

THE FUTURE IN SAFE HANDS



In the second quarter of 2017, I participated in six interview panels – three for jobs with ALIA, three for other GLAM organisations. Throughout the application, shortlisting, interviewing and selection process I was extremely impressed by the quality of the applicants on several fronts.

First, there was the diversity of people's careers: older candidates with a broad range of experience, both paid and volunteer; and younger candidates who had not only been employed in interesting roles but had also taken intern and work-placement opportunities in order to expand their horizons.

Next was the commitment to learning. Many candidates not only had an undergraduate degree,

but also had enrolled for higher level qualifications. Most candidates had undertaken training courses and personal development programs to keep their skills and knowledge fresh.

Last, but definitely not least, interviewees demonstrated outstanding personal characteristics. All were intelligent, motivated, sincere, and spoke with integrity. I was especially impressed by those who needed to appear in front of the panel via Skype. Video calls are still pretty clunky, and when you add a layer of tech complexity to an already stressful encounter, it takes a strong individual to win through.

This concentrated period of recruitment made me realise a few things: there are some very smart people around. It's usually much more than a job for applicants – it's a vocation – and the future of the library and information profession is in very good hands.

This year we are celebrating our 80th anniversary, and organisations often use this kind of milestone to look back and reflect on past successes. We have taken a very deliberate stance of looking back, to honour the Members who created the Association we know today, and also looking forward to celebrate the next generation of library and information professionals and leaders.

We were delighted to capture our front cover image during the NSL8 in Canberra in June this year. You can tell that this is a bunch of happy, confident young people. If you were at the symposium you would also know they are bright, curious, friendly, clever, insightful and ambitious.

These are just some of the faces of the future; you will know more in your workplace and professional network. Altogether, I think we can be confident that ALIA and the library profession will be in safe (and adventurous) hands, as we go forward to our centenary in 2037. 🌟

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