



PUBLIC LIBRARIES

ALIA and public libraries

ALIA Public Libraries Advisory Committee (PLAC)

The ALIA Public Libraries Advisory Committee advises the ALIA Board of Directors on a strategic action plan for public libraries that will deliver relevant services which benefit public libraries and increase the awareness and participation by the public library sector in ALIA services and activities.

Current members include Vicki McDonald (chair), Kathryn Cass, Vanessa Little, Christine Mackenzie, Roxanne Missingham, Janice Nitschke and Jan Richards. Contact details are on the PLAC page: <http://www.alia.org.au/governance/committees/public.libraries/>.

ALIA Public Libraries Summit 2009

The Summit is a major initiative for 2009 and will bring together players, including government, to develop a national agenda for access to information and ideas through the Australian network of public libraries. ALIA is leading the development of this agenda and is seeking contributions from interested people and institutions, in consultation with key stakeholders. It will be held on Thursday 26 March 2009 at the National Library of Australia.

We would very much like you to be part of this process and you are invited to make a submission to the Summit. We believe that this is an opportunity to determine a way forward which will lead to a better recognition of the central and valued role of public libraries in Australian life, and their capacity to advance policies across a wide range of areas. Marion Nicolson, the Summit Project Officer, can be contacted at marion.nicolson@alia.org.au or PO Box 6335, Kingston, ACT 2604. Regular updates will also be posted on the ALIA website and included in *inCite*.

Library stars: best of the best forum

The Public Libraries Advisory Committee hosts *Library Stars* in conjunction with the Biennial Conference. The inaugural forum was held in Perth at the ALIA 2006 Biennial Conference, and continued its success in Alice Springs in 2008. The event showcases and recognises public libraries, and celebrates their inspirational and innovative projects.

Last year 34 nominations were received under the headings 'Access', 'Entrepreneurial' and 'Meeting Places'. A summary of each one is available on ALIA's website with links for further information. If you want to be inspired and motivated, head to: <http://www.alia.org.au/governance/committees/public.libraries/librystars2008/submissions.html>.

Working Collaboratively

Another initiative that will feed into the ALIA Public Libraries Summit is the 'Working Collaboratively' project which has brought together ALIA, PLA and all of the state/territory public library associations to explore ways in which the sector can more effectively collaborate on issues of critical importance to the future of Australia's public libraries. All partners are signatories to a Memorandum of Collaboration.

aliaPUBNEWS

Keep up-to-date with strategic and policy issues relating to the public library sector with ALIA's free monthly e-newsletter, *aliaPUBNEWS*. Each issue includes an ALIA update, local and international public library news, policy and advocacy issues and developments, and upcoming events. To subscribe, go to: <http://lists.alia.org.au/mailman/listinfo/aliaPUBNEWS/>.

ALIA policies and guidelines

These are some of the most relevant ALIA policies for public libraries:

- Guidelines for Australian home library services
- Guidelines on library standards for people with disabilities
- Information literacy for all Australians
- Libraries and literacy
- Library and information services and Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders
- Library and information services for people with a disability
- Online content regulation
- Preservation: the permanence and durability of information products
- Voluntary work in library and information services

For all ALIA policies, visit <http://www.alia.org.au/policies/>.

Standards, guidelines and benchmarks for public library services in Australia and overseas: a guide to resources

Are you seeking resources relating to standards, guidelines and benchmarks? This portal developed by PLAC is a wonderful starting point for public library policy documentation drawn from Australia and overseas. <http://www.alia.org.au/governance/committees/public.libraries/standards.html>

ALIA surveys of internet access in public libraries

ALIA conducted surveys in 2002, 2005 and 2007, and is currently analysing the 2008 survey. The survey reports are on the ALIA website at: <http://www.alia.org.au/advocacy/internet.access/>.

ALIA e-lists

ALIA e-lists of particular interest to the public library sector include **aliaCYSS**, an Australian e-list for children's and youth services in libraries, and **aliaREAD**, an ALIA e-list for readers advisory services in public libraries. <http://www.alia.org.au/alianet/e-lists/>

Public campaigns

ALIA organises several public campaigns: Library and Information Week, Library Lovers Day, National Simultaneous Storytime and Summer Reading Club. These national campaigns provide a focus for promoting your library and the value of libraries in your community.

For more information, or to get involved, please go to <http://www.alia.org.au>.