

# THREE TREES MAKE A MOUNTAIN

**C**ollaboration is very much in the DNA of Australian and New Zealand libraries. Australian library and information professionals have for many years embraced the spirit of collaboration to benefit their organisations and library users. In this article, CAVAL's Michael Robinson recalls some landmark collaborations in the academic library sector.

## THE CHANGES AND PRESSURES WHICH DISRUPT THE TRADITIONAL PRINT SERVICE MODEL ARE ALSO THE DRIVERS FOR LIBRARIES TO SEEK EFFICIENCIES.

CAVAL is one of two independent not for profit organisations established in Australia at around the same time to encourage and support collaboration between libraries, the other being UNILINC in New South Wales. Both were established in 1978, and while we have both developed a varied range of services since then, we still share a common set of values and a strong commitment to the provision of member benefit through collaboration.

CAVAL (originally Cooperative Action by Victorian Academic Libraries) now has 11 members, comprising the Victorian universities, the University of New South Wales and the University of Tasmania. We provide a range of services to our members as well as to the academic, public and special libraries of Australia and New Zealand. Though a number of these services are offered on a fee for service basis, CAVAL also remains faithful to its original function as a member cooperative, promoting and managing collaboration.

CAVAL's most successful collaborative ventures have been based on the sharing of print resources. For over 30 years, the CAVAL Reciprocal Borrowing Program has provided staff and students of member institutions a practical means of borrowing in person from the substantial print collections held by participating libraries. Similarly, we established the CAVAL Archival and Research Materials (CARM) storage facility in 1996, and today the CARM Shared Collection comprises almost one million volumes deposited on a last copy basis by member libraries to form a research collection held in perpetuity for future generations of scholars. In 2010, CAVAL established CARM2, a second purpose-built storage facility to provide short and long term storage services for libraries and other cultural institutions.

Each month, OPINION features contributions from invited guest writers. The opinions expressed in this column do not necessarily reflect those of the Australian Library and Information Association.

We support member interest groups and activities in organising programs of mutual interest, providing networking and professional development for library staff, including the Library Leadership Program established in 2008, and coordinating the Cross-Institutional Library Mentoring Program that fosters mentoring relationships for over 40 staff each year from member libraries.

In the academic sector, libraries also share in the benefits offered through the collaborative programs of the National Library of Australia (NLA), such as Libraries Australia and the LADD document delivery services, and through the Council of Australian University Librarians (CAUL) and their work in consortial acquisitions, the ULANZ reciprocal borrowing agreement, and advocacy and policy development. There are also other cooperative entities such as the Queensland University Libraries Office and Cooperation (QULOC), University Libraries South Australia (ULSA) and the Western Australian Group of University Librarians (WAGUL) who focus their efforts on delivering and sharing positive outcomes for their membership at a state-wide or regional level.

As libraries scale down their traditional services and move progressively into the digital delivery of resources, significant opportunities exist for CAVAL and its members in the collaborative managing down of print and the management of digital content. The changes and pressures which disrupt the traditional print service model are also the drivers for libraries to seek efficiencies in the stewardship of print and other physical resources – and indeed of management of some aspects of their digital content – through outsourcing and collaborative activity.

The challenges to existing print-based resource sharing among libraries (such as print storage, interlibrary loans and reciprocal borrowing) actually create opportunities for greater, rather than less, collaboration to achieve economies of scale through improved management and coordination of print collections regionally or nationally, and improved access through integrated discovery, lending and delivery systems.

At one stage in my career I was living and working in Vietnam, and discovered the Vietnamese fondness for using proverbs to illustrate and reflect on aspects of daily life. One such proverb resonates with me now, not only about the benefits of library collaboration, but also for the theme of the ALIA National 2014 Conference this month. Loosely translated, it is 'one tree can't make a thing – three trees can make a great mountain'. Collaboratively, we can use our resources for greater benefit; we can innovate and achieve things not possible individually. Together, we are stronger!

---

**MICHAEL ROBINSON**  
Chief Executive Officer  
CAVAL Ltd.  
michael.robinson@caval.edu.au



# ALIA EVENTS

## NATIONAL

15–19 SEPTEMBER 2014

### **ALIA National Conference**

Pullman Albert Park Hotel, Melbourne

Details: [www.nationalconference2014.alia.org.au](http://www.nationalconference2014.alia.org.au)

19 SEPTEMBER 2014

### **ALIA HLA/HLI Conference**

The joint collaboration between Health Libraries Inc. and ALIA Health Libraries Australia is both the context and the theme for the day. The aim is to explore the practical aspects of collaboration through presentations which highlight examples of successful case studies, programs, projects or initiatives which have been evaluated or assessed in some way.

Contact: Ann Ritchie [ann.ritchie@alia.org.au](mailto:ann.ritchie@alia.org.au)

## ACT

05 NOVEMBER 2014

### **ALIA APSIG talk with Ray Edmondson**

Ray Edmondson will be talking about the Memory of the World Project.

Contact: Kylie Moloney [kylie.moloney@anu.edu.au](mailto:kylie.moloney@anu.edu.au)

08–09 NOVEMBER 2014

### **River of Opportunities**

River of Opportunities events have been held in a variety of regional locations, traditionally in alternate years to the National Library and Information Technicians' Symposium. In 2014, we will hold the eighth River of Opportunities event in Geelong.

Contact: Kim Wilson [kwilson@slv.vic.gov.au](mailto:kwilson@slv.vic.gov.au)

## WA

04 OCTOBER 2014

### **ALIA WA Library Technicians' Tech Trek**

Contact: Susan Courtland

[susan.courtland@kalamunda.wa.gov.au](mailto:susan.courtland@kalamunda.wa.gov.au)

## NATIONAL ADVISORY CONGRESS ANNUAL ALIA MEMBER MEETINGS

Actions arising from the ALIA Futures reports and how these can be driven by the Association, our members and by the broader library and information services community will be the focus for discussion at the 2014 annual member meetings.

Dates for each state and territory meeting are available on our website at [www.alia.org.au/nac](http://www.alia.org.au/nac). Notes will be taken and made available for each meeting and you can also contact your State or Territory Manager for more information (see page 4 for contact details).

## *Love reading romance?*

Help us choose the Romantic Book (and novella) of the Year, and also discover the best of our unpublished talent!



The Romance Writers of Australia has two reader-judged competitions for our published authors. They are the prestigious Ruby (Romantic Book of the Year) and the Ella (Romantic Novella of the Year). We are looking for readers to judge some entries and help us choose the best romances of 2013.

We also have a reader-judged competition for our unpublished talent - The Emerald. This competition is designed to mirror the submission process, and provides an invaluable avenue to help unpublished writers hone their craft.

Reader-judges need to be willing and able to judge digital (PDF) entries of novels/novellas that can be downloaded onto e-readers or computers for judging. We'll provide instructions and score sheets on each novel/novella and our competition managers will collect them at the end.

### *Sounds good?*

Express your interest to either Erica Hayes, Contest co-ordinator ([contests@romanceaustralia.com](mailto:contests@romanceaustralia.com)) or judge coordinator, Claire Boston ([reader-judge-coordinator@romanceaustralia.com](mailto:reader-judge-coordinator@romanceaustralia.com))

For information on past winners:  
[romanceaustralia.com/p/90/RUBY](http://romanceaustralia.com/p/90/RUBY)  
[romanceaustralia.com/p/91/ELLA](http://romanceaustralia.com/p/91/ELLA)  
[romanceaustralia.com/p/117/Past-Winners](http://romanceaustralia.com/p/117/Past-Winners)