Group in the spotlight

ALIA Sydney

Tell us a bit about your group.

ALIA Sydney was officially re-launched in March this year after considerable interest was voiced during the Sydney National Advisory Congress meeting in 2008. The main aim of the group is to help information professionals in the Sydney region to meet other information professionals, often from different sectors, discover what they do, and address issues they may be facing in their work.

What gives your group a sense of purpose and accomplishment?

Shortly after the group was reconvened, we were astounded by how many people contacted us to say how pleased they were that we were back in business. After our first event in March, we were very gratified to have information professionals of all levels and from various sectors come up to congratulate us on the event. Many said that they were really interested in our speakers, even if they were based in a different field, and that they learned a lot!

What are your group's greatest achievements and successes?

The 'Breakfast Briefing' held at Customs House Library in March. We were booked out weeks in advance and everyone who attended thoroughly enjoyed themselves, met people from other libraries, and learned much about libraries overseas.

How can other people get involved in your group?

Through the ALIA NSW e-list, as well as through our Facebook and linkedIn groups – and other ALIA events lists, of course. Don't forget that you can email me at **cassk@botanybay.nsw.gov. au** for more information about the group at any time.

What are some of your upcoming activities?

Our next activity is a training / workshop activity looking at how libraries can use web 2.0 technologies to better communicate with their clients. Later in the year we are planning an 'end-of-year' drinks event with the possibility of including a library tour.

Tell us about your first event in 2009.

On March 4th at the City of Sydney Library at Customs House, while enjoying a delicious breakfast, members had the opportunity to hear the experiences of three librarians who have recently been on overseas study visits.

Alyson Dalby (Institute of Chartered Accountants in Australia Knowledge Centre) had a skillful way of negotiating with her previous employer to finance study trips to the United Kingdom.

Andrew Spencer (Macquarie University) visited university libraries in the San Francisco area where he found a very high use of instant messaging and that all students (not just research students) could have research consultations with librarians.

Margaret Whittaker (City of Sydney Library), who was the recipient of the 2008 ALIA Study Grant Award, travelled for three months visiting libraries in USA, England, and Sweden to investigate the achievability and best practices for a potential free public music library in Sydney.

Kathryn Cass
Convenor, ALIA Sydney
cassk@botanybay.nsw.gov.au

Susan Alvarez
Library Technician and member of ALIA
Sydney Committee
susangladys52@yahoo.com.au

Interviewed by
Niki Kallenberger
LLO NSW
niki.kallenberger@alia.org.au

Professional development

Volunteer for ALIA – earn PD points

Make a formal contribution to ALIA and you can earn PD points! ALIA relies on volunteers to make things happen locally across the nation. Our volunteers are valued and respected and their professional involvement and contribution is recognised in the ALIA PD Scheme.

'Contribution to ALIA' refers to the formal commitment of an ALIA member in a participative role to ALIA. It is recognised that ALIA members undertake a variety of roles and responsibilities in support of ALIA and the library and information profession that can be included as a PD activity. ALIA members can be actively involved in the Association as a:

- member of committee or advisory group appointed by the Board of Directors;
- convenor, treasurer, secretary, or active committee member of an ALIA group;
- organising committee member of a major conference, seminar, or symposium; and/or
- member of the Board of Directors.

ALIA PD scheme points

One point per hour to a maximum of five points per year for regular participation as an ALIA group office-bearer or active committee member, 10 points per year for active participation in conference planning and organising committees, other major PD events, or as a participative member of an ALIA working group or committee in an area that involves policy development, 20 points per year participation as a Board member.

Associate Fellow

Congratulations to Leesa Philip, AFALIA, on attaining the distinction of Associate Fellow of the Australian Library and Information Association.

If you have been a member of the ALIA PD scheme for five years and have maintained compliance with the program since June 2004 or earlier, you may be eligible to apply for Associate Fellow membership from July 2009.

Join the PD scheme now

If you are an Associate or a Library Technician member and have not yet registered for the scheme, it is not too late to join and demonstrate compliance for the 2008-2009 year. As long as you register by 30 June 2009 and maintain a record of your PD activities showing your compliance with the scheme from 1 July 2008, you will be in time to meet the requirements.

FOLIOz courses

The PROMISE FOLIOz course was fully subscribed. Get in early and register for MOVES (Moving into supervision: Supervisory skills for library technicians and/or newly qualified professionals). From Monday 1st June – Friday 17th July 2009, this course aims to help library technicians and new information professionals to gain an understanding and appreciation for key principles and methods of effective supervision of staff in any type of library or information service.

PD Postings

QUT ARE you getting *PD postings*? Find out! Don't miss out! *PD Postings* is a monthly electronic publication sent directly to ALIA members. It provides you with a monthly selection of professional development opportunities across a wide variety of skills, issues, and subjects of interest to the industry. Many are free and online, so everyone can participate no matter what your circumstances – and claim points towards certification of practice. Together with our partner, QUT, we hope *PD Postings* helps build your professional practice and becomes a valuable career tool. Access to the latest or archive issues of *PD Postings* is available to ALIA members only.