

Directline

Public libraries are at the heart of Australian communities. They are loved by their patrons and customers and perform a critical role in the social, cultural and economic fabric of our society. This edition of *inCite* celebrates just a few of the stories, issues and ALIA initiatives relating to the sector.

In 2009, the ALIA Public Libraries Summit will be a main focus for the Association. It will be held in Canberra on Thursday 26 March 2009. It has been developed by the ALIA Public Libraries Advisory Committee and the ALIA Board of Directors and is supported by all the state public library associations. The Summit will be an occasion for our external advocates to voice their support and to work together to achieve the outcomes of the Summit and a national agenda for public libraries.

For more information on the Summit, go to page 11 of this issue of *inCite* and visit the webpage <http://www.alia.org.au/summit09>.

Public Library Ambassador program

The Public Library Ambassador program is an initiative of the ALIA Public Libraries Summit. Every public library in the country will identify library advocates in their community and choose one or more Public Library Ambassadors.

These people can be grass-root members of the community or celebrity advocates who will use their talent or fame to promote the value of public libraries in their lives, especially attracting media attention. Similar in concept to UNESCO's goodwill ambassadors, an important difference is that public library advocates will come from a broad cross-section of the Australian community.

Public Library Ambassadors will perform a role different from library advocates and supporters such as Friends of Libraries groups which work steadily to promote library services to a wider audience or their peers. Public Library Ambassadors are role models or high-profile champions with individual and compelling stories about the value of public libraries in their lives.

For more information about the ALIA Public Library Ambassadors program, visit http://www.alia.org.au/summit09/public_library_ambassadors.html.

ALIA advocacy

ALIA continues our advocacy efforts through government submissions, including responding to the consultation paper on the Digital Economy Future Directions. The important issues covered in the paper include open access to public sector information, digital confidence including consumer privacy and online safety, development of digital skills,

regulatory framework including copyright, and measuring the digital economy and its impacts. Submissions are due by 11 February – look for ALIA's submission on our website soon after that date.

In collaboration with the Australian Libraries Copyright Committee (ALCC) and the Australian Digital Alliance (ADA), ALIA has put in a joint submission to the Productivity Commission on *Copyright Restrictions on the Parallel Importation of Books*. The joint submission strongly supports removal of the restrictions upon parallel importation of books. ALIA believes that greater competition will lead to an increase in the variety of books available and more competitively priced books, increasing their accessibility for Australians.

ALIA submissions are loaded on our website after we obtain permission from the relevant body <http://www.alia.org.au/advocacy/submissions/>.

ALIA member survey: thank you for contributing to the future of ALIA

The ALIA Board of Directors and staff wish to thank members for participating in the member survey. Information gathered from this survey will enable the ALIA Board of Directors to make strategic decisions on services that support all members. The results of the survey are available to members on <http://www.alia.org.au/membersurvey2008/>. ALIA also congratulates the winner of the \$500 prize, Hanne Hoelaas, Orange NSW.

neXus Report

The neXus Report, Stage 2, is now available on the website here <http://www.alia.org.au/employment/workforce>.

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LLOs are ALIA representatives in each state/territory. Their duties include being a point of contact for members and non-members.

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Reviewers wanted!

Would you like to get involved with ALIA and *inCite*?

We are looking for committed, enthusiastic reviewers who are willing to read one book a month and write a 200 – 300 word review.

No previous reviewing experience necessary. If you would like to get involved, please contact Kate Cuthbert, Publishing Manager, on 02 6215 8231 or kate.cuthbert@alia.org.au

