Conferences

ALIA Information Online Conference and Exhibition 2009

Information ONLINE 2009

20-22 January 2009

http://www.information-online.com.au

On behalf of the ALIA Board of Directors and the ALIA Information Online Conference Committee, we are delighted to announce that Senator the Hon Stephen Conroy, Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy, will be speaking at the official conference opening. The Minister's opening address will give delegates an insight into Australia's digital economy, and the challenges and opportunities in the emerging digital world.

The program for ALIA Information Online 2009 includes over 65 presentations—from international and local keynote speakers, local practitioners and vendors—that will challenge and inspire you.

With more than 90 trade booths secured, and one of the largest of its kind in Asia Pacific, the exhibition features products and services from over 70 industry suppliers showcasing a diverse range of products and services ranging from e-publishing services to e-records management, from business information to scientific and legal information, from library management systems to online databases, and from knowledge management to content management.

Don't miss out on this premier networking and professional development event at the Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre, Darling Harbour, Sydney from Tuesday 20th to Thursday 22nd of January 2009.

Want to get more from your ALIA Information Online 2009 experience? Our workshops take place pre and post conference on Monday 19th and Friday 23rd of January. Places are LIMITED!

Michelle Nutting
michelle.nutting@ato.gov.au
Marian Morgan-Bindon
MMorganBindon@goldcoast.qld.gov.au

ALIA 2009 National Library & Information Technicians Conference

Technology Technique 09 Unique ADELAIDE

15-18 September 2009

http://conferences.alia.org.au/libtec2009/

The Call for Papers/Abstracts is now open.

Submissions are invited for conference papers, tutorials and interactive workshop presentations that fit within the daily themes of *Technology, Technique, Unique.*

Technology is defined as 'knowledge and use of the mechanical arts and applied science'. Within this framework, the committee would like to receive papers that discuss various aspects on the use of technology, its benefits and disadvantages, the progress of technology and the resultant winners and losers.

Technique is defined as 'mechanical skills in art, skilful manipulation of situations, people or resources'. This is 'how we do things', papers addressing issues such as work-life balance, doing more with less, dealing with change or papers addressing new ways of working, problem solving, implementing innovative ideas or new approaches to professional development are sought for this category.

Unique is 'being the only one of its kind, unusual, remarkable'. For this theme, the committee encourages presenters to let their imagination roam. Each one of us has a unique story to tell and this is your opportunity to share it. First time presenters are welcome and Team Adelaide 2009 will offer support and direction to help you present your paper in a confident and professional manner.

On behalf of Team Adelaide 2009, may I wish you an enjoyable and safe festive season and we look forward to welcoming you to Adelaide 2009.

Terri Pamment, Convenor
ALIA 2009 National Library and
Information Technicians Conference
terri.pamment@adelaide.edu.au

The roller coaster ride of being on an ALIA Biennial Conference Committee

dreaming 08

'The highlight of my career to date' is how one of the ALIA dreaming08 committee members described their involvement in the conference. With hindsight we all agreed but during the two and a half years of our involvement leading up to the event, it was an emotional roller coaster veering from 'what an amazing opportunity it was for small town library staff and how good it was going to look on our CVs in future' to 'wish it would all go away and we could delegate to someone else so that we could just get on with our day jobs'.

There were ten of us on the Executive Committee, eight from Alice Springs, one from Darwin and one from Adelaide.

First, there was the excitement as the various documents were produced and released to the world—the Sponsorship Prospectus, the Call for Abstracts and the Final Programme—all of which had to be proof read in great detail and all of which went through several drafts before reaching a final state that everyone was happy with.

We aimed at being 'different'. We made use of the great Alice Springs climate and had many of the events, including the conference dinner, outside under a brilliant blue sky during the day or the stars at night.

The Exhibition was in a huge marquee (a Hoecker) erected in the convention centre carpark. We involved local indigenous organisations in the event with a performance by Drum Atweme at the Welcome Cocktail Party (a group of young drummers, girls aged 7-13, from the local town camps). We had a mini Art Mart on the closing day when members of local Aboriginal Art Centres came along and sold their work. A local line dancer had delegates up and dancing at the dinner, and an astronomer came along to show us what could be seen in the sky that night. The owner of the local Reptile Centre came along to the Farewell Drinks with a Thorny Devil, a Blue-

Conferences

Tongued Lizard and a Python amongst others—delegates were fascinated and the farewell drinks threatened to go on all night. We held the Australasian Premiere of *The Hollywood Librarian* and organised the local Girl Guide troop to provide delegates with popcorn during the event.

dreaming08 Committee

There was the excitement as the abstracts started rolling in and that amazing day when the ten members of the Programme Committee met in Alice Springs to select the oral and poster presentations, and put together the first draft of the programme.

There was the excitement of the sponsors coming on board. There was the elation of realising that we had sold all our exhibition space three months before the conference but the disappointment at having to turn down some organisations who wanted to be a part of the event.

And then there was the excitement as the registrations started coming in...

And so we came to the conference week itself—nerve-wracking but such a buzz. It passed in a blur and so quickly that suddenly it was all over. And then the sadness that this amazing experience was over, that committee members would now disperse, go their own way, get on with their own jobs and no longer be a part of the tight-knit supportive group that we'd become.

However, there are so many memories that the ten of us share, so many experiences that bind us together, that wherever we are or whatever we do in the future, we'll never forget what we achieved together and the privilege it was to work with such an amazing bunch of people.

So, we say thanks to the ALIA Board and ALIA National Office for offering us the opportunity, to our employers for allowing us the opportunity, and to ICMS for helping us through it.

Sonia Sumner
Conference Co-convenor
ALIA 2008 Biennial Conference
vaison52@hotmail.com

Wow! What a great idea! Inspiration from public library successes

Library stars: best of the best 2008

Have you ever heard a presentation and thought, "Wow! What a great idea! Why didn't I think of that?!"?

Well I recently experienced a whole day of those thoughts (and let me tell you that can be exhausting!). I am, of course, talking about the *Library stars: best of the best 2008* satellite event on 2 September 2008 at dreaming08, where 39 delegates were inspired by the successes of their public library colleagues. The day's themes, based on the Biennial Conference themes, focused on *Entrepreneurship*, *Accessibility* and *Meeting places*.

We began the day by hearing the welcome and keynote addresses from ALIA President, Derek Whitehead, IFLA president Claudia Lux, Stockholm Public Libraries Director Inga Lunden and ALIA Public Libraries Advisory Committee chair Vicki McDonald. And this is where the inspiration began! Claudia encouraged us all to put our library star entries and other successes on the IFLA success stories database **http://www.ifla.org/success-stories**. Inga described some of the amazing projects at Stockholm Public Library, and talked of the importance of promoting our past and current successes so that general managers, councillors and politicians will be aware of the value of funding future successes!

Then we began hearing from the three winners--finalists from the 34 nominations that were received from public libraries across the country.

Shirley Shepherd inspired us all with her 'access' presentation. She described how Nhulunbuy Community Library, in the Northern Territory, had increased Indigenous access to their library service by introducing Yirrkala storytime—a regular offsite Indigenous language storytime held outside the Yirrkala Women's Resource Centre.

Peter Richardson detailed Launceston Library's entrepreneurship by promoting themselves, their local history and their local historical societies and making a profit through their Local History Publication program.

And Debra Burn highlighted the benefits to the Yeppoon Library, Rockhampton Regional Council and the local community by developing an inspirational meeting place in verbYL—a combined youth lounge and youth library located in the heart of the shopping district.

Perhaps the most inspirational parts of the day, however, were the poster sessions and group discussions held after each presentation. It was amazing to hear about and see all the great things public libraries are doing out there!

So finally, I would like to thank all those who made the best day of the conference possible! The sponsors (Peter Pal Library Supplies, S Central and Public Libraries Australia), the organising committee (in particular Christine Mackenzie and Vicki McDonald, and Jane Hardy and Judy Brooker at ALIA National Office), the speakers and presenters, the delegates who attended and, of course, all those public libraries out there who shared their successes with us by participating in Library stars! To check them out yourself, go to **http://www.alia.org.au/governance/committees/public.libraries/librarystars2008/**

P.S. In case you're wondering—Debra Burn and VerbYL won the Delegates' Choice Award! Congratulations!

Kathryn Cass
City of Botany Bay Library Service NSW
cassk@botanybay.nsw.gov.au