



Every month, we're working on conferences and events, publications, professional development opportunities, training courses, new members joining, awards and recognition, lobbying and advocacy, putting information and news out through our social media channels, and much more ... but we're pleased to announce three additional special projects which we will be delivering in 2013.

E-books and E-lending Summit

The ALIA board has begun a major initiative to establish a position for Australian libraries in the e-books and e-lending debate that rages at a national and international level. All our members will be aware of the difficulties involved – the publishers who won't provide content, or do so at vastly

inflated prices; collections that disappear if the library stops paying its subscription; a general lack of Australian content.

We are already working behind the scenes on an issues paper, which will form the basis for our discussions with IFLA, NSLA, the Book Industry Collaborative Council, the Australian Book Council, the Australian Society of Authors, the Australian Publishers' Association, and the Australian Booksellers' Association, in November and December.

On February 15, at ALIA Information Online in Brisbane, we will be holding a half day e-books and e-lending think tank session. We will be inviting guests to join us for this, and if you would like to be on the invitation list, please let us know (there will be

no charge for this event).

In early March, we are planning to hold an E-books and E-lending Summit, date and venue to be confirmed, at which participants will discuss the issues and will help develop the library and information sector position statement. The output from the think tank and summit will be a White Paper, which will then inform our discussions with government and the other stakeholders in the book industry.

The Future of the Profession

Another major ALIA board project for 2013 will be a report on the Future of the Profession. Again, we will be using the summit format to bring people together to create a vision and share their ideas about how we can make this a reality. The summit will be in the second half of 2013 and we will keep you posted as we pin down the details.

Team Australia at IFLA

Next year, the IFLA conference will be in Singapore. This will be a terrific opportunity for library and information professionals in our region to attend an event which is usually on the other side of the world.

At the last ALIA board meeting, we heard from our president, Vanessa Little, and director Edmund Balnaves about their experiences at IFLA 2012 in Helsinki. The conference attracted some 4000 delegates from around the globe. It was a hotbed for innovation; it was a wall-to-wall ideas exchange; it was the opportunity to debate international issues of copyright and digital content; it was the cradle for new relationships between associations with common aims and ambitions.

Nearly 50 Australian library and information professionals attended the Helsinki event and we expect more will travel to Singapore in August 2013. We're keen to develop a "Team Australia" presence at the conference, so if you are planning to go, please let us know.

Early next year, we will be calling for feedback from members about e-books and e-lending and the future of the profession, but if you would like more information about these three board projects in the meantime, please contact our board liaison, Brenda Currie brenda.currie@alia.org.au.

We welcome your views

There is also an opportunity to share your ideas with other ALIA members and the board, through our National Advisory Congress events, which are happening around the country in November and December. If you can't make the face-to-face meeting, we will be holding a nationwide teleconference early in December to capture your thoughts. More information from your state and territory manager, or contact Erin York at ALIA House erin.york@alia.org.au.

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ALIA SNAPSHOT

ALIA plans to offer RDA training in partnership with TAFESA in 2013

Training will be suitable for practitioners, delivered online, and flexible. Dates, costs, and so on are yet to be determined, but when confirmed will be widely published via all of ALIA's communication mediums.

Concerning Copyright

We are gathering evidence to support the ALCC's submission in response to the Copyright Issues Paper www.aliacopyright.wikispaces.com. ALIA is preparing a response to the ALCC/ADA submission, due 16th November 2012.

Taking the pulse of Health Libraries

The Health Libraries project is underway, with Cecily Gilbert carrying out the required research. A more detailed report will be presented to the Board in December.