

Active in the ACT

ALIA's ALIA ACTIVE Group in the ACT has seen an amazing range of activities in 2011, including many collaborative opportunities with our main partners, Australian Government Libraries Information Network (AGLIN) and ALIA University and Research Libraries (URLs).

In 2011 we joined in with our regular collaborative partner AGLIN to offer diverse series of information sharing forums at the National Library, aiming to offer members a chance to extend their knowledge and develop skills.

A popular forum for several of us was Cathy Brady's presentation on the work she is undertaking on saving original research or, rather, persuading her academics at CSIRO to save their preprints and other publications to the CSIRO repository for prosperity. Her queries and issues were echoed by the presenters from the ANU and University of Canberra repositories.

A presentation on *Digital Hansard* was given by Roxanne Missingham and Kathryn York of the Australian Parliamentary Library, and Bernie Harris, retired Chief of Hansard. This project aimed at ensuring all formerly print Hansards are published online.

Senior lecturer in librarianship at the University of Canberra (UC), Stuart Ferguson, presented a forum on the state of library education. Stuart discussed the post-graduate library education offered by UC and major research being undertaken by students, including web information architecture in large organisations, use of knowledge management standards and strategic management in knowledge-intensive organisations, and ethical implications of Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) in public libraries.

Our popular *Conference Encore* at the National Library included a YouTube presentation by Rachel Green, one of the keynote speakers at the 2011 Library Technicians Conference, while Robin Bell gave a great presentation on the New Librarians Symposium, emphasising papers on a range of programs that strengthen the development of technology skills and knowledge. Naomi and Noellen from the National Museum spoke about the National Library Technicians conference. They came back with lots of ideas from presentations and tours.


We have also had a series of more social events as part of our program for 2011. At the start of 2011 we had a reception for Anne-Marie Schwirtlich, the new National Library Director-General. Our Midwinter Dinner in August took place at Canberra Southern Cross Club Yacht Club and included presentation the ALIA ACTIVE award for sustained contribution 2011 to Kym Holden, for her many contributions to her profession over 20 years. Renee Schuttleworth was also recognised for her

significant contributions. Our major event was our Christmas celebration organised by Aileen Weir. Aileen arranged for all those who attended to have after-hours access to the *Handwritten* exhibition at the National Library and we appreciate this support provided by the National Library, who also provided our meeting venue free of charge.

In 2012 our objective is to increase the number of contributors to the organising of our forums, social events, and library visits. In a time of budgetary constraints for many librarians the training from such free opportunities is vital. We encourage everyone in the ACT to assist and welcome new library staff and ideas to make the 2012 events more exciting still.

With 2012 well under way, we are planning for the *Valuing Libraries Workshop* in May which will look at methodologies and case studies on how to value your library and its services and how to demonstrate this to your major stakeholders.


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