

HAPPY FUTURES EVERYONE!

As the sun sets on my year as President, it is generally tradition to reflect on the past. Which is ironic really, as my presidential year has been all about the future.

Professional membership organisations require the cooperation and commitment of members to ensure they are relevant and viable. Some of our members simply join, pay their membership fee, and value that the Association is representing their own and their profession's interests with governments, organisations and academic accreditations. Many also value the Association for these reasons but decide also to volunteer their time to participate and add value to the Association's objects.

I would like to thank both these groups of members. Without your membership ALIA would not be able to do the things it does. Over the past year I have met and seen first-hand the wonderful work that our members do. The meetings you hold to share and grow your profession. The debates you conduct to consider issues both futuristic and political. The sharing of the stories and commitment to our profession is inspiring.

I started my presidential year concerned that we were involved in a 'war' about our future, especially in relation to ebooks. This war is now downgraded to a small skirmish because our active involvement with this issue has enabled us to form stronger relationships with authors, publishers and government. There is still some way to go in relation to libraries being able to fully incorporate ebooks into their collections as they do with print books, but now we are on track to work this out with all the players involved.

Over this last year we have held numerous workshops and presentations concerning the future of our profession. Through our work on the Future of the Profession project, we have identified a number of issues that ALIA must continue to explore to ensure our members and, in turn, our organisation's future is realised.

Ensuring our professional development is vital, not only for our own personal growth but also our longevity as a profession and to illustrate to the world that we are vital and relevant to our country's economic, social and environmental wellbeing and growth.

We need to understand technology and how we can adapt, use and provide it to further enhance our service

delivery models to enable us to partner with companies and organisations to add value to the information we curate and manage.

We need to fully understand our market segments so we can design services to both meet and anticipate needs. This will mean our service can no longer be homogenous but must evolve into a mixture of discrete services that meet both the analogue and digital needs of our various markets.

We need to continue to develop suitable accreditation models by working in partnership with education institutions to provide courses that will develop our future leaders with skills transferable across a wide range of information industries.

As we work together to meet these needs, I would like to thank the wonderful people who have worked with me along the way to develop our future roadmap, which will be released this month at the ALIA Annual General Meeting.

A few thank yous never go astray, but are always fraught with the possibility that someone will be forgotten and, in all seriousness, it would take up this whole edition of *INCITE* to thank them. But some do need to be mentioned.

Our wonderful Executive Director Sue McKerracher has been a joy to work with. She is dynamic, energetic, optimistic and clever. Sue has been an excellent addition to ALIA and I thank her greatly for her guidance and advice. I must thank Margaret Allen for her commitment and dedication to our ebook strategy, copyright and IFLA relations; she has worked tirelessly to bring us to the world stage. All our Advisory Committees that inform the Board and provide their expertise and sage advice must be thanked. We listen to what you say and value your ongoing commitment. Thank you to our countless members, who volunteer your time to ensure ALIA is alive and active.

And finally thank you to the Board, who understand the importance of good governance and setting strategic directions. May your debates continue.

I welcome Damian to his role of President and wish him great success.

Happy futures everyone.



JULIE RAE
ALIA President