



Keynotes unveiled for ALIA Biennial

The ALIA Biennial Sydney 2012 organising committee is just adding the final tweaks to the program for Discover 2012 in July. While a few things remain under wraps we can reveal an outstanding line-up of keynote speakers.

Tom Chatfield

Freelance author, commentator, and technology theorist Tom Chatfield will be joining us from the UK. Tom's latest digital projects include lead writing and design work on *The End*, a browser-based game exploring philosophical concepts of death, developed by Preloaded for Channel 4 Education. Since its release in late 2011, it has gained over three million players and was named the Best Game of 2011 at the British Interactive Media Association awards.

Tom is the author of three books of non-fiction exploring digital culture. His next book, on what it means to thrive in a digital age, is forthcoming in May this year. If you'd like to get a 'taste' of Tom prior to the Biennial he tweets at @TomChatfield and blogs at tomchatfield.net.

Justice Michael Kirby

When he retired from the High Court of Australia in 2009 following a distinguished career, Justice Michael Kirby was Australia's longest serving judge. In his judicial retirement, he has continued to be active in the law holding many key positions and sharing his knowledge through the education sector.

He is presently a member of the Eminent Persons Group which is investigating the future of the Commonwealth of Nations and has been appointed to the UNDP Global Commission of HIV and the Law.

Dr Alex Byrne

Dr Alex Byrne is the State Librarian and Chief Executive of the State Library of New South Wales, a position he has recently taken up following posts in library and university management at several Australian universities. Alex served for a decade in leadership positions with IFLA including election as President from 2005 to 2007.

As a professional librarian, researcher, and writer with deep interest in the roles of memory institutions, Alex is particularly concerned with the complexity of issues relating to Indigenous peoples and transmission of knowledge and in emerging modes of scholarly discourse. His publications deal primarily with information architecture and management, and with community empowerment and human rights, especially freedom of expression and access to information.

Ingrid Parent

We are also delighted to welcome current IFLA President, Ingrid Parent to the Biennial. Ingrid is recognised in her home country (Canada) and internationally for her outstanding contributions to libraries and to the library profession. She has played an active role in developing policies and best practices for libraries particularly in the areas of resource access and digital activities.

Over her career, Ingrid has been involved with several international information associations. Within IFLA, she has been a strong proponent of equitable access to information and promoting the diversity of voices in the world of information.

Mitchell Whitelaw

Mitchell Whitelaw is a Canberra-based academic and practitioner working across data visualisation, digital design, generative art, and digital culture. His work on the visualisation of large cultural collections has been supported by the National Archives of Australia, the National Museum of Australia, and the National Gallery of Australia. He is currently an Associate Professor in the Faculty of Arts and Design at the University of Canberra, where he leads the Master of Digital Design.

This is only a taste of the headline acts. These presenters will be sharing the conference stage with many more, including *The Sydney Morning Herald's* Richard Glover and author Anita Heiss (an ambassador for both the National Year of Reading and Indigenous Literacy Day).

To DISCOVER more visit the website <http://conferences.alia.org.au/alia2012/index>.

