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ALIA NEWS

Connections are key

Connections play an important role in the library environment. Whether we are connecting with our users, connecting with our colleagues, or connecting users with information, it's part of what we do and it's changing all the time. Our challenge arises in how we create connections, what mechanisms (eg. programs, tools, technologies) we use to connect, and how to maintain and build on our connections.

This was the theme for discussion among the 80 participants at the 7th ALIA Top End Symposium, held at the Casuarina Campus of Charles Darwin University in the Northern Territory last October. The Symposium aimed to highlight the role libraries play in this connectivity.

The organising committee worked diligently over a six month period to bring together a kaleidoscope of papers of a high standard, delivered by energetic presenters who were genuinely excited about connecting both libraries and their clients to the information future.

Keynote presenters included Christine Mackenzie, CEO of Yarra Plenty Regional Library Service, who highlighted the issues of connecting media, staff, and users to maintain relevance in an increasingly online world. Margaret Allen, current president of ALIA, showcased empowerment of the library profession in development, promotion, and delivery of quality library and information services to the nation, while Ellen Forsyth demonstrated how current collaborative library projects in New South Wales can be shared and can help plan and deliver the library of the future.

The symposium encouraged participants to look outside the square when considering ever-evolving technology – by showcasing a range of inspiring projects libraries have implemented to encourage clients to connect with their library, networks, workplace, community, and universities.

The event was made possible with the generous support of sponsors CCH, Charles Darwin University, Northern Territory Library, Darwin City Council, SirsiDynix, Raeco, Ebsco, and Thomson Reuters.

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CONNECTIONS OF ANOTHER KIND: ALIA NT STATE MANAGER JAYSHREE MAMTORA (R) PRESENTS THE ALIA ACHIEVEMENT AWARD TO LIBRARY STUDIES STUDENT KAREN COCKS.