

Directline

Library technicians are often at the heart of our libraries – getting many of the important tasks done. Being frontline and backline staff, they are also the unsung heroes of our operations. I have often told people that it was a library technician who taught me the core essentials about how a library really runs. In this edition of *inCite* you will read many stories highlighting the achievements of library technicians ... as well as what it means to be an ALIATec.

ALIA has undertaken a comprehensive set of visits to all TAFE and RTOs offering the library technician diploma qualification. A short report on the visits so far can be found on page 18. A final report on this course recognition process will be presented to the ALIA Board in the final quarter of the year with further recommendations on the way forward for LT qualifications and standards assessment.

ALIA arranges a yearly meeting with LT educators, and this year we will be welcoming representatives from all ALIA-recognised diploma courses to Canberra on 23–24 October for two days of professional development and collaborative discussions on LT education and course recognition.

ALIA acknowledges that many institutional members support LT diploma students in their studies and some are also offering financial support to undertake diploma courses. We hope that more libraries get involved in this type of support for developing our future professionals. Some have already seen the value of 'growing their own' and have formed partnerships with TAFEs to produce LT graduates at a local level with specially designed programs.

While library technicians make up a smaller percentage of our ALIA membership, their participation and engagement in the Association is important and is valued. We encourage technicians to get their colleagues involved in ALIA, to join the National Library Technicians e-list, to attend a group meeting or event, and to nominate for ALIA committees. This year is a perfect opportunity with the ALIA National Library and Information Technicians Conference in Adelaide on 15–18 September. Register now for a great learning and networking experience – library technicians' support of past conferences shows that this is an event not to be missed. As the major biennial professional development event for library technicians, managers are encouraged to support staff to attend; otherwise, it's a worthwhile tax deduction if made as a personal expense.

The little book of public libraries – get your copy

One of the immediate and tangible outcomes of the ALIA Public Libraries Summit is the launch of *The little book of public libraries*. Even if you're not a public librarian, it's an important document for Australian library lobbying and advocacy. Decision makers and anyone who just loves libraries will appreciate this small boutique book that reminds us of the important contributions that libraries make in our communities – and soon more than 20 000 copies of *The little*

book will be on local government desks, and in library ambassadors' and councillors' pockets around the country. You can order copies from the Summit website at <http://www.alia.org.au/summit09>.

Peak Bodies Forum 2009

ALIA attended the Peak Bodies Forum in May, hosted by Jan Fullerton, Director-General of the National Library of Australia. We encourage all members to view the wide-ranging agenda, reports, minutes, and papers at <http://www.nla.gov.au/initiatives/meetings/peakbod/>. Some of the outcomes include a proposed meeting of higher educators and employers to discuss course and qualification issues in conjunction with the RAILS 6 seminar in January 2010 in Canberra. Peak Bodies will also work together on gathering common statistics relating to libraries and the global financial crisis to demonstrate changes and their importance in the current economic climate. It is important that all library sectors in Australia meet regularly and communicate across common interests and concerns, share expertise, and show solidarity on important issues for Australian libraries to remain strong entities, no matter how big or small they are.

ALIA social media communications

To catch up with more immediate ALIA news check out the Board blog at <http://www.alia.org.au/blog> (add it to your RSS feeds), and we are now on Twitter at <http://www.twitter.com/alional>, along with several other ALIA groups and members.

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Call for Expression of Interest

ALIA representatives for ACOC

The ongoing role of the Australian Committee on Cataloguing (ACOC) is to:

- Study developments in national and international cataloguing rules, standards, and shared cataloguing systems;
- Present the Australian viewpoint to international committees and organizations and, in particular, to select and brief the Australian delegate to the Joint Steering Committee for the revision of the AACR;
- Ensure adequate consultation within Australia on such cataloguing issues; and
- Foster cooperation within Australia in shared cataloguing systems with due regard to national and regional requirements.

There is a vacancy on the committee for two ALIA representatives for a three-year term. For further information, please contact Jenna Walter, 02 6215 8225, jenna.walter@alia.org.au.



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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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