

THOUGHTS THAT DRIVE US TO ACTION

I recall a library director who often put on their executive meeting agenda 'Things that keep me awake at night' and I guess that this issue of *inCite* is about some of those. We each have different issues that keep gnawing at our thoughts and drives us to action, strategy and professional directions.

"At the end ... I want to be able to say, 'I contributed more than I criticized'"

For the profession in Australia, for libraries and for ALIA, my current top three Big Issues might be distilled to relevance, demonstrating value and avoiding duplication of effort. These could also be some of your issues - from the individual point of view, for your library, or about your involvement with your professional peak body.

How are you, as an individual staff member, undertaking relevant work, how are you demonstrating your value, and how are you making sure that you are not wasting effort or duplicating something that's already being done in the next cubicle or office (and possibly better)? The same questions can be asked of your library as an entity and also of your Association (for the ALIA Board's deliberations on these questions in the context of future planning, visit www.alia.org.au/governance/).

ALIA must continue to strive to be relevant. Our member and non-member surveys give us insight into how to provide members with the important services and focus that they wish to continue and the sector with considered support and leadership. They enable the Board and the ALIA National Office to plan, change, improve and focus.

I believe that the services and tools that ALIA provides can assist you as a member with remaining relevant, demonstrating your value, or being an efficient and effective library staff member. If there are things that you

would like to see ALIA doing differently then please let us know.

While our *inCite* Editor asks you to consider what gets your goat, I am also reminded of a comment from Brene Brown, forwarded to me by a colleague via Twitter. She says, "At the end ... I want to be able to say, 'I contributed more than I criticized'". We hope that at the same time that you think about what annoys you, or gets on your nerves about the Association, you will also think about what you can contribute to the Association. We hope you will pick up the phone or email us to let us know your concerns, to find out the 'why' behind those concerns and give us your ideas to improve the Association. Ultimately we are all ALIA and it is only the contributions that we all make that will see the success of our organisation.



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YOUR ALIA SNAPSHOT

Free specialist LIS Ebooks now available to members

ALIA has joined forces with EBL eBook Library to bring members access to over 60 recent, specialist LIS Ebooks covering a wide range of relevant topics. Read them online or offline on a laptop or ebook reading device. Our concurrent usage arrangement means you won't have to wait. It's quick, easy and absolutely free.

New ALIA Education Manager

We are pleased to announce Lisa Strickland has been appointed to the position of ALIA Education Manager. Lisa has extensive experience in project management and previously held the role of Academic Liaison Manager with the University of Canberra. Lisa will move into this new role on February 28.

New copyright notices

New copyright notice content and instructions for use are now available through the ALIA website. Update now – visit www.alia.org.au/advocacy/copyright/notices.html

Library and Information Week – We find stuff!

LIW will be upon us before you know it. This year's theme highlights the fact that libraries are far more than just books and speaks directly to the user in a language that is familiar. We will be opening up the space for people to discover for themselves and make their library experience personal. Check it out at www.alia.org.au/liw. And don't forget, LIW also means National Simultaneous Storytime on May 25 (reading *Feathers for Phoebe* by Rod Clement), libraries celebrating the Cancer Council's Biggest Morning Tea and Library Technician's Day. It's all happening.