FROM THE PRESIDENT

EXPANDING THE REACH OF LIBRARIES

LIA President LYNDALL LEY OSBORNE looks to her presidential theme to reach out to library users across the nation.

Welcome to the first *INCITE* in the term of the newly elected ALIA Board. We are all delighted and excited to be working for you and shaping ALIA's strategic direction for the next year, as we strive for the Association to meet the needs and expectations of Members.

One of the things we'll be working on will be my presidential theme of Indigenous matters. Some of the projects around this theme will help libraries of all types reach out to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in their communities and their communities of interest.

These projects will cover everything from sharing information on how to make your libraries more welcoming spaces for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, to helping you celebrate the International Year of Indigenous Languages in 2019, and working towards improving descriptions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander materials in your collections. This should be an exciting and enlightening journey for all of us.

In fact, I'm looking forward to reading many stories in this issue of how staff in all types of libraries and allied institutions are reaching out to the many and diverse groups of people who use their collections and services. My expectation is (and research shows) that the successful library of the future is all about its users. Libraries must continue to engage deeply with people where they live and learn, supporting communities, however diverse and whatever their needs, embedding the library in the lifestyles of all users and potential users.

Libraries face challenges: they no longer provide the only options for learning and leisure. However, they also have perhaps unprecedented opportunities to build the knowledge and trust of services through the development of relationships and by engaging with people to position themselves at the heart of their community.

One of the major challenges is still to deliver, yet update, traditional services, while meeting the needs of users who use new technologies and emerging approaches so as to satisfy both informational and leisure needs. This calls for librarians and library staff who are willing to embrace and implement change – change in ways of collecting, managing, preserving and providing access to collections; change in the services offered; and change in the way services are delivered. The future calls for change in how we connect with users and connect users with the resources they need and in how we reach out and welcome everyone to our library spaces, both physical and digital.

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