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CONNECT AND CONVERSE WITH #AUSLIBCHAT

The ALIA New Generation Advisory Committee outlines how you can use Twitter to connect, learn and expand your LIS universe.

Our library and information professional network forms the foundation of an active community of practice, providing us with the opportunity to share knowledge, ideas and experiences that encourage us to continuously improve the way we serve communities. Twitter enables those connections and relationships to grow, and it's also a meeting place for conversation.

Twitter moves so fast. Some days you blink and find out you've missed a thought-provoking, juicy discussion. If only you knew beforehand what was going to be discussed. The US had it. The UK had it. But back in October 2015, Australia didn't have it. The New Generation Advisory Committee (NGAC) felt that something similar to #libchat (US) and #uklibchat (UK)



was needed here in Australia. Little did we know that our October meeting would be the starting point for what has now become a meeting place for nationwide (and beyond) discussion on topics and issues related to our profession.

ALIA quickly jumped on board the idea in November, and so we got busy with organising the first, successful #auslibchat in February 2016. Since then #auslibchat has grown as a popular professional development activity for library and information professionals across the country. To date, NGAC have organised and facilitated six chats via Twitter on a variety of topics, from the job market to cross-organisation collaboration.

We recently asked our participants what they love about #auslibchat. The dominant themes among the responses were meeting library and information professionals, making new connections, getting an opportunity to gain insight, and accessing variety of experiences and diverse thoughts from other participants. Here are a few favourites.

From **@itskylieburgess (Kylie)** – @aliangac #auslibchat is a wonderful forum to ask qs, gain insights & connect – helped me decide to take the plunge & enrol in my masters!

From **@TripleThreatLib (Heather)** – @aliangac I love that whether you are student, new grad or old hand (or elsewhat) there's a place for you in the discussion here #auslibchat

From **@lissertations (Alissa)** – @aliangac I love the variety of experiences and views that #auslibchat brings together – every month I learn so much

From **@CyberKittyFace (Evanthia)** – @aliangac it's a great way for me to keep in touch with library issues while I am working in archives #auslibchat

From **@McDonaldTracey (Tracey)** – @aliangac I have used knowledge gained from #libchat to inform my work and to bolster my PD. I been inspired to take a closer look things.

Using #auslibchat fosters opportunities for students, new graduates and experienced professionals to connect and learn from each other when they might otherwise not have done so. Exchanging ideas, insight and experiences

strengthens our professional knowledge and ability to relate what we learn to a variety of information service contexts. Nurturing our professional knowledge is especially important for new and early-career library and information professionals if they are to successfully meet future challenges.

#auslibchat runs at 9pm AEDT on the first Tuesday of the month. You can find previous #auslibchat topics, questions and the discussions as they unfolded at alianewgrads.wordpress.com. 

ALIA NEW GENERATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
@aliangac
aliangac@gmail.com

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