AT THE EDGE

ALIA
Information
ONLINE
2015

The ALIA Information Online 2015 Conference was packed full of fantastic learning opportunities, great networking and some mind-expanding presentations. That's appropriate because the theme of the conference was 'At the Edge' wrangling the issues of library innovation, cutting edge technology and what it all means for the LIS profession. The conference, held in Sydney from 2–5 February, featured 53 papers, four keynote speakers and more than 80 exhibitors.

FAIR LAUNCH

Opening the conference, ALIA President Damian Lodge, said: 'With information at our fingertips, we are seeing amazing changes and innovations taking place at incredible speed. But there is still an important role for advocacy for the profession and that's what FAIR is all about.' He launched the new FAIR campaign which stands for Freedom of Access to Information and Resources. Delegates were encouraged to visit the FAIR website (fair.alia.org.au), sign up to the newsletter and follow FAIR on Twitter (@joinFAIR) and Facebook (www.facebook.com/joinFAIR).

CAPTURING HUMAN KNOWLEDGE

Keynote speaker Siva Vaidhyanathan, Robertson Professor of Media Studies at the University of Virginia, spoke of the human knowledge project, the 'googlization of everything' and how digitisation is rapidly changing the way we think and research. Siva noted that Google was trying solve a librarian problem – how to find information on the web! He was also keen to see sensible copyright reform which doesn't impede the global free flow of information.

VOLUNTEERS: READY, SET, GO!

Helping conference participants find their sessions were the wonderful volunteers (from left to right) Barbara Grummels, Taryn Hunt, Lauren Castan and Christine Crispin. A very big thanks to you all from the delegates and the ALIA team.

CULTURAL IMMERSION

There was a mind expanding presentation from Professor Sarah Kenderdine from the University of NSW, who works at the forefront of interactive and immersive experiences for museums and galleries. Dr Kenderdine's 3D interactive experience *Pure Land* virtually recreates Cave 220 at the Dunhuang Caves in China, one of 492 grottoes resplendent with Buddhist mural paintings more than 1,000 years old.

A LITTLE LIGHT MUSIC

It wasn't all work – Mimosa Duo entertained us with their arrangements of favorite classical pieces.

ONLINE ON SHOW

Delegates toured the latest and greatest products and services on offer to the LIS sector in the conference exhibition which stretched across two floors of the Hilton Hotel.

SPACES TO CONNECT

Extreme Library Makeovers and Mindshifts was keynote speaker Erik Boekesteijn's topic – he's the co-founder and director of Doklab. He's an enthusiastic supporter of libraries but warned us we must innovate or die. Library users, he said, want information rich environments which allow people to meet, share and connect.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEWEST FELLOWS

ALIA President Damian Lodge announced two new ALIA Fellows at the conference. Eve Woodberry (left) was recognised for her commitment copyright reform at a domestic and international level, as well as her career in university libraries and university administration. Margaret Allen (right) was awarded a Fellowship for her work in literacy, Aboriginal heritage, and copyright and support for emerging leaders.

THINK WE'RE GONNA DANCE NOW!

And who could forget the conference dinner, themed as the night time garden party with none other than ALIA President Damian Lodge on guitar with his band, Seeing Eye Dogs. Delegates danced the night away, loving the classic covers – even keynote speaker Erik Boekesteijn got in on the act.

That's a wrap for this conference, which means it's time to mark your diary for the ALIA National 2016 Conference, Monday 29 August to Friday 2 September 2016 in Adelaide, South Australia. And ALIA Information Online will be back 12–16 February 2017.