

neXt 2005: ALIA National Library and Information Technicians



6–9 September 2005, <http://conferences.alia.org.au/libtec2005/>

As the countdown begins to September 2005, the conference committee would like to share with you some of the highlights being planned for *neXt 2005*. With the themes 'eXperiences', 'eXcellence' and 'eXpectations', the conference will offer delegates, vendors and visitors an opportunity to listen, to learn, to participate, and to have fun!

Location, location

As the old saying goes, location is everything — and the conference will be held at the Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre, Darling Harbour.

A stunning waterfront location, Darling Harbour has many of Australia's key tourist attractions and is also a favourite place for people to spend their time relaxing and celebrating. Why not plan some additional time to make the most of being in Sydney [<http://www.darlingharbour.com.au/index.cfm>]?

What is happening? What is new?

- Four days of conference activities offer a range of learning experiences for all delegates. Included will be tours, workshops, papers, short talks, vendor involvement and the chance to share our experiences via communities of interest.
- Want more time for library tours? In response to feedback, *neXt 2005* will be offering industry tours throughout the day on Tuesday 6 September. Based on

a 'pick and mix' selection process, delegates will be able to build their own tour program to libraries and information agencies in the CBD and North Sydney region. In addition, bus tours to a select range of libraries and information agencies beyond the CBD will be available.

- Supporting our future. A commitment to providing opportunities for student involvement at the conference is vital in our planning. Sponsored by Macquarie University Library and in conjunction with library technician educators, there will be an innovative volunteer program in place at *neXt 2005*. After a formal selection and induction process, library technician students will be on hand throughout the conference to provide directional advice and assistance with both industry tours and day-to-day program requirements. In return, students will have an opportunity to hear key speakers and to meet industry experts and vendors.

Speakers

- We are thrilled to announce that Alex Byrne will be a keynote speaker at the conference. Currently university librarian at the University of Technology, Sydney and president-elect of IFLA (International Federation of Library Associations), Alex will take on the role of president of IFLA in August 2005. Alex's involvement with our conference will provide a great opportunity

for conference delegates to hear from a world-renowned leader in the industry.

Call for papers

- 31 October was the closing date for submissions for *neXt 2005*. If you have something you would like to contribute and missed the date, contact the program committee to discuss possibilities. Full details about the Call for Papers are available at <http://conferences.alia.org.au/libtec2005/callforpapers.html>.

Exhibition and sponsorship

- In another initiative for this conference, an exhibition and sponsorship brochure is available, highlighting the benefit to vendors of being a part of *neXt 2005*.
- The Trade Opening will be held at morning tea on 7 September. This change reflects feedback from vendors and gives all delegates an opportunity to be a part of the experience.
- Interest in the exhibition and sponsorship packages is already showing opportunities to bring old and new participants together. We look forward to an exciting event.
- Capra Ryan, a provider of online learning for library technicians, has been welcomed as our first exhibitor.

Full details about the exhibition and sponsorship program is available at <http://conferences.alia.org.au/libtec2005/exhibition.html>.

And now to the fun stuff...

All work and no play is never fun or stimulating...

- Start with the *neXt* cocktail party on Wednesday 7 September; move to the *neXt* conference dinner on Thursday 8 September and celebrate the weeks excitement at the *neXt* farewell drinks on Friday 9 September.
- The conference dinner will be held at Dockside, Cockle Bay, an exquisite location overlooking the sparkling lights of Darling Harbour. Plan to come along and enjoy a 'Night to remember'.
- First-timers will also have an opportunity to gather and build friendships in a relaxed and supportive environment.

Over the coming twelve months we will inspire you to take part in celebrating our community and our culture. Join with us in building excitement as we travel forward to *neXt 2005*: ALIA National Library and Information Technicians Conference.

Meredith Martinelli, convenor, neXt 2005

NSS at Kununurra

Rebecca Hulands, Kununurra School Community Library

Students of Kununurra District High School at Kununurra School Community Library successfully participated in National Simultaneous Storytime 2004.

More than 200 students from pre-primary to Year 5 participated in two locations on the school premises — one session in the library and the other in the schools' undercover area.

It was a very successful activity for us and we look forward to participating in National Simultaneous Storytime next year.

Muddled-up farm was particularly successful with pre-primary to Year 2 students, as the repetitive text and rhyming language meant that students felt quite confident to join in with the story.

One suggestion I would like to make for National Simultaneous Storytime 2005: it would be useful to be able to obtain the book in 'giant book format' to make it easier to read to large groups. ■

