

Volunteer in the spotlight



Maureen O'Shea as caricatured by children's illustrator Terry Denton

ALIA Children's and Youth Services (Qld) began in 1996, aiming "to form a Queensland section ... which will encourage better networking between the two professional groups: Teacher-librarians and Young People's librarians ... oriented towards a regional and local area focus."

The group has held many successful seminars on themes that explored issues relevant to the region, specifically partnerships that make the services stronger for children and young people.

Maureen O'Shea is the convenor.

Why do you enjoy volunteering for the library profession?

Librarians are such passionate and committed professionals. While our day-to-day work may have frustrating and challenging moments, the opportunity to meet and network with peers is what makes ALIA groups worthwhile. Although distance and time make meeting in person a challenge, we recognise the value of exchanging ideas and concerns through the online networks we have developed. Professional development is the constant focus, and we are currently investigating ways to employ online methods of delivering PD opportunities for members.

What are three things you'd like us to know about you?

I live in a 'luxury cabin' with unfettered views of lake, trees, and mountains. I used to be young and enthusiastic – now I'm just enthusiastic. I have a serious problem with being serious.

How do you ensure balance between your work, volunteering, and home commitments?

I find leaving everything to the last minute works. Everything gets done then. Seriously though, all these things are handled by having a very cooperative family and a positive set of work colleagues. We've all learned to 'go with the flow'.

If you could have your ideal role in the world, what would it be?

The most satisfying role to me is one that provides opportunities to make a difference for people, whether students with assignment deadlines, children seeking a good read, seniors becoming tech savvy in order to write their memoirs...OR sitting on the verandah of the above-mentioned luxury cabin, ordering drinks and food.

Which kinds of libraries have you worked in?

I have almost specialised in 'beginner' libraries – Colleges of Advanced Education sprang up in Queensland in the late 60s, and that's where I started. I have since worked for public libraries, big and small, (including the setup of one of Canberra's major branches), National Library of Australia (briefly), University and TAFE libraries in SE Queensland, a one-person library, and even a small primary school library. As a sideline to some of my university work, I also worked as course consultant with faculty staff beginning a new university.

What are you currently reading?

Dizzy by Cathy Cassidy (recommended by young girls in our library). Sonya Hartnett's *Butterfly*, read by Rebecca Macauley – audio version in the car on the drive to work – a brilliant combination of beautiful writing and sensitive reading. *The literacy wars: why teaching children to read and write is a battleground in Australia* by Ilana Snyder. Sadly, this is on the bedside table currently. Do I have a life outside libraries?

What do you currently do for a crust?

Currently working at Noosa Library, now part of Sunshine Coast Regional Council after council amalgamations in 2008. I specialise in children's and youth services.

Maureen O'Shea
maureen.oshea@sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au

Interviewed by Claudia Davies
Local Liaison Officer, Queensland
claudia.davies@alia.org.au

Professional development

Invest in yourself: funding your own professional development

The Global Financial Crisis (GFC) may be an opportunity to rethink your approach to your career. In times of uncertainty, with the possibility of redundancy looming, investing in your own education is a wise approach to recession-proofing your career. Maintaining and increasing your skills not only indicates to your existing employer your worth but also any future employers. What can you write on your résumé or CV that indicates your skills are current?

If you are working for an organisation that has had to reduce expenditure on staff development, a serious option to consider is paying your own way. Take advantage of ALIA membership rates to undertake online or attend courses and conferences; fully use the taxation implications of self education expenses. Many employers will come half way by accepting time attending workshops and courses as work time when you have paid the registration fee. Flex time credit may be negotiated. ALIA also negotiates free places at conferences. A well-written application may provide you and your organisation with professional development benefits.

Joining the ALIA Professional Development scheme is an effective way of tracking the maintenance and enhancement of your skills beyond your initial professional qualification, and the use of the post-nominals (CP) and the distinction of Associate Fellow indicate that you take your professional development seriously. <http://www.alia.org.au/education/pd>

Judy Brooker
PD and Careers Manager
judy.brooker@alia.org.au

Don't miss out on the last two FOLIOz courses for 2009

Send in your registration today!

<http://www.alia.org.au/education/pd/workshops/>

Managing for service quality (MSQ)

Running Monday 24th August–Friday 9th October 2009

This course aims to introduce participants to the idea of managing for service quality and its related concepts, including

- Defining the concept of managing for service quality;
- Measuring and monitoring service quality in their own organisation; and
- Maintaining the quality of their library and information services, with a view to achieving service excellence.

Maximising the impact of your service (MAXIM)

Running Monday 30th November 2009–Friday 22nd January 2010 (including a two-week break 21st December–4th January)

This course aims to equip you with the skills and knowledge required to successfully maximise the impact of your service and to effectively evaluate this impact, including

- Defining the concept of maximising impact as it relates to delivery of information and library services;
- Identifying key user groups; and
- Assessing and evaluating the needs of users.

For further information or enquiries, please email pd@alia.org.au or phone 02 6215 8216.

ARK rundown



As a result of my successful application to an ALIA/ARK competition I was lucky enough to attend a recent ARK conference on "Adopting robust strategies for digital preservation". Although the conference was primarily aimed at Records Personnel and archivists, I found there were many interesting aspects raised that are relevant to the library world.

I think it is safe to say that many librarians become default archivists in various sectors (perhaps due to the management or executive misunderstanding the differences between archives and libraries), and so digital preservation of electronic records is quite relevant to many librarians, today – and certainly in the future.

The conference was held over two days and was attended by 40 people from Australia and New Zealand based in various positions across the public and private sectors. We heard from 13 different speakers and participated in panel discussions and mini-workshops.

On the first day we heard about

- The fundamentals of electronic preservation (such as how to manage the transfer from paper to digital records, coordinate information, people, and technology, and engage IT to ensure preservation);
- How to preserve digital information immediately (including which storage media to use, why we should "Just say No" to digital rights management, and some ideas on how to preserve accessibility);
- A NSW government initiative called "Future Proof" whose main goals were improving digital record keeping across government, and implementing a digital archiving facility for NSW government while ensuring the authenticity and useability of resources for as long as they are required;
- Copyright law and digital preservation and how sections relating to lost or damaged works within the copyright act relate to 'libraries and archives' and preservation;
- Developing and implementing an information management model in a local government situation;
- Change management in a digital preservation context, especially how to minimise disruption for staff through process simplification.

On the second day we heard about

- How the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) has moved beyond paper by developing frameworks, analysing risks and cost, and developing the technology to ensure the usefulness of the records and archives. We also gained an insight into ABS information architecture;
- Ensuring long-term accessibility and authenticity of digital records in a local government setting by further developing commercially based Electronic Document and Record Management Systems (EDRMS);
- How the National Archives of Australia is collaborating with various state and federal bodies across Australasia to form ADRI (Australasian Digital Recordkeeping Initiative) and the standards and policies developed and implemented by ADRI members;
- An international case study uncovering current trends in web information management in New Zealand;
- The acquisition and preservation of born digital moving images and digital media at the National Film and Sound Archives.

The speakers were incredibly knowledgeable, and it was wonderful to network with everyone during the breaks and at lunch, and find out what was happening in other sectors. It was also great to see so many people passionate about their work and the issues that relate to preservation and digital media.

Some of the interesting things I discovered from this conference include:

- A conference has recently been hosted at the University of North Carolina on Digital Curation where people from the National Library of Australia and the National Archives of Australia presented papers (<http://ils.unc.edu/digccurr2009/>);
- digital records, in particular moving images, should not be burned to DVD as it is a less stable form of media than CDs or hard drives;
- the National Archives of Australia and state bodies, such as the State Records of NSW, have developed guidelines and standards on digital records and preservation.

The most important aspect of this conference was how it made me understand more about a field that impacts on librarianship, but is not necessarily part of librarianship (i.e. records and archives). It made me consider how digital records are maintained in my work place, and how I should be helping out archivists and IT professionals of the future – say, by adding metadata to my electronic records (Do you know how to use the 'properties' field in a Microsoft Word document?). I would highly recommend attending a conference in a relevant, but not necessarily related, field to continue your life-long learning and understanding of what's out there! After all, if we can help to understand the information, we can better disseminate it – and isn't that what being a librarian is all about?

Kathryn Cass
Local Studies Librarian
City of Botany Bay Library Service
cassk@botanybay.nsw.gov.au

Renewals



It's coming up to renewal time again, and ALIA will once again send personal members their notice via the 'green' method of an email with an attachment this year. If you're not sure if we have your correct email address, please contact us via email membership@alia.org.au or telephone **1800 020 071**.

When it comes to renewing your ALIA membership, you have a number of options.

Renew by:

- Telephone, **1800 020 071**
- Email, membership@alia.org.au
- Fax, **02 6282 2249**
- Post, **PO Box 6335, Kingston, ACT 2604**
- **New this year!** Online by visiting the website <https://membership.alia.org.au/scripts/cgiip.exe?WService=ALIA/ccms.r?PageId=10445>

**New members: do you want 13 months
for the price of 12?**

Join ALIA in June for 2009/2010 membership year and we'll give you June's membership for free! That's a nice way to start the new financial year.

For more information or to download a membership form <http://www.alia.org.au/membership.benefits>