

Information literacy for the nation

Your help required...

Information literacy skills are important in a society where sophisticated use of information has become a pre-requisite for meaningful participation and economic advancement.

Living in an 'information age' requires not only access to information, but understanding how to evaluate, manage, use and make connections with that information. Hence information literacy is a key skill for lifelong learning.

A draft 'Statement on Information Literacy for the Nation' was prepared last year by the Special Interest Group on Information Literacy with the purpose of gaining commitment from the profession to the principles of information literacy. The statement is intended to be a succinct summary of the principles which all sectors of the profession can use and adopt locally as the keystone principles of their programs.

The group forwarded the statement to the ALIA Board of Education for its consideration. The first draft of the statement reads:

The first object of the Australian Library and Information Association is 'To promote the free flow of information and ideas in the interest of all Australians and a thriving culture, economy and democracy'.

To utilise that information effectively requires information literate Australians able to recognise their need for information, and then identify, locate, access, evaluate and apply the needed information.

Information literacy is a prerequisite for:

- *participative citizenship in a liberal democracy;*
- *the production of new knowledge on which the future economic success of Australia depends;*
- *personal empowerment;*
- *lifelong learning; and*
- *the solving of global problems.*

Library and information services professionals embrace a responsibility to develop the information literacy of their clients.

Governments and the corporate and educational sectors of Australia have the responsibility for ensuring that the information literacy of all Australians is promoted, funded and facilitated as a high priority in the 21st century.

The ALIA Board of Education discussed the proposed statement and determined that a statement on information literacy should focus on outcomes for sector professionals and sector clients. The Board of Education has now requested the ALIA Special Interest Group on Information Literacy, a national group representing TAFE, school, public, state and university libraries — to develop the statement as a values statement with such a focus. The group would welcome comments which can be forwarded to the convenor of the committee, Prue Mercer, manager of State Library Services, State Library of Victoria; e-mail pmercer@slv.vic.gov.au. The committee would appreciate your comments by 30 November. ■

Survival, improvement, innovation

How research makes good practice, how practice makes good research

On 23 October the ALIA Board of Education will host a research forum — *Survival, improvement, innovation: how research makes good practice, how practice makes good research*. The forum will be held at University House in Canberra from 9:30am to 3:30pm.

To get the ball rolling, participants will grapple with the proposition that 'research is airy-fairy nonsense and no use to library and information practice'. This will be followed by a session discussing the scoping papers on library and information research in the academy and in practice commissioned by the ALIA Board of Education. Participants will then form workshop groups to look at how research can inform practice. The out-

comes from these workshop groups will be discussed in the afternoon session, leading to a session 'Research outcomes: towards a research culture for the library and information profession — where to from here'. The forum will conclude with a session on tips and tricks for research in the real world.

The ALIA Board of Education encourages you to attend this important forum. Registration for *Survival, improvement, innovation* is through the *ALIA2000 Capitalising on knowledge registration* form. Copies of the registration form can be obtained through Conference Solutions, phone 02 6285 3000, fax 02 6285 3001, or e-mail alia2000.conference@alia.org.au. Book early, places for the forum are limited. ■



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Ian Thomas, ph 03 9848 5174 (ah) or Sandra Ryan, ph 03 9489 7644 (bh).

• **14/10 Vic School Libraries section. Electronic Technologies.** Contact: Anne Girolami, ph 03 9851 1550, fx 03 9851 1555, mareeanne@bigpond.com

• **16/10 Vic School Libraries section and SLAV. School libraries day dinner.** Guest speaker: Morris Gleitzman and Paul Jennings. The Pumphouse Hotel — Conservatory, 128 Nicholson Street, Fitzroy, 7pm, cost: \$50. Pre-payment required: School Library Association of Victoria, 217 Church St, Richmond 3121.

• **19/10 Ballarat Province Regional Group. Benchmarking workshop:** an introduction to benchmarking as a method of measuring and improving library services. SMB Library conference room, 5:30 for 6pm, free. Bookings and enquiries to: Liz Hartmann, ph 03 5327 9591, l.hartmann@ballarat.edu.au Rescheduled event from 21/7.

• **21/10 Vic Library Technicians section. Visit to the University of Ballarat.** City-based techs meet with students and staff to discuss their library experiences and the work of ALIA. Contact: Kerrie Kelly, ph 03 9669 9721, kkelly@slv.vic.gov.au for details.

10/11 CAVAL. Innovative librarianship: presented by David Tan, this workshop combines innovation tools and models with practical advice. CAVAL Collaborative Solutions, 4 Park Drive, Bundoora. Cost: CAVAL/ALIA CPD members \$297, non-members \$330. Contact: Sue Henczel, sueh@caval.edu.au

• **14/11 Ballarat Province Regional Group. Annual general meeting, guest speaker: Steve O'Connor, CAVAL. Barkly's Restaurant,** Corner Barkly Street and Main Road, Ballarat, 6 for 6:30pm. 3 course meal, ALIA members \$25, non-members \$30. RSVP by 10/11 to: Kerry Matheson, ph 03 5327 9588, k.matheson@ballarat.edu.au Please note: change of date.

17-18/11 Mechanics' Institutes of Victoria Inc. Rediscovering Mechanics' Institutes National conference. Celebrating 200 years of the mechanics' institute movement. Keynote speaker: Professor Philip Candy. The Melbourne Athenaeum, 188 Collins St, Melbourne. \$50 (includes bus tour). Contact: MIV Secretary, ph/fx 03 9510 3393, pmiinc@vicnet.net.au <http://vicnet.net.au/~mivic/>

• **18/11 Vic School Libraries section. Annual general meeting.** Santa Maria College Resource Centre, Separation Street, Northcote (enter via Wardrop Grove), 9am. Contact: Sandra Ryan, president, ph 03 9489 7644 (bh).

24/11 CAVAL. Information audit workshop — Melbourne. This full-day workshop is a compressed version of the two-day workshop that provides the practical skills needed to conduct an information audit in an organisation. CAVAL Collaborative Solutions, 4 Park Drive, Bundoora. Cost: CAVAL/ALIA CPD members \$360, non-members \$400. Contact: Sue Henczel, sueh@caval.edu.au

5/12 CAVAL. Advanced internet searching: a half-day hands-on workshop offering tips and tricks for more effective Internet searching. CAVAL Collaborative Solutions, 4 Park Drive, Bundoora, 9:30-12:30pm. Cost: CAVAL/ALIA CPD members \$88, non-members \$110. Contact: Nicole Sinclair, nicoles@caval.edu.au

5/12 CAVAL. Government information on the web: a half-day hands-on workshop covering state, federal and international legislation, government publications and legal resources. CAVAL Collaborative Solutions, 4 Park Drive, Bundoora, 1:30-4:30pm. Cost: CAVAL/ALIA CPD members

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