

# CERTIFIED PROFESSIONAL HEALTH SPECIALISATION LAUNCH

In 2013, ALIA is offering the opportunity for health sector Library and Information science (LIS) professionals to demonstrate their specialised knowledge by complying with an additional commitment to the ALIA PD Scheme. Certified Professional Health Specialists will be distinguished with the post nominals of AALIA (CP) Health Librarian or AALIA (CP) Health for Associate members and ALIA Tec (CP) Health for Library Technician members.

The 'Health Specialisation' will start from 1 July 2013 and is aligned with the

to add to the PD Scheme. For more information please contact Judy Brooker, Assistant Director (Professional Development), [pd@alia.org.au](mailto:pd@alia.org.au).

To register for the ALIA PD Scheme Health Specialisation, you must already have joined the ALIA PD Scheme through the MyPD login. To add the Health Specialisation to your ALIA PD Scheme profile, please send the Certified Professional Health Specialisation registration form listed on our website to [pd@alia.org.au](mailto:pd@alia.org.au). We have created additional resources to assist with the introduction of the specialisation, including an ALIA PD Scheme Health Specialisation Summary, a Health Specialisation Skills Audit checklist, and an ALIA PD Scheme Health Specialisation FAQ.

The realisation of the Health Specialisation for health LIS professionals has been a long journey and special thanks must go to the HLA executive for their long term commitment to this project, especially the recent past president Suzanne Lewis, to Cecily Gilbert for her work on the Board report, and Noreen Kirkman, our WA State Manager, for developing the Health Specialisation Skills Audit. Dedicated members' contributions are constantly enriching and renewing the library and information profession.

ALIA would also like to recognise the passion and dedication of Assistant Director (Professional Development), Judy Brooker. Judy supported the introduction of the health specialisation by planning the processes and procedures for its introduction and strategically linking the integration of LIS specialisations into ALIA's new approach to professional development: opening up of the MyPD tracking tool to all personal members, introducing a new membership category 'Certified Professional' based on the ALIA PD Scheme's reflective learning, and encouraging other LIS sectors to create their own ALIA PD Scheme specialisation with competencies recognising their specific areas of expertise.

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beginning of the PD Scheme Year. This additional benefit comes at no extra cost to members and is part of your ALIA personal membership advantage. The ALIA group, Health Libraries Australia (HLA), will be formally launching the Health Specialisation at their Professional Development Day, Friday 19 July 2013 in Adelaide.

Between 2009 and 2011, the HLA undertook a research project to determine the future skills and competencies required of health library and information professionals in Australia, and to develop a structured, modular education framework to meet those requirements. This resulted in the final report on the project – *Health Librarianship Workforce and Education: Research to Plan the Future*. ALIA has adopted the American Medical Library Association (MLA) *Professional Competencies for Health Sciences Librarians* and thanks the MLA for providing permission for their re-use.

The ALIA Board of Directors implementation of the report's recommendation has led to the Health specialisation being the first specialisation offered by ALIA. Other LIS areas of expertise are invited to put forward proposals for creating their specialisation