Information Online 2005

1–3 February 2005, Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre

It is that time of year again, and I don't mean the festive season. Information Online 2005, the most important and informative conference and exhibition for the online information industry, is almost upon us. This will be the 12th Information Online event, and it promises to deliver excellence in education, social activity and business interaction.

Registration for Information Online opened in mid-October, with a flood of registration forms and inquiries already gushing through to the conference secretariat.

With more than sixty speakers participating from four different continents, this will be the most informative conference yet. Headlining the impressive list of keynote speakers is Peter Crowe, Head of Search at Yahoo! Australia and NZ, who will open the conference.

In order to provide the highest-quality education possible, a range of satellite events have been organised pre- and post-conference. Five seminars/workshops will be held on Monday, 31 January with the following topics available:

* Never tell them it's easy — Training adults to use online resources
* Moving up the value chain
* Australian Committee on Cataloguing seminar — *What's in a name?: The role of authorities in the 21st century*
* Industry breadth, sector depth/empowering the librarian — valuable resource tools
* Integrating online services with the library OPAC

The satellite events continue on Friday, 4 February with three options:

* Information governance workshop

* The holistic information audit — operational and strategic impacts
* Building a virtual library for a global corporation.

These satellite events are an excellent opportunity to participate in highly-interactive workshop-style sessions with specialist speakers from both Australia and abroad.

Adam Spencer

The exhibition area is guaranteed to be a hive of activity next year, with more than 100 exhibitors already populating the floor plan. Information Online offers the ideal opportunity for visitors and delegates to reinforce existing relationships with suppliers, or establish new relationships.

This year's conference dinner promises to be a 'can't miss' event. For the first time in Online conference history the dinner has been included in the full registration package. This means that there are no excuses for empty seats in the Grand Ballroom! To keep the hundreds of dinner guests entertained the organising committee has secured the services of Adam Spencer, presenter of Quantum and Triple J's breakfast radio program, as a special guest speaker. Adam has been described as 'fantastic' and 'infectious', with his 'combination of wit and intelligence' able to hold the attention of any audience. To ensure that the fun does not stop there, the John Fields Band will have everyone kicking off their heels and partying on the dance floor.

For further information visit http://online.alia.org.au/ where you can register, access all the conference abstracts, or view the exhibition floor plan to make an appointment with a potential customer or supplier. We look forward to seeing you in February. ∎

Out with the old, in with the new... the new ALIA CPD scheme, that is

Three audits in the continuing professional development (CPD) scheme have been finalised. Thank you to everyone who provided feedback on the original scheme.

When analysing this feedback and the audit papers over the triennium, it was noted that you found weighted hours and record keeping an onerous task and the withdrawal and non-compliant rate reflects this.

138 CPD scheme participants were randomly selected for audit and thirty-five per cent were found to be compliant with the scheme by accumulating the minimum of 30 points per year and 120 over the triennium. Two were excused from the audit, thirty-one per cent withdrew from the scheme for various reasons, for example, difficulty with record keeping or no longer working within the sector, and twenty-eight per cent were found to be non-compliant when they did not provide supporting documentation.

In with the new ...

The first audit in the current scheme is underway. Ten per cent of CPD scheme participants were advised in early November that they had been randomly selected for audit. It is gratifying to note our members have adapted to the new scheme, which has a simplified points and record keeping system together with a wider range of activity categories *and* that a number of members have re-joined the scheme.

There is no additional fee for personal Associate and Technician members to join the CPD scheme — it is a benefit of ALIA membership. The scheme is voluntary but when you register you are required to maintain ongoing compliance which will require the accumulation of a minimum of 30 points each year and 120 over a triennium (three years).

For details about the scheme and to register please go to http://alia.org.au/education/cpd/scheme.html or contact Jill Yvanovich, cpd@alia.org.au or phone 02 6215 8216. ∎