

Librarians awarded Queen's Birthday honours

Two prominent ALIA members Jan Fullerton and Dr Alan Bundy were recipients of awards in this year's Queen's Birthday honours list.

Jan Fullerton AO

Officer in the General Division, for services 'to librarianship through the facilitation of wider community access to the collections of the National Library of Australia, the preservation of cultural heritage in digital forms, and collaboration with other collecting agencies nationally and internationally'



Jan Fullerton is director-general of the National Library of Australia, a position she has occupied since August 1999. Her appointment to this position is the first for a female and follows a 32-year career at the National Library, which commenced in 1967 as a librarian-in-training.

In her role as director-general, Jan Fullerton has led a fundamental change in direction for the National Library — from the development of services which can only effectively be used by librarians to those that serve the needs of all Australians. She has placed priority on working with the Australian library sector to improve public access to the 'national collection'. Jan has instituted annual meetings with the peak Australian library bodies to develop an agenda for collaborative action at the national level and has hosted a series of forums to develop national action in specific sectors, for example library services for people with disabilities.

Her visionary approach to collecting and preserving Australian publications in digital form led to the establishment in 1995 of the world-renowned PANDORA archive (<http://pandora.nla.gov.au>). This archive, the first of its kind in the world, has placed the National Library at the forefront of research into digital collection management and preservation.

Collaboration has flourished under Jan's leadership. Launched in 2001, the PictureAustralia service (<http://www.pictureaustralia.org>) now boasts 40 participating institutions from the broader collecting sectors such as museums, archives and galleries, and more than one million images reflecting Australia's history and culture.

In pursuing the National Library's new strategic direction, Jan is committed to improving access to information resources through the public library sector. LibrariesAustralia (<http://librariesaustralia.nla.gov.au/apps/kss/>) is breaking new ground by making access to online and printed information resources available directly to the public through a simple Google-type search interface.

Under her leadership as chair of the Conference of Directors of National Libraries (CDNL) from 2001 to 2004, a range of key issues such as the role of national libraries in breaching the digital divide and the protection of national libraries in war zones have flourished. Jan has recently commenced a second term on the Board of the Research Libraries Group, an international organisation that seeks to develop co-operative solutions to issues relating to research libraries. Under her direction, the National Library also makes a strong contribution to the development of international standards for cataloguing and digital collection management and preservation.

Jan Fullerton is uniquely placed to represent the needs of the library sector to government. She believes that the recommendations of the Senate *Inquiry into libraries in the online environment* need to be kept before the Australian Government as a statement of what is important for the library sector at the national level. For this reason Jan continues to lobby on the issues of national site licensing, free access to Kinetica and improved public access to online government publications.

Alan Bundy AM*

Member in the General Division, for services 'to librarianship in university, school and public libraries, to professional development, and to promotion of the role of librarians in educating people in the use of information resources'



It is not everyone who goes to Western Australia on a working holiday, answers an advertisement for a student librarian position and, albeit some years later, becomes foundation university librarian at the University of South Australia and acknowledged as a leading proponent of information literacy and an expert on joint use libraries.

'Less rain, less traffic' and an auspicious career opportunity prompted Alan's move from Melbourne to Adelaide, in 1983 becoming college librarian at the South Australian College of Advanced Education and, in 1992, the foundation university librarian at the University of South Australia.

Alan believes his greatest opportunity was to enter the profession at a time of library growth. Libraries had money and he was fortunate to assume a leadership position relatively early in his career. He also feels fortunate to have been working in libraries during the IT revolution and to have played a major role in the development of IT in libraries, and its use in extending the library role.

Recipient of the HCL Anderson Award, the highest honour bestowed on an Associate Member of ALIA, Alan Bundy's achievements across the profession are well recognised. Those of which he is most proud are the initiation and development of the Bob Hawke Prime Ministerial Library, and his role in the international recognition of Australia as a leader in the conceptualisation, understanding and promotion of information literacy.

While Alan Bundy has retired from his university role, he has certainly not retired from the library profession. He will now focus his efforts on his three businesses: Auslib Press, currently undergoing expansion; Auslib Library Consulting, which conducts reviews and feasibility studies worldwide, especially of joint use libraries; and his newest venture, Auslib Conferences, a company organising niche professional conferences. His major professional involvement will be as President of Friends of Libraries Australia (FOLA), an organisation concerned with the establishment and support of friends of library groups, public library advocacy and raising awareness of the importance of libraries in society and for business.

State president of the Library Association of Australia SA Branch (1985), national president of the Library Association of Australia (1988) and national president of its successor, the Australian Library and Information Association, for 2001–2002, Alan Bundy has had a successful and enduring relationship with the Association. As for 2005 and beyond, Alan believes the main challenges for ALIA will be counteracting the trend towards non-involvement, encouraging library promotion and taking a stronger stance with regard to the education of library professionals and the need for increased Australia-based library research. Of increasing importance too is the ability to create partnerships with other professional associations to achieve best outcomes for all, and improving connectivity between library sectors.

* Based on an article 'Alan Bundy, his life and times' by Ursula Henderson, first published in *InterALIA*, the ALIA SA newsletter