

CONNECTING IS OUR **STRENGTH**

Making connections is at the heart of what libraries do. And you can think about how libraries and librarians connect in many ways.

By the time you read this, we will have made some fantastic connections at the ALIA National 2016 Conference. Conference is an opportunity to connect with colleagues, exchange and discuss new ideas in LIS – some home grown, some from overseas – gain understanding of best practice case studies which contribute to the sector's body of knowledge and be part of the exciting evolution of the profession.

Even if you couldn't attend in Adelaide, you might have still been connected through social media feeds of the lively discussion taking place. Check out #national16 to keep on making connections and to continue the conversations.

You are making connections by being a Member of ALIA, which gives you opportunities to network and catch up with colleagues at training, social events and even online tweetups (#auslibchat).

You will know about linked data and the connections being made between libraries, galleries, museums and archives to focus on digital access. Finding information is no longer necessarily about visiting a particular institution but about discovering the information through a variety of channels.

Connections with the book industry have resulted in a landmark agreement to allow libraries to use book covers to promote books and authors without seeking permission each time. This commonsense approach was all about

making connections and understanding how this agreement would benefit both sides.

Librarians have always assisted with research but their role is growing. They are connected with individual researchers and departments and are in a position to facilitate collaboration between academic departments. Not only do they help researchers find information but they may also be able to help with the grant applications and publication, and they are often responsible for the institution's digital repository.

Most importantly, one of the core skills of librarians is connecting users with information – whether you're a hospital librarian providing the most up-to-date research for surgeons, a volunteer delivering audiobooks to the housebound, a law librarian sourcing precedents for a legal team or a teacher librarian providing the foundations of lifelong literacy.

When thinking about future predictions for the LIS sector, I think doing the best we can is the best way to prepare for changes in the future. We are ahead of the curve in making connections and forging stronger communities for the future. So keep thinking, innovating and sharing your knowledge – because you never know where this interconnected world is going to take you. 🌟

ROWENA MORCOM
Editor
incite@alia.org.au



CONTRIBUTORS

Justine Cawley	32
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