



**Dagmar Schmidmaier AM**

ALIA president  
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I am honoured and delighted to step into the ALIA presidency for 2006/07, and look forward to meeting with you during the next 12 months. Last year, under Gill Hallam, the Board began to review ALIA's first five years of operation as a company and this important work will continue this year to ensure that ALIA is operating as efficiently and effectively as possible. In particular this year we will be focussing on our financial position and working to develop new options to ensure we achieve growth and long term financial stability.

There are so many interesting and challenging issues facing the profession in 2006. I hope that together we will be able to explore some of these from a strategic perspective as well as a practical point of view. I have always been interested in the question of why some of our colleagues seem to intrinsically believe in and understand the value of belonging to their professional organisation while others question its relevance to their work and life. I hope that we, the Board and existing members of ALIA, will be able to encourage more colleagues to reconsider their position and to join ALIA in 2006. As the organisation which is responsible for setting and maintaining educational standards as well as advocating for the profession in a wide range of professional and service issues, ALIA deserves the support of all those who work in the field. However ALIA does much more,

in particular in relation to providing advice and comment on current and topical issues facing society today, such as internet filtering and national access to broadband. It is our executive director and the staff at ALIA National Office who, with the help of members, identify and research the issues so that they can be raised and discussed with governments and other key stakeholders. I do encourage all of you to make a commitment in 2006 to encourage one of your colleagues to become an ALIA member.

On a personal level I will continue to support the ALIA NSW New Gen group as their patron and also the Aurora Leadership Institute. The Aurora Board is planning to expand its leadership programs and I look forward to discussing this in a future issue of *inCite*.

I would like to congratulate outgoing president Gill Hallam on a successful year and also welcome the new and ongoing Board members for what promises to be an exciting year. I am looking forward to working with incoming vice-president Roxanne Missingham and the Board and hope to share this column with them from time to time so that you get to know them more intimately. I do hope that you will contact us via e-mail if you have comments and suggestions as we do want to have as much personal contact as possible with members. I will be in Brisbane, Cairns and Darwin over the next few months and look forward to meeting you. ■

## Feedback to your Board of Directors

Do you have an idea, compliment or concern about your Association? Contact any director and ideas will be reviewed at each Board meeting.

E-mail to [feedback@alia.org.au](mailto:feedback@alia.org.au) will be automatically forwarded to all Board members.

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## Dagmar's decade

**D**agmar Schmidmaier AM retired on 28 April 2006, after 11 years at the helm at the State Library of NSW. These 11 years are notable for:

*Improvements to physical space:* Thanks to extensive lobbying by Dagmar, the State Library received a significant allocation of Total Asset Management (TAM) funding in 2001. Major projects undertaken include the Mitchell Library Reading Room refurbishment and the construction of the Sir William Dixon Research Library.

*Pay equity:* The State Library of New South Wales' involvement with pay equity dates back to 1995 when the Library participated in an equity project run by the NSW Office of the Director for Equal Opportunity in Public Employment.

This project evaluated 20 library positions and compared those with others in the public service. Following the equity project, librarians were also the subject of the influential *Pay Equity Case Study: Librarians and Geologists*. Historical and contemporary evidence from the State Library made a substantial contribution to the case study.

From an organisational perspective, the public and industrial recognition of the profession's status was probably the most valuable and satisfying aspect of the case.

*New strategic directions:* When Dagmar arrived at the State Library of New South Wales, one of her main goals was to develop new strategic directions for the library. The success of the Capital Campaign, the development of [atmitchell.com](http://atmitchell.com) and the establishment of the Nelson Meers Foundation Heritage Collection exhibition are very visible realisations of these goals.

The president of the Library Council of NSW, Belinda Hutchison, said 'Dagmar has been an outstanding leader, demonstrating operational strengths and strategic vision. She has positioned the State Library to be a leader in service delivery for the 21<sup>st</sup> century, with the implementation of the innovative online service, <http://www.atmitchell.com>.'

Dagmar said that realising the vision of <http://www.atmitchell.com> would not have been possible without the Library's Foundation and the many generous and loyal benefactors and sponsors.

Dagmar will continue her professional commitments as the president of ALIA 2006/07, and as the chair of Aurora Foundation Ltd.

*Vanessa Bond, State Library of NSW*