

# Conferences

## ALIA *dreaming08* 2–5 September 2008



One final word!

There is still room for more delegates, so talk to those managers of finance, show them the Conference website <http://www.>

[alia2008.com](http://www.alia2008.com), and assure them that attending *dreaming08* will be of great benefit to your organisation.

Due to the National Trucking Hall of Fame, the annual Henley-on-Todd has been put forward a week and will be held on the Todd River, just below Anzac Hill, Saturday 30th August.

Tailormade Tours <http://www.tailormadetours.com.au/tours.php> are offering a 20% discount on tours for delegates, before and after the conference. The Central Australian Tourist Information Centre (CATIA) <http://www.centralaustralianism.com/main.php> also has masses of information about the Centre and the Northern Territory.

After landing in Alice, delegates will be able to use the Airport Shuttlebus to travel the 16 kms into town. Mention to the drivers that you are attending the library conference, and you will receive a discounted fare. One way is \$13; usually \$17, and a return ticket (best idea) is \$22; normally \$28.

As in all cities, delegates should be careful at night. The conference committee does not recommend crossing the river after dark. Please be mindful that Alice Springs is a 'dry' town and alcohol may not be consumed in public areas, except at the Telegraph Station. To purchase alcohol, delegates will have to provide photo ID, which will be scanned at the liquor outlet.

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*MacDonnell Ranges at sunset*

### THE LAST BIENNIAL QUIZ QUESTION

**Who is officially opening the conference?**

Send your answers to any member of the Committee – <http://www.alia2008.com>

The answer to June's quiz question was Sallay Mahomet. A gift voucher goes to Louise Barton, Collections Services Co-ordinator, Stanton Library, North Sydney NSW.

## 4th ALIA New Librarians Symposium 2008 5–6 December 2008



Working together: RMIT, NLS4 and ALIA

RMIT University Library is part of a great initiative aimed at increasing cooperation between libraries and the Association. This year's New Librarians Symposium (NLS4) will have several speakers brought along specifically by institutional members of ALIA. The library will pay all costs associated with enabling a key speaker to present, and be recognised as a sponsor.

RMIT didn't need to be asked twice to participate. Our rationale is simple – the speaker, Dr Sherman Young, is a library aware, dynamic, and forward thinking academic, who can link theory with the real world; making it understandable and interesting. Sherman has been a key part of our own professional development program and now we want to share him with the rest of the library and information industry.

But we have a more selfish reason behind this apparent generosity – we are also having Dr. Young speak directly to our staff the day before. This combination of 'public good and private gain' is one which we hope will continue to be a feature of future conferences.

Our support for NLS4 is not just altruistic - it is recognition that the future of ALIA (and the profession, and our library) depends upon an informed, enthusiastic group of 'younger' (at least in career terms) librarians and library technicians.

The target group for NLS4 dovetails neatly with the well known problem (or opportunity, depending upon your perspective) of the 'aging workforce'. This can be easily seen at the RMIT University Library, which has an age profile similar to many other libraries. A recent analysis of staff 'maturity', revealed the median age of library staff is 50, with 75% of our workforce over the age of 40.

If we assume a median retirement age of 60, that means that 50% of our current staff will be enjoying a life of lawn bowls, motorcycle riding, and gardening whenever they want to, weekdays or weekends, in about 10 years. This will result in some 85 jobs becoming available in just one medium sized academic library, and quite possibly, the 85 staff remaining could be advancing their careers more rapidly than they might foresee today.

We are depending upon events like NLS4 to help us prepare staff for the positions which are already stating to appear, and will continue to appear at the rate of about one every 6 weeks over the next 10 years at RMIT alone. We want to see new members of the profession and their managers, coming together at NLS4 to build skills, understanding and a sustainable workforce. Our gift is to provide a great speaker in Dr Sherman Young. You can take up the challenge from there.

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Register for NLS4 before 6 September for Early Bird savings at <http://conferences.alia.org.au/newlibrarian2008/Registration.html>.

Do some background reading on Dr Sherman Young at [http://www.media.mq.edu.au/staff/profiles/index.php?u\\_id=19](http://www.media.mq.edu.au/staff/profiles/index.php?u_id=19)

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## ALIA Biennial Conference 2010

The ALIA Biennial Conference will not be held in 2010 as Australia will host the World Library and Information Congress 76th IFLA General Conference and Council in Brisbane. ALIA invites all of its members to join us and 4,000 other professional colleagues from around the world, for a week of networking and professional development <http://www.alia.org.au/ifla2010/>

## ALIA Biennial Conference 2012

Would you like to have the 2012 ALIA Biennial Conference in your area? ALIA will be calling for Expressions of Interests from ALIA groups in early 2009 for the opportunity to host the 2012 ALIA Biennial Conference.

## ALIA Information Online Conference and Exhibition 2009 20–22 January 2009



Nominations are open for the IOG Excellence Award. The prize is attendance at the conference of your choice to the value of \$10,000.

The IOG Excellence Award acknowledges excellence/innovation in performance by an information professional. The 2007 award was won by Gold Coast City Council Libraries for its implementation of an RFID system.

Are you working on a project that could be suitable to nominate for the 2009 award? Would you like to be the recipient of the 2009 perpetual trophy?

Winners receive:

- full registration for an individual, to a conference of their choice (within the parameters of the information profession, and subject to ALIA IOG committee agreement) anywhere in the world
- travel
- accommodation or per-diem allowance.

See all the details at <http://www.alia.org.au/awards/merit/IOG.excellence/>

Registrations for ALIA Information Online 2009 open August 2008. See the latest Information Online news at <http://www.information-online.com.au>

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## Building a culture of research: introducing ALIA's Research and Publishing Standing Committee

Library and information professionals manage knowledge, but should they produce knowledge too? The Research and Publishing Standing Committee was established in May 2007. The committee has the responsibility of advising the ALIA Board of Directors on the key areas of research and publishing. Its three primary aims include:

- support and promote a culture of research and publishing in the profession;
- improve professional practice by building capacity for excellence in research and publishing; and
- provide leadership on matters relating to research and publishing in the profession.

Members of the committee include three ALIA Directors, Damian Lodge, Kate Watson and Helen Partridge as well as two members of the Australian library profession, Dr Peter Macauley and Dr Kerry Smith.

As Peter Macauley says, 'Professions depend upon their members to increase the knowledge base and narrow the gap that exists between research and practice'. Undertaking research, and publishing the findings, is crucial for a healthy

and dynamic profession, particularly in today's knowledge driven economy.

The committee is working on a number of exciting activities and initiatives. Most notable is the ALIA Publishing Action Plan. Lead by Damian Lodge, the plan is a twelve month project that aims to ensure ALIA's publishing remains a dynamic and successful part of the Association and will continue to meet the needs of the Association and its members over the next 3-5 years.

The Publishing Action Plan will address all areas of publishing undertaken by ALIA and will include strategies for publications such as *inCite*, *AARL* and *ALJ*. This Action Plan will suggest strategies to improve publication circulation, readership, quality and impact of both research and general publications and will promote a stronger balance in terms of both marketing and financial sustainability for the continued success of the Association's publications.

The project builds upon the publishing review completed in 2005 by Maxine Brodie, Norman Horrocks, Kim Moody and Karen McVicker, and the 2002 Gillard report.

Visit the committee's web page <http://www.alia.org.au/governance/committees/standing/publishing.research.html>

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