

# INTRODUCING JALIA

**A**s many ALIA members would know, 2017 is heralding a new era of journal publishing for ALIA. Australian Academic and Research Libraries (AARL) is merging with the Association's oldest journal, *The Australian Library Journal* (ALJ), and the Journal of the Australian Library and Information Association (JALIA) will commence. GABY HADDOW and MARY ANNE KENNAN tell us more.

JALIA brings change, but also continuity. The journal will continue with ALJ's volume numbers, indexing, and hosting by Taylor & Francis. AARL co-editors Gaby Haddow and Mary Anne Kennan, and ALJ's book review editor, Alison Fields, are retaining their roles for JALIA. While some longstanding members of the two journals' editorial boards are stepping down, many are carrying over to the JALIA editorial board. Chair of the editorial board will be Philip Kent, who has several years' experience chairing the ALJ board. Current board members Sheila Corral, Jenny Fink, Heather Gordon,

Anne Goulding, John Kennedy, Patrick O'Connor, Sue Reynolds and Janette Wright will continue and two new members have been appointed to represent other sectors: Susan McEwan and Catherine Ryan, for national and state libraries and school libraries, respectively.

JALIA combines the scope and content of ALJ and AARL. Two associate editors, Bhuva Narayan and Caitlin Stone, have been appointed to support the editors with the anticipated increase in submissions and to ensure the journal has a strong social media presence. The journal will showcase the best of library and information research and practice in, about, or relevant to the Australasian region, aiming to publish significant and useful articles that will stimulate discussion across all sectors in the library and information fields.

There will be three regular sections of the journal:

- (1) peer-reviewed research papers of 5,000–8,000 words, which will report on a research study with a full literature review, explore a theoretical discussion, or present a comprehensive review of the literature on a topic;
- (2) peer-reviewed research-in-practice papers of 2,500–5000 words, which will describe a workplace project or initiative and include background literature, analysis or evaluation of the project, and implications for practice; and
- (3) information-in-practice papers of papers papers of 2,000–2,500 words, which will be editorially reviewed and report on an initiative or project with implications for practice.

In addition, the journal will encourage research students to submit short summaries of their projects and seek to publish special issues, either based on a set of conference papers or a theme. Please contact the editors if you would like to propose a special issue.

Importantly, the open access conditions for articles published in JALIA will remain as for AARL and ALJ, where authors will be able to deposit their accepted manuscripts in their repositories as per [bit.ly/2dSun72](http://bit.ly/2dSun72) immediately upon publication. We encourage all authors to take advantage of these open access provisions to increase the accessibility and visibility of their published work.

In beginning the new journal, we acknowledge that it builds on the contribution and hard work of all the previous editors, book review editors, editorial boards, authors and reviewers of ALJ and AARL. In particular we would like to thank those stepping down at the merger, especially Ross Harvey, editor of ALJ from 2014 to 2016; Paul Genoni, Chair of the AARL editorial board from 2014 to 2016; and David Wells, book reviews editor of AARL from 2012 to 2016. We very much look forward to future contributions to JALIA from readers of *INCITE*, Members of ALIA and those working more widely in the information professions. 

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