

FRONTLINE

WELCOME TO 2013 AND TO ALIA'S YEAR OF RENEWAL

This year is one in which the Association is re-charging its batteries and focusing on members, advocacy, communications, and training for the profession.

By now I am sure that you are aware that all positions to be vacated on the ALIA Board in May are being contested. Members from school libraries, academic libraries, library schools, and public libraries have declared their interest in helping to shape the Association into the future. I would like to thank them all for their commitment to ALIA and wish them all well in the upcoming elections. And to all members, this is an opportunity for you to have your say in the makeup of your Board, so please take the time to consider the candidates and vote when your papers come out.

It was my great pleasure to facilitate the National Advisory Congress meeting in Adelaide late last year. Not only was it a lovely opportunity to visit my home town, but it was a chance to catch up with old colleagues and to see how libraries are going in Adelaide. The format for the session was different this year and I really think that the opportunity to choose the topics for discussion led to spirited and valuable input into

our Association. Thank you to all of the members around Australia who attended a NAC workshop. Your input has been submitted to the ALIA staff and they are busy putting it together and reviewing the feedback. This will go to the Board and will inform our planning for 2013.

In November 2012, we farewelled the National Year of Reading with a wonderful day of reflection and celebration at the National Library of Australia. The NYR has been a huge success and embraced by libraries in all sectors. On behalf of the ALIA Board, ALIA members, and the Founding Partners for the NYR, I would especially like to thank Sue McKerracher and her Library Agency team – Robyn Ellard, Donna McDowell, Brenda Currie, and Karen Ward-Smith for assisting us to deliver the most remarkable year of events, project, and programs.

But it isn't all over! The Founding Partners have decided to continue with the Love2Read brand and some of the major national events. More will be revealed soon, but it was felt that we had so much 'currency' with the Love2 Read brand that we couldn't just let it drop.



Janice Taylor
Director Professional Services

DIRECTLINE

COURSE ACCREDITATION

This year, 2013 and in line with Information Online, we're looking to 'be different, do different' for our members and for our stakeholders. Among the myriad new projects and opportunities in store for the year, we are committed to undertaking a comprehensive review of our course accreditation process.

Our aim is to make the accreditation process less onerous for everyone, while at the same time retaining value and integrity for all. To this end, we have engaged Dr Gillian Hallam, Adjunct Professor, Library and Information Science at Queensland University of Technology to undertake this review. Gill has already commenced her work in this area with the review structured as a two stage project.

Stage 1: Environmental scan, literature review, and document analysis

Stage 2: Pilot for a new course accreditation model.

Stage 1 will take place over the next few months, while Stage 2 will be scheduled for later in 2013.

The Stage 1 report will address the following range of issues:

- Current course accreditation practices undertaken by professional associations, including but not limited to the American Library Association (ALA), Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals (CILIP), Australian Computer Society (ACS), Australian Society of Archivists (ASA), and Records and Information Management Professionals Australasia (RIMPA)
- Current developments in the education sector, with specific attention paid to adjustments to the requirements for academic qualifications under the Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) and the impact on LIS qualifications
- The findings and recommendations of the ALTC study, *Re-conceptualising and re-positioning Australian library and information science education*

Sue McKerracher and I meet most Tuesday mornings to discuss issues big and small for the Association. Sue came up with an interesting advocacy idea recently and I wonder what you think about it...

When important documents are to be witnessed, there is a list of prescribed professions from which you can choose a person to be your witness – pharmacists, doctors, police officers, and the like. Senior public servants are often also on the list – but not librarians. Imagine how many people in your organisation you would get to know and help out if our profession was on the prescribed list? What a great way to have people visit the library and seek you out. As a service-based profession, we would be adding one more 'string to our bow', one with some level of gravitas – What do you think?

Like many of you, I am looking forward to ALIA Information Online in Brisbane and to the wealth of information and knowledge that is represented by the speakers. I also look forward to meeting up with our library

vendors and seeing what they have to showcase. It will also be my very great pleasure to present Catherine Harboe – Ree and Dr Craig Anderson with their Fellowships. What great contributions both have made to ALIA and the profession, and the Board was very happy to endorse both awards. At any time, members can nominate colleagues for a Fellowship as these do not have to follow the annual call for nominations for the other ALIA Awards. The conferring of a Fellowship is important recognition of a member's significant contribution to the Association, and we welcome nominations of such members. More information on all ALIA awards can be found on the ALIA website.

See you in Brisbane for ALIA Information Online 2013!



Vanessa Little
ALIA President
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- Strategic links with other areas of the Association's activities, including but not limited to professional development, recruitment to the profession, workforce planning, personal and institutional membership, governance, and fiscal responsibility.

Stage 2 of the project (developing the appropriate technology platform for a new model of course accreditation) will be the responsibility of the ALIA team in consultation with stakeholders.

As part of the quality assurance processes a project reference group has been established for Stage 1 in order to provide an understanding of the issues and gain timely feedback on the progress of the project. This group consists of stakeholders from across the relevant education sectors offering LIS accredited courses. A draft report will be completed around the end of January 2013 so that any concepts and ideas can be discussed more broadly at a forum to be held in conjunction with ALIA Information Online in mid February. The final report will include feedback from this consultation process with the goal of completion of Stage 1 around March 2013.

If you are coming to ALIA Information Online, 11 – 15 February 2013, we are running an Education Think Tank on Friday 15 February 2013, 9am–12 noon at the Brisbane Exhibition and Convention Centre, for those working directly in the teaching and learning sectors. There is no charge for attending: just let us know if you are attending by emailing me. We'd love to see you there!

The session will include guest speakers Professor Belinda Tynan, PVC Learning, Teaching and Quality, USQ; and Professor Yoni Ryan, Professor of Higher Education, ACU, presenting their seminar 'Online Teaching and Workload'. Following the presentation, participants will be able to discuss their own institutional workload model, and suggest ways to take the findings forward to their institutions and the sector.

As part of the Think Tank, Gill Hallam will present an update on ALIA's course accreditation review followed by discussion with participants around the process into the future.

We are keen to provide opportunities for library and information educators to work more closely with the Association, with colleagues, and with other stakeholders, to maintain the highest

standards for the education of library and information professionals.

We have invited our LT and Higher Educators to come along and be part of this exciting project.

In the meantime, as we work through the review, we are keen to have your suggestions and would love to hear from you.

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