN and CAUL those recommendations that offer possibilities for working collaboratively with ALIA.

This issue's Frontline raises a number of issues regarding future directions for ALIA publishing and the Board will consider these in more detail at its July meeting.

A number of recommendations for further action were referred to ALIA at the final forum of the National Resource Sharing Working Group. The Board accepted the Interlibrary Lending Expert Advisory Group's proposal that ALIA focus on revising the ILRS code to simplify the service levels, and the development of an online manual which would primarily be a best practice resource.

The Board gave its support for ALIA in a communication role for the project 'Indigenous Library Services and the Information Profession' proposed by the Jumbunna Indigenous House of Learning and UTS Library, and which includes a review of the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander protocols for libraries, archives and information services*. ■

Expressions of interest called for ALIA advisory groups

ALIA By-laws Advisory Group

The role of the By-laws Advisory Group is to review and revise on a continuing basis the by-laws of the Association to ensure clarity and internal consistency, without the intention to change the Association and its structure.

The group acts on matters referred by the ALIA Board of Directors. It may also advise the Board of Directors on elements of the ALIA Constitution and by-laws potentially requiring review.

One member is sought for this committee.

ALIA International Relations Policy Advisory Group

The role of the International Relations Policy Advisory Group is to advise the ALIA Board of Directors on policy issues relating to international library and information issues, particularly in the Asia-Pacific region. The group also provides input to government and other inquiries and policy forums on matters of international concern to the library and information profession.

Two members are sought for this committee.

Further details

The term of all appointments is two years from the 2005 annual general meeting. Further details and information about how to nominate are available from Mary Ann Ryan, ph 02 6215 8214, or e-mail maryann.ryan@alia.org.au. Nominations must be received by 6 May. ■



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