One of the goals ALIA will be focusing on this year is 'Professional education and workforce planning'. A specific aspect of this focus will be the 'support and promotion of the professional development (PD) program'.

As ALIA's Professional Development Officer, I am very excited to have this opportunity to not only tout the benefits of professional development in general, but to highlight the value of the ALIA PD Scheme in particular.

Participation in the ALIA PD Scheme is voluntary and free of charge to all eligible ALIA members and provides a broad range of services. These services range from securing discounted registration fees on a wide variety of training opportunities with accredited training companies and institutions, to providing the tools to formally record and demonstrate your ongoing commitment to your professional growth.

One of these tools is ALIA's *Career development kit*. This kit has been designed to assist members and their employers to:

* Define and analyse current skills

* Pinpoint areas which may need further development

* Set professional development goals

* Identify PD activities which will best facilitate the achievement of these goals.

Another tool is ALIA's *PD Scheme user guide*, providing members with the necessary information to participate in the PD Scheme by:

* Clearly defining the requirements and responsibilities of the scheme

* Providing a description of accredited PD activities

* Providing documents for recording your activities

* Providing details of the annual audit process.

The ALIA PD Scheme is held in high regard throughout the library community both here and abroad and is the first step in gaining industry recognition as an Associate Fellow (AFALIA or AFALIATec). Professional development provides us with the building blocks to enhance our skills and further our careers.
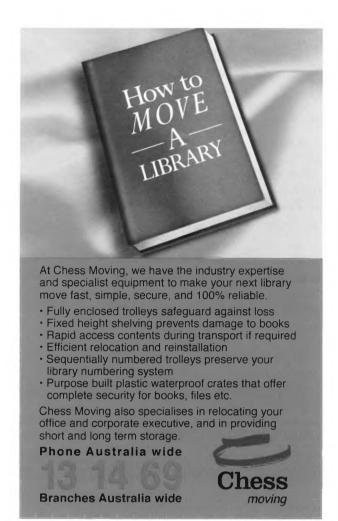
For more information on the ALIA Professional Development (PD) Scheme and eligibility, visit **http://www.alia.org.au/education/pd/** or contact ALIA's PD Officer on 02 6215 8216 **karen.mills@alia.org.au**

**Karen Mills**
**ALIA PD Officer**

# **Applications** open for 2008 heritage grants

The National Library of Australia is calling for applications for the 2008 Community Heritage Grants. The annual grants of up to $15,000 are available to community groups around the country to help preserve and manage locally held, nationally significant cultural heritage collections of documents and objects for future generations.

Applications close on June 30. **http://www.nla.gov.au**

**Professional Development in June**

**ALIA / RMAA Breakfast Series**
Breakfast: Canberra 5 June 2008
Registration form and Information
**http://www.alia.org.au/education/pd/workshops/ACT.joint.breakfast.pdf**

**Disaster Planning for Cultural Collections**
One day course: Adelaide 4 June 2008
Register online with CAVAL
**http://www.caval.edu.au/course-description.html?CID=168**

**Advancing Business Classification Initiatives**
Conference: Sydney 24-26 June 2008
Details and registrations at ARK Group
**http://www.arkgroupaustralia.com.au/events.htm**

**Web Research Skills and Resources**
Masterclass: Sydney 4 June 2008
Register online with Key Forums
**http://www.keyforums.com.au/events.aspx**

**A Digital Education Revolution**
Symposium: Perth 12 June 2008
Register with Education.au
**http://www.educationau.edu.au/jahia/Jahia/home/pid/631**

For more on ALIA Professional Development and our training partners visit
**http://www.alia.org.au/education/pd/pd.services/**