

# Directline

## IR and PD

Everyone needs professional development as part of their career – it doesn't matter if you are just starting out, returning to work, changing sectors, or if you are the director or manager – we all need to take time to further our skills and knowledge. The investment in PD is also about finding financial support, but it is ultimately our own personal responsibility to ensure we continue our professional development. In this edition of *inCite* there are lots of different stories to inspire us to do a wide range of PD to improve both our professional and personal lives.

The other part of this month's theme is industrial relations. IR is often one of those things that you don't know when you'll need it, but, one day, when the support and advice is there and available, you just can't live without it. Industrial relations impacts on all of our working lives as it is the conditions of our employment that contributes to the success or failure of the major part of our '9–5ish' life. ALIA has provided a confidential industrial relations service for members for many years, and quality information on the topic in the members-only section of the website. Many of the successful stories of ALIA IR will remain confidential, but let's just say that one day you may be placed in a difficult situation at work, and we will look forward to assisting you.

## ALIA Public Libraries Summit

As we get closer to the ALIA Public Libraries Summit date – 16 July 2009 – there are still a lot of ways for you to connect with the Summit as an ALIA member. You are invited to read the excellent submissions received from a wide range of stakeholders, individuals, and organisations, check out who is joining us as Ambassadors, read the blog updates, and order your copy of *The Little Book of Public Libraries*.

ALIA is looking forward to working with all the public library associations prior to and following the Summit to ensure positive outcomes and forward motion for us all.

## New Advisory Committees

The first meetings of the newly formed ALIA TAFE Libraries Advisory Committee and the ALIA Special Libraries Advisory Committee were held recently. Check out the committee terms of reference and membership at <http://www.alia.org.au/governance/committees>.

If you are in these sectors, get in contact with the following committee contacts with your suggestions and comments:

- TAFE – Alexandra Dailakis ([alexandra.dailakis@central.wa.edu.au](mailto:alexandra.dailakis@central.wa.edu.au)) and Jim Badger ([j.badger@bhtafe.edu.au](mailto:j.badger@bhtafe.edu.au)), co-chairs
- Special Libraries – Deanne Barrett ([deanne.barrett@fedcourt.gov.au](mailto:deanne.barrett@fedcourt.gov.au)), chair

## ALIA ASLA ECU project

ALIA has partnered with the Australian School Library Association (ASLA) and Edith Cowan University to produce two new reports: *Snapshot of Australian School Libraries* and

*Snapshot of Australian Teacher Librarians*. The reports show that Australian teacher librarians are highly committed with over half actively involved in further professional development, but infrastructure is failing to cope with issues as basic as adequate seating for the student population, let alone access to information and communication technologies. The media release entitled *New research reveals school libraries hovering on the poverty line* is available on our website <http://www.alia.org.au/media.room/2009.05.09.html>. The next issue of *inCite* will look at these reports in more detail.

## Advocacy

Advocacy is essential to ensure the future of the library and information sector and the value it adds to Australia's culture and economy. Recently, ALIA has coordinated two joint submissions on the following issues.

## Digital Economy Future Directions Consultation Paper

ALIA is committed to promoting the free flow of information and ideas in the interest of all Australians and a thriving culture, economy and democracy. The Association supports the development of a 21st century information infrastructure with libraries as the conduit for a sustainable knowledge economy.

We have been informed that all submissions received as part of the consultation process are now available on the Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy website and via the submissions page on the ALIA website.

## Freedom of Information Reform

ALIA believes the proposed legislation is a major step forward in seeking to provide proactive publication of government information for an informed nation. ALIA recommends that to be truly effective further consideration should be given to supporting a national archive of information to ensure long term access (Pandora), digitisation of government publications currently produced in paper, ensuring information can be found readily, meeting accessibility standards, and expanding coverage to include research funded by the Commonwealth.

All of ALIA's submissions can be found online at <http://www.alia.org.au/advocacy/submissions/>

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## Local Liaison Officers

LLOs are ALIA representatives in each state/territory. Their duties include being a point of contact for members and non-members.

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