



ROAR, LEAP, DARE

In August, I had the opportunity to represent ALIA at the IFLA World Library and Information Congress in Wroclaw (Poland). It was the ninth time that I had attended the Congress – and yet again I was inspired by the passion of our profession to deliver outstanding and relevant services to our respective clients across the many library and information sectors, but also our personal commitment to ongoing learning and development. With approximately 3,000 delegates from 120 countries, it was a stimulating professional experience.

It was my first visit to Poland and the opening session provided great insight into the resilience of the Polish community. Through a powerful and energetic performance of music, dance and acrobatics we were treated to an overview of the history of the country.

Australia had strong representation, and our participation in all aspects of IFLA activities is frequently recognised. Christine Mackenzie leads the way as the President-Elect, and many Australians are contributing as chairs, secretaries and committee members of Standing Committees and Advisory Committees. Personally, I have found that working at an international level provides an opportunity to contribute, but also to learn. It is richly rewarding.

It is within that context that I have chosen International Affairs as my ALIA Presidential theme. Working with an Advisory Committee (Margaret Allen, Philip Hider, Christine Mackenzie, Amelia McKenzie, Roxanne Missingham, Marian Morgan-Bindon, Jan Richards, Janine Schmidt) we have developed an action plan that includes identifying:


- opportunities to partner and collaborate with library associations in the Asia Pacific region;
- activities that ALIA can undertake, as a member of IFLA, to support international collaboration;
- opportunities to collaborate with and support library and information sector workers in the Asia Pacific region; and
- increasing the awareness and active participation of ALIA members in the international LIS community.

In the recent ALIA Member Survey, members confirmed that they too share a commitment and enthusiasm for ALIA to work internationally – particularly in the Asia Pacific region.

In 2018, we will have a unique opportunity to come together with our regional colleagues. ALIA will collaborate with LIANZA (Library and Information Association of New Zealand) and the Singapore Library Association to present

the Asia Pacific Library and Information Congress (APLIC) at the Gold Coast in July. This is the first time the three associations have come together, and the theme of ROAR, LEAP, DARE promises to deliver an exciting and provocative program.

ALIA has received a grant from IFLA to fund librarians from emerging nations in the region to attend the ALIA Sustainable Development Goals Summit, which runs alongside APLIC, and we hope they will remain for the conference. But the funds are limited, and will only go so far. So, at the October ALIA Board meeting, all Board Directors made a personal commitment to kick-off a crowd funding activity to support library and information professionals from the Pacific to attend APLIC. Details are available at (bit.ly/2hNicMI).

A donation from each of us will contribute to giving a professional colleague a rewarding professional experience and the impact will be an even stronger international library and information profession. 

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