

LIS FUTURE PROJECT REPORTS RELEASED

The reports from the ALIA Future of the LIS Profession consultation during 2013 were released in May during Library and Information Week by then-President Julie Rae, who led this ALIA Board initiative. If you haven't had a chance to read the reports, you can find them on our website (<https://www.alia.org.au/futureoftheprofession/>).

often not library users. For many, the library and information service is a line in the profit and loss account and there is little understanding about what it means to service delivery to introduce a 'cost saving' or 'efficiency dividend'. We will need to be even cannier about how we elicit support from users to counteract attempts to introduce ill-conceived budget cuts.

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The ideas expressed by our members and other stakeholders have been captured in a series of themes and there are also actions arising – actions for professionals and organisations, actions to drive advocacy, and actions for the Association.

Within our ALIA action list, there are items that are already in train, for example introducing ongoing learning as an essential part of professional membership by 2020. Other activities will mean breaking new ground, for example working with our TAFE Libraries Advisory Committee to establish standards and guidelines for VET libraries.

One of the points highlighted in the reports is the importance of LIS educators in the future of the profession. We need forward-thinking, inspiring teachers, contemporary course content and supportive institutions if we are to have qualified professionals with the knowledge and skills to advance library and information science through the next few decades.

The recent federal, state and territory budgets have not been kind to universities and TAFEs and we will need to be strong in our support of LIS students, educators and the libraries within their institutions.

A major frustration, which crosses over every sector, is the gap in perception of value between service users and service funders. Whereas library and information consumers 'get' libraries, the managers responsible for funding them are

We have a moment in time when we can make the case for library and information professionals to be as much a part of the big data revolution as IT professionals. IT people can source and interrogate the raw data, but it takes an information professional to make it meaningful, accessible and discoverable. There are a number of opportunities as well as challenges in the future marketplace and we need to be in the right place, in the right time, with the right credentials.

Another publication to which we would like to draw your attention is the *2013 Annual Report*. It went up on the website in April, in plenty of time for the ALIA Annual General Meeting. Reading through it will give you a sense of the scope of the activities of the Association and especially the very significant contribution made by volunteers.

Our new ALIA Board met for the first time the day after the AGM, on 22 May, and there was plenty to talk about, not only looking back at achievements in the Annual Report, but also looking forward to the new Directors' two-year terms of office.

A new strategic plan for the Association will need to be in place at the end of 2015 and the ALIA Board discussion around this will be driven by the ALIA Future of the LIS Profession findings, by the results of the member survey in September 2013, by the political and economic environment, and by the outcomes of our current strategic plan.



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