

# the last word

## Why I love my (ALIA) job

Well...to call it a "job" would be a misnomer, as I'm not actually paid for it...not in tangible currency, anyway. But now, as my two year term on the ALIA Board of Directors comes to an end, it's an opportunity to reflect on what the Board experience has meant for me and how I have found it rewarding in many other ways.

Many people come to the Board with different backgrounds and skills. I joined after a long history 'flying the ALIA flag' as an enthusiastic volunteer in a range of groups, conference committees and national advisory committees. The two years I have served as Director have seen ALIA face significant challenges, with the cancellation of IFLA, the Global Financial Crisis and the need to plan for long-term financial sustainability. Despite this, we have also marked some major achievements with our government submissions on the National Broadband Network and school libraries, the Library Initiative and the success of the ALIA Access conference. Last but not least, the 2010 increase in ALIA membership is a big reward for everyone who believes that our members are the heart and future of the organisation.

Through my work on the Board in these interesting and challenging times, it hasn't been easy but it has been deeply rewarding. I can honestly say I have gained a perspective of our profession that is wide and not just focused on my sector. I now have a complex knowledge of issues, initiatives and advocacy which would otherwise be outside my scope.

Being on the Board has been an opportunity to work with, and learn from, outstanding and emerging leaders in our profession and inspiring ALIA members - on the Board, standing committees, conference committees and National Office staff. I also relished the chance to be involved in

the organisation of the ALIA Access conference, which set a number of ALIA conference firsts by changing the traditional conference model. Most importantly, with my Board colleagues, I've been able to 'be in the room' – to contribute in a small way to the sustainability and future of the Association.

In President Graham Black's last Incite column, he lamented the lack of formal elections at Board level for the last couple of years. I share his concerns for two reasons. Firstly, that ALIA needs a talented, robust and representative Board to ensure a strong and sustainable Association into the future and secondly, that the Board experience is immensely valuable as an individual, to widen your perspective, broaden your thinking and face challenges you

may never encounter in your day-to-day role as an information professional.

One of my favourite quotes is from Gandhi, "You must be the change you want to see in the

world". The library profession and our Association face some big challenges in the future which will require changes to the way we have always done things. Looking on from the sidelines will not be enough. It's time for us all to get involved and engaged in shaping the future of our profession. I'm proud that through my role as ALIA Board member, I have put my hand up to be counted, and been active in trying to make a difference to my association and my profession. I urge you to think about how you can contribute, be it on an ALIA group, committee or as a Board member, to "being the change" you want to see.

**Kate Sinclair**

kate.sinclair@flinders.edu.au

*One of my favourite quotes is from Gandhi, "You must be the change you want to see in the world"*

## Call for Expressions of Interest for ALIA Advisory Committees

ALIA's Board of Directors is calling for interested members to join Advisory Committees. The following advisory committees looking for members are:

- ALIA Public Sector Information Advisory Committee
- ALIA Special Libraries Advisory Committee
- ALIA Interlibrary Lending Advisory Committee
- ALIA Research Committee
- ALIA New Generation Advisory Committee

For further information on the committees and guidelines go to: [www.alia.org.au/governance/committees/](http://www.alia.org.au/governance/committees/)

The term of appointment is for three years with the option of renewal for another three years. The nominations will be considered by the Board of Directors with appointments to commence from mid 2011.

For further information on the working of any of ALIA's Advisory Committees, please contact Sue Hutley, ALIA Executive Director [sue.hutley@alia.org.au](mailto:sue.hutley@alia.org.au) or 1800 02 0071.

A CV and a 100 word statement in support of your expression of interest is to be forwarded to ALIA Executive Support Officer, [enquiry@alia.org.au](mailto:enquiry@alia.org.au) by close of business 1 June 2011.