

Conferences

ALIA New Librarians Symposium

5 – 6 December 2008



Planning the program for NLS4 has been tough, mostly because we've been inundated with too many great choices. We wanted to give delegates the chance to hear from a wide range of experts; those who have experienced traditional aspects of our industry, those who have challenged accepted thinking and those who are forging pathways into new areas. Our keynote speaker, Janette Wright, CEO of CAVAL, met all these criteria in abundance. It is exciting to hear what she is planning to say in her address.

"I was delighted to be invited to speak at the New Librarians Symposium in December in Melbourne. This week as I began to plan my presentation a couple of things have caught my interest.

The first was the theme of 'Breaking Barriers'. I thought about how hard it was for someone growing up in Western Australia in the fifties and sixties to understand the full significance of librarianship as a profession. In Western Australia at that time there were very few libraries, and certainly only one or two sizable research libraries. Research in history or literature was limited to second hand accounts of European (read British) events. We were a remote colonial outpost and whilst librarianship has played an important role in the preservation, management and dissemination of printed books and collections, these activities took place in the great centres of culture: London, Paris, New York... There were no publishers in Western Australia, few writers and even fewer research collections.

Part of the dramatic story of librarianship has been the development of the printed book and the publishing industry from the earlier forms of scholarly communication. The printing revolution enabled the world's science and literature to be disseminated widely and cheaply. This revolutionary change was clear to see among the research collections of Europe and North America but in Western Australia, and much of Australia at that time, books were part of a 'cargo cult' (i.e. goods brought to us as finished products). It was difficult to fully understand or appreciate how the 'book' had transformed scholarly communication. Librarianship was regarded as a scholarly activity and one was expected to understand the significance and history of the printed book to qualify as a librarian, and there were certainly no medieval manuscripts to be had!

This meant that I took a little longer to qualify as a librarian than I had originally planned! I failed a few subjects that assumed I had knowledge of history and literature but eventually qualified with a degree in Psychology and then a Graduate Diploma in Library Studies. Thankfully the requirements eventually changed, so that someone like me, without any 'literary' credentials could make a contribution to the profession.

Whilst my own experience is perhaps of historical interest, I am now aware that similar barriers are working against

people with diverse cultural backgrounds, and that the full impact of the ICT revolution is creating new barriers to the effective dissemination of cultural and scholarly content. I plan to address some of these issues in my presentation in December and I look forward to a lively discussion of our options for the future."

Janette Wright

Register now for NLS4 at <http://conferences.alia.org.au/newlibrarian2008/> Get ready to listen to the presenters; agree with them, disagree with them, challenge your own ideas and build new perspectives.

Tania Barry
Convenor NLS4
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ALIA Information Online Conference and Exhibition 2009 20-22 January 2009



Calling all delegates. Registrations for 2009 are open! To register go to <http://www.information-online.com.au>

Update on the keynote speakers.

Mal Booth is Head of Research Centre at the Australian War Memorial. Mal was recently given responsibility for web strategy, specifically the use of web 2.0 initiatives.

Mal is an advocate for digital convergence in the delivery of web services and resources via the Memorial's website and is currently working on the development of the Memorial's digital preservation policy, strategy and framework.

Michael Ossipoff is currently the Director of Capability and Innovation at Telstra.

Telstra's Capability and Innovation Unit has been tasked with explaining and interpreting the implications of new technology trends and developments to take advantage of emerging opportunities.

The organising committee is looking forward to being challenged and inspired by our keynote speakers as they share their experiences with delegates at the conference.

Michelle Nutting
Committee member
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ALIA Information Online 2009 Satellite events

Train the trainer
Writing for the Web
Andy Hines workshop
Mal Booth workshop
Bookings now available

For all the latest news check out Information Online at <http://www.information-online.com.au>

Conferences

ALIA 2009 National Library & Information Technicians Conference

16 – 18 September 2009



The countdown has begun with only twelve months until the 2009 'Tecs' conference opens in Adelaide. Planning is on track and over the next year individual members of the organising committee will be sharing the team's progress with *inCite* readers.

Team Adelaide 2009's next major project will be the call for papers. Using the theme 'Technology, Technique, Unique', Adelaide 2009 intends to address issues of interest and concern to the contemporary library and information services industry.

Technology is defined as '*knowledge and use of the mechanical arts and applied science*'. Within this framework we would like to receive papers that discuss various aspects of the use of technology, its benefits and disadvantages, the progress of technology and the resultant winners and losers.

Technique is defined as '*mechanical skills in art, skilful manipulation of situations, people or resources*'. This is

'how we do things', papers addressing issues such as work-life balance, doing more with less, dealing with change or papers addressing new ways of working, problem solving, implementing innovative ideas or new approaches to professional development are sought for this category.

Unique is '*being the only one of its kind, unusual, remarkable*'. For this theme you can let your imagination roam. Each one of us has a unique story to tell and if you like to share them, this is your opportunity. First time presenters are welcome and Team Adelaide 2009 will offer support and direction to help you present your paper in a confident and professional manner.

In keeping with the 'Technology' theme a Facebook group has been established <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=18131723932>. Interested persons are encouraged to visit the group and leave suggestions and comments. This is also a great medium to network and to meet intending delegates prior to the conference.

For up to date information please visit our website at <http://conferences.alia.org.au/libtec2009/>

Terri Pamment
Conference Convenor
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National Simultaneous Storytime

Just to let you know that it was really useful to have the *Arthur* book online.

Thanks to Era Publications. While we had three copies of the book, it was handy to have it online for preparation etc.

Alison Morris
Library Officer, Cable Beach Primary School
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ALIA retirees

I am often amazed at the total lack of interest in ALIA retirees who have pursued activities outside Librarianship, following retirement.

There seems to be a hive of interest in ex-librarians who have continued as library volunteers or consultants, but absolutely no interest in ex-librarians who have made their mark outside their old profession. It seems comparable to some football clubs, who have no interest in the welfare of their retired players.

I have become a writer. Though I have not published 'the great Australian novel', a good bit of my writing has been published by newspapers, newsletters, and some of it has been deposited in historical collections. Making the transition from being a librarian to a writer has taken 8 years. I'd be pleased to hear of the progress of other ex-librarians, especially those who were 'exed' before their time.

All of you librarians who now hold positions of power and influence will one day become ex-librarians. Like all humans mortality seems to catch up with all of us, no matter how much our light has shined.

David Mason
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A reply will be published in October's inCite

Reply to August letter: Membership cards

ALIA investigated a range of membership card products for 2008/2009 including a range of environmentally friendly paper cards. Unfortunately the paper cards were all considerably more expensive than the plastic cards we currently use. We would have also needed to purchase a new card printer. This year, ALIA has invested in a new database that has allowed us to email most of our members their renewal notices, saving over 10,000 sheets of paper and nearly 5,000 envelopes just this year. ALIA will continue to investigate environmentally sound options.

National Office welcomes feedback from all our members on ALIA's services and products and will be conducting a Member Survey later this year; a perfect opportunity to have your say.

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Note to Members

We welcome letters on any issue of relevance to the library and information sector. It is important to note that the opinions expressed in Letters to the Editor are those of the authors and not necessarily the official policy of the Australian Library and Information Association.

Deadline for letters is the 10th of the month and they should be no longer than 250 words. Please include your name and postal address as anonymous correspondence will not be reproduced.