

Conferences

ALIA 2008 Biennial Conference

2–5 September 2008

The Conference Program

The 2008 Biennial Conference program is in the final stages of being crafted into a work of art and will be available soon on the conference web page. Building on the *dreaming08* theme, the program will feature a range of papers and posters across a variety of sectors and topics of interest to our profession. They will include: workforce planning, research, access, children and youth, and the arts just to name a few. With more than 60 oral presentations and approximately 20 posters, there is bound to be something for everyone!



Host city Alice Springs has a proud indigenous culture, which will be reflected throughout the conference. The Australian Government's formal apology to the Stolen Generation has stirred an interest in indigenous issues, and a number of presentations will include indigenous content.

There will be more oral presentations than there have been at previous biennial conferences, and in addition there will also be a poster session which will form an important part of the professional program of this conference. This session will be particularly useful for first time presenters as well as provide a great opportunity for those starting out on a research project, to discuss ideas and issues with professional colleagues.

Our line-up of keynote speakers is now complete with each keynoter addressing a different issue within our industry, reflecting a variety of viewpoints both from within Australia as well as overseas. From Australia and focusing on Indigenous themes, there will be Professor Martin Nakata, Chair of Australian Indigenous Education & Director of Jumbunna Indigenous House of Learning at the University of Technology, Sydney; Anita Heiss, who is an author, poet, satirist, social commentator, and current Chair of the Australian Society of Authors; from the US we will have Loriene Roy, 2007–2008 President of the American Library Association and Professor in the School of Information, the University of Texas at Austin; Stephen Abram, Vice President, Innovation, SirsiDynix, USA; from Sweden, there will be Inga Lundén, Director of the Stockholm Public Library; and from Germany, Claudia Lux, President of IFLA and Director General of the Foundation Central and Regional Library Berlin. Go to <http://www.alia2008.comm/highlights.asp>

What are you waiting for? Register now!

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BIENNIAL QUIZ QUESTION OF THE MONTH

What year did the first Ghan arrive in Alice Springs from Oodnadatta?

Send your answers to any member of the Committee at <http://www.alia2008.com>

4th ALIA New Librarians Symposium

5–6 December 2008

I'll admit it. I'm a conference organising committee junkie and my latest addiction is NLS4, the symposium for new graduates in Melbourne, December 2008.



Conference organising committees are strange and wonderful beasts. They are made up of people who have the desire to give back to their profession; the will to take on new challenges while having a 'glutton for punishment' streak in their personalities. The NLS4 committee, I am happy to say has an abundance of all these qualities.

Conference organising is a marathon event and our group first convened over 2 years ago. It's fitting that the theme for NLS4 is 'Breaking Barriers' as we have had to crash through a few ourselves, with members of the committee coming from across the country having to meet either electronically or via teleconference.

It's been vital to have committee participants who have recently joined our industry, as it is their fresh skills and ideas that we need to harness. Giving backup support are a couple of old timers like myself, along with an all knowing Convenor with deft juggling skills. Working closely with ALIA National Office and our professional conference organisers, it's a true team affair.

My involvement is purely selfish as I believe that belonging to a committee is one of the best professional development activities I can undertake. I'll need good project management ability, up-to-date knowledge of the issues facing the industry, sales skills, a vast professional network, financial expertise, marketing savvy and of course be able to bring it all together on budget.

The organisers have a hand in every aspect of the conference, from selecting keynote speakers (we have some great ones for you!), designing registration brochures, running the satellite events to placing the pens in conference satchels. First and foremost NLS4 is facilitating an outstanding learning and networking experience.

You can see the fruits of our hard work growing at the NLS4 website at <http://conferences.alia.org.au/newlibrarian2008/> You'll know us when you see us at NLS4; we'll be the ones looking tired but happy.

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