

Boarderline



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Financial management, staff issues, legal compliance, politics, governance, crisis management, paperwork. And sadly, not a library book in sight.

For many the role of library manager would be their worst nightmare; however for me it is exactly where I want to be.

The same could be said for my role as ALIA Director. Both roles are challenging and rewarding, offering tremendous personal and professional growth.

Being the library manager or an ALIA Director places you at the coal face of library service. In either role you are responsible for major projects, realising staff potential while shaping and influencing the future of library services for your community.

As Manager or ALIA Director, the beginning is the strategic plan. Without a plan you can't prepare or defend a budget, advocate on behalf of your industry, develop collections or policy, provide the technology, infrastructure or the staff that provide the services. Without a plan there is no future.

ALIA's overarching strategy is to be 'the Association of choice for information professionals and the library and information sector'. Information about our planning, including our 2008 goals can be found at <http://www.alia.org.au/governance/planning/>

The importance of strategic planning is not to be under-rated. It's budget time at the City of Wanneroo Library and I am developing my five year operational, capital and workforce plans, covering 93 staff (53 FTE), five libraries and heritage sites, as well as project management of the new Library and Cultural Centre costing \$20 million.

Budgets are a strategic tool intrinsically linked to the articulation of the strategic plan. It's important to remember that budgets shape the future effectiveness of an organisation, while determining the priorities and imperatives of the business. Good budgets make organisations competitive in an environment that is changing rapidly and provide the opportunity to look at things differently, reviewing core business activities, and the ability to assess that goals and objectives are on the right track.

Library managers and the ALIA Board face the perennial dilemma of being caught between the paradox of resisting rising costs balanced against the demands for better resources, education, infrastructure and well being.

The reality is that we will NEVER have enough resources to do what we do now, never mind more. The best we can do is to identify the preferred strategy, then stick ruthlessly to that business model.

And don't forget this small piece of advice 'no plan survives first contact with the enemy' so always have a plan B up your sleeve.

But that's another story.

Conferences

ALIA Biennial Conference 2-5 September 2008

The venue

The Biennial Conference will be held at the Alice Springs Convention Centre, winner of the 2006 Brolga Northern Territory Tourism Award for meetings and business tourism, and located just over a kilometre from the CBD. The main function room, the MacDonnell Room, is where the keynote speakers will present their papers and the corridor separating the breakout rooms will be filled with poster exhibits.

THIS MONTH'S QUIZ QUESTION:

What does the Mantle of Safety refer to?

Send your answer to any member of the Committee <http://www.alia2008.com> and be in the running for a gift voucher to be spent in Alice Springs in September. A winner will be drawn on the first working day of each month.



Registrations will take place in the Ghan Foyer. The foyer looks out onto a spectacular Red Centre landscape of red rocky escarpment and brilliant blue skies.

Where is the Trade Exhibition going to be? In a first for any ALIA Conference, a marquee (purpose built, enclosed and air conditioned) is to be erected in

front of the Conference Centre. Large enough to hold 74 exhibitors, the huge marquee will cover an area of the car park directly in front of the centre. There will be a row of trees inside the marquee adding to the originality of this exhibition space.

Denise Senior
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4th ALIA New Librarians Symposium 5th & 6th December 2008

It's amazing how the months fly. It's already March and almost one quarter of 2008 has passed. It's now time to start thinking ahead. Are you planning to submit an abstract? Abstract submission closes on 4 April 2008.

Highlighting issues affecting new graduates, the Symposium will showcase new and innovative developments, providing a forum for professionals from all library and related sectors to network and exchange ideas.

The theme of 'Breaking Barriers' has been developed to stimulate discussion and debate, as well as encourage innovation, best practice and information sharing on issues facing new entrants into the profession.

Conferences cont.



Hosted in the city dubbed the 'cultural capital of the country', enjoy the chance to sample opulent bars, eclectic boutiques and fashionable restaurants. The Cocktail Party and Conference Dinner will be included in the registration so there is no excuse not to sample all of Melbourne's delights. We recommend you come equipped with a sense of adventure!

For more information or to stay updated via RSS or our email list, visit <http://conferences.alia.org.au/newlibrarian2008/>

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ALIA Information Online Conference and Exhibition 20-22 January 2009

ALIA Information Online 2009 is the leading conference and exhibition for the online information industry in the Asia-Pacific region. The conference will be held at the Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre, Darling Harbour, Sydney Australia from Tuesday 20 – Thursday 22 January 2009. Satellite events will be held on Monday 19 and Friday 23 January 2009.

The 2009 conference is shaping up to be the biggest event we have ever held.

ALIA, the Organising Committee and Conference Action (the conference organiser) would like to welcome our GOLD SPONSOR Thomson Scientific. Thomson Scientific is part of The Thomson Corporation, combining authoritative information with innovative technologies to enhance their customers' ability to achieve world-class research and business results.

The trade exhibition is the largest event of its kind in the region, showcasing a diverse range of exhibitors. We currently have 40 exhibition booths booked including: Swets, Infotrieve Australia, National Library of Australia, OCLC (UK) Limited, Bureau van Dijk, and Gale to name a few.

We are still looking for papers that will educate and inspire our delegates. The deadline for submitting is 28 March 2008.

For more information and up-to-date news check our website <http://www.information-online.com.au>

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Australian
Library and
Information
Association

President Roxanne Missingham and Directors invite members
to join them at 6:00 pm, Tuesday 13 May 2008 for the

ALIA Annual General Meeting

First notice of Annual General Meeting and call for motions

The 20th Annual General Meeting of the Australian Library and Information Association will be held on Tuesday 13 May 2008 at ALIA House.

AGENDA

1. Notice of convening meeting
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of the AGM, 15 May, 2007
4. Presentation of the 2007 Annual Report and financial statements
5. Election of Directors
6. Appointment of Auditors
7. Fixing of Auditors' fees
8. Reports
9. General business

RULES OF MEETING

1. Motions for discussion at the AGM are to be forwarded in writing to the ALIA Executive Director P.O.Box 6335, Kingston ACT 2604 by **13 March 2008**. Motions should be signed by the movers either individually or on behalf of a division/group of the Association. All such motions received will be published in the AGM agenda notice in the April issue of *inCite* and on ALIANet.
2. All motions to be put to the AGM must appear in this published agenda.
3. The only items that may be raised under general business are those of an informal nature, or those that are within the scope of the business already laid down. Motions of a substantial nature relating to items not covered in the notice of the meeting will not be allowed.
4. If any item of urgency arises which is not within the business of the meeting, the Chairperson has the power to accept it without notice or rule that notice must be given.
5. All motions additional to those on the printed agenda and in accordance with rule 4, and amendments, shall be in writing, signed by the movers (forms will be provided) and delivered to the Chair.
6. When addressing the Chair, the person desiring recognition will properly identify themselves, giving his or her name and affiliation. Only ALIA members may speak.
7. Debate shall be limited to three minutes for each speaker; no speaker may have the floor twice on the same question until all who wish to speak have spoken.
8. Proxies. To be valid, proxies must be in the form set out in the Constitution item 8.2 and be in the hands of the ALIA Executive Director, ALIA, PO Box 6335, Kingston ACT 2604, email address: enquiry@alia.org.au, by **6:00pm AEST on 12 May 2008**. Proxy forms must not specify how the holder of the proxy is to vote on specific areas. A proxy must also be a member. A form is available from ALIA National Office or on ALIANet at <http://www.alia.org.au/governance/>
9. By general consent, if there be no objection, or by a two-thirds vote, any rule governing the debate may be suspended.
10. The Chair's rulings on procedural matters may not be debated. The reference for rules and their interpretation by the Parliamentarian will be Joske's *The law and procedure at meetings in Australia*, 10th ed, 2007. A Parliamentarian will be appointed to advise the Chair on procedures and to assist in determining the results of a poll of members present if necessary.

All members are invited to attend. RSVP: Helen Wheeldon ALIA National Office, ph 02 6215 8222 helen.wheeldon@alia.org.au