

BUILDING MOMENTUM

In 2013 we started the year at a fast pace, with the combined energy of Information Online and the New Librarians' Symposium in Brisbane. In 2014 it's no different. The year has commenced with a sell-out event, the launch of a new membership category and our early literacy framework, and registrations opening for an action-packed national conference in September.

GOLD STAR VENDORS

In January, we launched our new Corporate Member category, specifically created to recognise the special benefits appropriate to commercial organisations, as well as the substantial contribution companies make to the sector.

In addition to their investment in sponsorship and exhibitions, vendors are experts in their field and provide a rich source of information about trends in the sector nationally and internationally. They are great advocates for our profession and free to speak out about issues when public sector employees can't, and they provide training and professional development opportunities for practitioners.

We were delighted that a number of leading companies signed up to be Corporate Members in the first few weeks after the category was launched, and we want to record here our special thanks to our Gold members ALS, OCLC and SAGE.

EARLY LITERACY

In February, we published the ALIA Public Library Advisory Committee's early literacy framework and strategy, which firmly positions public libraries in the early childhood space. The report, which describes libraries as the 'active connectors', bringing together children, parents, health and early childhood professionals, was used as the basis for our submission to the Productivity Commission's Inquiry into Childcare and Early Childhood Learning.

THE VALUE OF SPECIAL LIBRARIES

In March, we were pleased to report that an investigation into the return of special libraries resulted in an indicative measure of \$5.43 for every dollar invested.

This followed on from a health libraries return of \$9 for every dollar, which we announced late last year.

Not only was it good to have such positive results from the study by independent firm SGS Economics and Planning, it was also an excellent example of collaboration between ALIA, the Australian Law Librarians' Association, ALIA Health Libraries Australia and Health Libraries Inc. We co-funded the research and shared the results across our extended networks for maximum impact.

On 19 March, a seminar entitled Libraries, MOOCs and Online Learning was held at the State Library of Queensland on 19 March, presented by ALIA in partnership with the Council of Australian University Librarians and OCLC. This event sold out, indicating the strong interest in this new development in learning delivery models.

Meanwhile, registrations have opened for the ALIA National 2014 Conference, which takes place from 15 – 19 September at The Pullman, Albert Park, Melbourne. The ALIA National 2014 Conference Steering Committee has been hard at work on the program and has announced a great line up of speakers including the British Library's Roly Keating; Susan Benton, President and CEO of the Urban Libraries Council; and Dr Marianne Broadbent, Senior Partner and co-owner of the innovative leadership consultancy and executive search firm EWK International.

AND FINALLY...

In April, you have the opportunity to vote for Australia's Favourite Library, in the run up to Library and Information Week. More than 400 libraries, of all shapes and sizes, have been nominated, and we're looking forward to some great publicity for the state, territory and national winners.

For more information on all these activities, visit the Association's website at www.alia.org.au.



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