

LIS sector watch

Nada Anderson, ALIA research officer

Managing information in the digital age: the ATN libraries respond

ATN Conference Papers (2005), Huthwaite, Ann (ed). *Libraries of the ATN*, \$44.00 to purchase, e-mail glenys.cook@unisa.edu.au

The conference papers address the challenges facing all academic libraries and include the consequences of rapid growth in electronic resources; changing patterns in scholarly publishing and communication; increasing use of multimedia; changes in the management of copyright and intellectual property; and succession and workforce planning.

Peak Bodies Forum

Agenda, papers and minutes can be viewed at:

<http://www.nla.gov.au/initiatives/meetings/peakbod/2004.html>

The 2004 meeting of the Peak Bodies Forum was held at the National Library of Australia on 10 December 2004. The forum was attended by representatives of peak library sector organisations. Among the items discussed were Kinetica developments, copyright, resource sharing, education for librarianship and access to and preservation of information resources.

Site Licensing Forum

Issues paper, responses and minutes can be viewed at:

<http://www.nla.gov.au/initiatives/meetings/sitelicense/slindex.html>

Representatives of key library organisations attended a forum con-

vened by the National Library of Australia on 8 December 2004 to explore the issue of national access to online information resources.

The Digital divide in 2025

An independent study conducted for British Telecom. December 2004

<http://www.btplc.com/Societyandenvironment/Reports/Reports.htm>

The report forecasts that 23 million people in Britain, or almost one-third of the adult population, will be at risk of being 'digitally excluded' in 2025. The report defines digital exclusion as not having access to the internet at home. On this basis, 51 per cent of the adult population in Britain is currently digitally excluded. The report finds that the main obstacles to digital inclusion are, firstly, problems of access associated with income, ability to pay for technology and issues such as disability and lack of skills; and secondly, problems of engagement with the online world. The people excluded risk losing access to fundamental services like medical information and education.

Recommended practices for digital preservation

National Library of Australia

<http://www.nla.gov.au/preserve/digipres/digiprespractices.html>

The pamphlet contains advice for those with long-term responsibility for management and preservation of digital materials. ■

Expressions of interest called for ALIA advisory groups

ALIA By-laws Advisory Group

The role of the By-laws Advisory Group is to review and revise on a continuing basis the by-laws of the Association to ensure clarity and internal consistency, without the intention to change the Association and its structure.

The group acts on matters referred by the ALIA Board of Directors. It may also advise the Board of Directors on elements of the ALIA Constitution and by-laws potentially requiring review.

One member is sought for this committee.

ALIA International Relations Policy Advisory Group

The role of the International Relations Policy Advisory Group is to advise the ALIA Board of Directors on policy issues relating to international library and information issues, particularly in the Asia-Pacific region. The group also provides input to government and other inquiries and policy forums on matters of international concern to the library and information profession.

Two members are sought for this committee.

Further details

The term of all appointments is two years from the 2005 annual general meeting. Further details and information about how to nominate are available from Mary Ann Ryan, ph 02 6215 8214, or e-mail maryann.ryan@alia.org.au. Nominations must be received by 6 May. ■

Board report continued...

Imogen Garner is a member of LATN and will discuss further with LATN and CAUL those recommendations that offer possibilities for working collaboratively with ALIA.

This issue's Frontline raises a number of issues regarding future directions for ALIA publishing and the Board will consider these in more detail at its July meeting.

A number of recommendations for further action were referred to ALIA at the final forum of the National Resource Sharing Working Group. The Board accepted the Interlibrary Lending Expert Advisory Group's proposal that ALIA focus on revising the ILRS code to simplify the service levels, and the development of an online manual which would primarily be a best practice resource.

The Board gave its support for ALIA in a communication role for the project 'Indigenous Library Services and the Information Profession' proposed by the Jumbunna Indigenous House of Learning and UTS Library, and which includes a review of the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander protocols for libraries, archives and information services*. ■



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