

EDITOR'S NOTE COME TOGETHER, RIGHT NOW



In an interview with the ABC about The Edge (the first Australian library to win an American Library Association Presidential Citation, story p22), the State Library of Queensland's Jane Cowell told ABC Overnights presenter Rod Quinn librarians 'have always shared stuff'.

And so we have. It is an enduring and endearing trait of our profession and often the element that results in successfully meeting our users' needs. It might be worth taking a moment to hold that thought. Other industries and professions sometimes have to manufacture what seems to come naturally to our sector.

In fact, the notion of engineering work spaces to 'coerce' disparate groups to come together in the hope that being together will spark creativity is becoming quite a thing. Architects call it 'bump space' but you might know it better as a shared staff room (take two researchers working on different aspects of the same topic, add coffee, stir – and stand back).

In this issue our collaborative success stories stretch across the profession and the world. They include Ballarat Health Services Library stepping up to play a key role in hospital accreditation, Victoria's new graduates buddying up to

face the challenges of job hunting and Australian library professionals playing a key role in helping a new democracy emerge in Myanmar.

In our cover story Roly Keating, CEO of the British Library, rounds out our ALIA National 2014 Conference keynotes series with his thoughts on the challenges facing the profession in a globalised world.

Great collaboration requires a lot of trust and a dash of faith. There is no question in this globalised world that collaboration with colleagues and our communities will continue to be essential to achieve shared goals and ensure a bright future.

Who knows what brilliant ideas might fizz to life in the conference halls in Melbourne this month – or any other place (with or without that coffee)? Just think how amazing it would be, to be there, at the moment when inspiration strikes and Aristotle's 'whole' does indeed 'become greater than the sum of its parts'. Synergy. Collaboration. We have to be there.

LEE WELCH
Editor

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