

Conferences

ALIA 2009 National Library & Information Technicians Conference

Technology
Technique
09 Unique
ADELAIDE

15–18 September 2009

In these times of economic uncertainty, it's more important than ever that each of us maintains our competitive edge. This can be achieved through pursuing ongoing professional development, current awareness initiatives, and networking opportunities. The 2009 'Tecs Conference' offers five days of networking and learning opportunities at an all inclusive rate. The conference themes, *Technology, Technique, Unique*, aims to provide a program that will challenge ideas, generate discussion, and promote new thinking. It will offer delegates a unique experience, address the challenges and opportunities provided by fast moving technologies, and explore techniques used to survive and thrive in 2009.

The organising committee has prepared a program offering professional development opportunities that promote excellence in professional practice and will extend the knowledge of delegates. The pre-conference program commences Monday with satellite events and Tuesday offers a full day of library tours of best practice sites.

There are tours of school, public, academic, legal, special libraries, and archives. All have been chosen to highlight different features, whether it be the provision of services using the latest technologies, a demonstration of the concept of joint use by combining different organisations under one roof, or the support of lifelong learning with the services provided to clients.

Several libraries have recently moved to new environmentally sustainable buildings. These include the SA Water library located in a recently built, six-star green building, the Royal Zoological Gardens library in the Westpac Envirodome, the Federal Court of Australia's new building incorporating the latest energy and water implementation systems, and the Mawson Centre – a state-of-the-art Cultural Community Learning and Information Centre.

Tours that showcase the uniqueness of Adelaide library collections include the Performing Arts Collection, portraying the history of South Australian drama through photographs, costumes, and props, and the state's seafaring heritage is on show at the South Australian Maritime Museum Library.

History is being preserved by local archives and questions are welcomed on the Archives and Prime Ministerial tour.

Adelaide is leading the way in the field of conservation and preservation and anyone interested in this work will appreciate a tour of Artlab with the rare opportunity to see how treasures are restored to their former glory.

The schools tour will demonstrate the use of 'Smart Boards' and 'Click View' as the library plays an integral role in creating a 'virtual library' for the staff and students.

The conference presentations are focused on the practical needs of the Library Technician professional, including technology overviews, how-to sessions, and hands-on workshops – all ways to help attendees make effective use of newly learned skills in the workplace. The keynote speakers are:

Elaina Norlin – *Technology*

An international keynote speaker, Elaina is the Director of Strategic Initiatives and Outreach for KIP Communications and formerly manager of New Initiatives and Outreach at OCLC. Elaina is also the co-author of the books *Usability Testing for Library Websites*, which has been selected for a second edition, and *E-Learning and Business Plans: National and International Case Studies*.

Irena Yashin-Shaw – *Technique*

Dr. Irena Yashin-Shaw PhD, Managing Director of Speaking Edge and Innovation Edge, has been affectionately named 'the pocket dynamo' because of her engaging presentation style. An accomplished and award-winning professional speaker, Irena empowers individuals and organisations to unlock their potential through excellence in communication and creativity.

Carol Cooper – *Unique*

Carol has been mixing personal development with leadership, sales, and service skills training since 1990. Carol shows library technicians how they are leaders in their roles within the library. Her presentation will have them identify the qualities they admire in great leaders and also how they like to be treated by leaders.

In addition to keynote speakers there is a wide range of local, national, and international speakers who are established leaders in the Australian library and information industry; they will present on such topics as web 2.0, cybersafety, digital knowledge, and copyright issues.

The conference is not all work! There is also an extensive social program: on Tuesday evening delegates are invited to the Welcome Cocktail Party. This is an opportunity to meet old and new friends, network with established professionals, and explore the trade exhibition featuring all the latest library industry vendors have to offer. First time delegates are not forgotten: you are invited to join colleagues for an informal dinner after the cocktail party.

Thursday is the conference dinner and, to celebrate the Library Technicians' thirty year anniversary, you are invited to wear your favourite outfit from the past three decades. Friday will be time to say goodbye to old and new friends at the farewell cocktail party.

On behalf of the organising committee of the ALIA 2009 National Library & Information Technicians Conference, I look forward to welcoming you to the Adelaide Convention Centre, 15–18 September 2009. Please visit the Conference Webpage <http://conferences.alia.org.au/libtec2009/> for up-to-date news.

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Your voice

Today I attended the funeral of Brian Farrow who for thirty years travelled Australia selling books to public libraries. Our industry needs a variety of vendors to supply us with the resources we need at a price we can afford. Brian filled this role originally supplying us with remained books, then UK publications and later hardback fiction.

I have known Brian since 1975 when I first started at Bega and have had a close relationship with him and his wife Sheila all this time. I would like on behalf of all public librarians to salute Brian and the work that he did over the years to help public libraries across Australia. Sheila I know will continue the great work that Brian started all those years ago. Brian Farrow 1936 to 2009. Rest in peace.

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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 available on the website and they should be no longer than 250 words. Please include your name and postal address as anonymous correspondence will not be reproduced.