

Survival, improvement, innovation...

ALIA Board of Education Research Forum

On 23 October 2000, the ALIA Board of Education hosted a forum focussing on research across the library and information sector *Survival, improvement, innovation: How research makes good practice, how practice makes good research*. The forum, held at University House, attracted twenty-eight participants from across the sector and was ably facilitated by Dr Naida Tattersall, a member of the ALIA Board of Directors and the manager of Library Services and Cultural Development at Gold Coast City Council.

The ALIA Board of Education organised the research forum to discuss moving towards a research culture for the library and information sector. Such a culture could foster effective dissemination of research throughout the sector and demonstrate linkages between research and practice. The forum built upon the Board of Education's exploration of research in the library and information sector, which has been developing over the past few years.

The forum commenced with Ross Todd, Margaret Starre, Ross Harvey and Sandra Henderson engaging in a lively debate on the proposition 'That academic research is airy-fairy nonsense and no use to library and information practice', which introduced some of the key issues for academics and practitioners engaging with library and information sector research.

Janine Schmidt and Michael Middleton provided participants with an overview of library and information research in practice and in the academy respectively. Kay Poustie outlined her research as a practitioner in connection with the Bertelsmann Foundation and Mari Davis spoke on research interests within the School of Information Systems, Technology and Management at the University of New South Wales.

Following this valuable input, participants broke into three workshops to consider building a valuing of research,

communicating and fostering partnerships, and the role of ALIA in library and information sector research.

The forum regrouped to consider reports from the workshops and to formulate recommendations for the consideration of the ALIA Board of Directors. The recommendations expressed the participants' belief that a major and immediate priority for ALIA should be the development of its role in research, through co-ordinating issues, people, funding, communication and collaboration in research for the library and information sector. The forum suggested a possible realignment of staff in ALIA National Office to enable a focus on the analysis, synthesis and dissemination of research, strengthening connections between researchers and practitioners, and lobbying on issues related to research. The forum also recommended that the Association consider sponsorship options for the co-ordination of library and information sector research. ■



Election of ALIA vice-president and two directors

Call for nominations

Nominations are called for ALIA vice-president [president-elect] and two positions on the Board of Directors of ALIA as incorporated under *Corporations Law*.

The vice-president [president-elect] will be elected by the membership at large. One director is to be elected by the membership at large and one director is to be elected by institutional members.

Nominees should be personal members of the Association and will represent the interests of the organisation as a whole rather than those of a particular constituency.

The vice-president [president-elect] will assume the presidency at the Annual General Meeting of the Association in 2002. The term of office of directors will be until the Annual General Meeting in 2003.

Nominations must be in writing and must be signed by two financial members of the Association and include the consent in writing of the nominee. Nomination forms must be accompanied by a 100-word current *curriculum vitae* which provides full details of academic and professional qualifications and a 100-word statement of professional concerns. The curriculum vitae should be arranged under headings of present positions, previous positions and professional activities. A standard colour portrait photograph *must* be included.

Nomination forms are available from ALIA National Office, or via ALIANet.

Nominations close at 5:00pm on 5 February 2001 and should be sent to the ALIA executive director, PO Box E441, Kingston ACT 2604, e-mail enquiry@alia.org.au.

Forms and information available from <http://www.alia.org.au/governance/elections/2001/>