

## Looking to a healthy professional future

ALIA Health Libraries Australia (HLA) has embarked on a major research project to determine the future skills requirements for the health librarian workforce in Australia. The research team includes a representative group of leading library practitioners from various sectors of the health industry: Ann Ritchie (Director, Northern Territory Department of Health & Families Library), Cheryl Hamill (Manager Library and Web Services, Fremantle Hospital), Suzanne Lewis (Training and Learning Librarian, Gosford Hospital Library), Patrick O'Connor (Health Service Librarian Toowoomba & Darling Downs Health Service District), Melanie Kammermann (HLA), and Carol Newton-Smith (ALIA Local Liaison Officer for WA). With Gillian Hallam as lead researcher, the project represents Stage 3 of the neXus study which focuses on developing a profile of Australian LIS professionals and issues impacting on the LIS workforce.

National trends and influences in the Australian health sector provided the impetus for the study, including wide-ranging health workforce planning and development, eHealth strategies, and the Federal Government's health and hospitals reform plan. As Australia, compared with some other countries, currently has no specialist health librarianship qualification or requirement for librarians to demonstrate ongoing continuing professional development, a key objective of the study is to develop a structured, competency based, modular education framework for specialist post-graduate qualifications together with a structure for ongoing continuing professional development.

Informed by an environmental scan of international and Australian trends in the health sector generally and in health librarianship in particular, two survey instruments have been developed. In February-March 2010, a web-based questionnaire was distributed to two target groups (health librarians and health library managers). The US Medical Library Association's competency framework was adapted for the research, with the main thrust of the questionnaire being to find out what roles are currently being performed and the individuals' and managers' perceptions of likely changes to these roles. Interviews will also be conducted with survey participants and various employers to explore their perceptions of future roles for librarians in the health sector.

More than 200 health library and information professionals have responded to the individual survey, while the survey of managers has recently closed. The findings from the study, with a focus on the skills, competencies, and scope of practice needed to meet health sector demands, will be discussed at the ALIA Access 2010 Conference. The stream 'Access Health Librarianship - Mapping, Scoping and Developing the Health Librarian of the Next Decade' will examine educational pathways to practice, new and emerging roles, and the professional development pathways that need to be established. There will also be a session to present a national round-up of the issues affecting health librarianship in the states and territories.

If you are involved in the health library sector – especially if you have already contributed to the research – make sure you look to your own healthy professional future at ALIA Access 2010.

**Gill Hallam**  
Adjunct Professor | Information Systems Discipline  
g.hallam@qut.edu.au

### CUBE DISPLAY SYSTEM



### NEW CURVED DISPLAY SYSTEM



#### Our philosophy

- **We listen**
- We work with you
- We work for you
- **We deliver**

CUBE is a square-built system. Available with flat shelves, display shelves (or a combination of both). This unit can blend with any environment. The form and quality of CUBE creates a unique storage and presentation system that stands above the rest!

Empty inner space: The centre of the CUBE is open, it can be built around a column therefore utilising often wasted or redundant space. The inner space is standard 320 x 320cm, but when you want to build the CUBE around an object of a different size, units can be made to suit.

#### CUBE DISPLAY

As with all Abax display units, CUBE is uniquely designed and constructed with genuine craftsmanship and attention to detail. CUBE offers three different storage and display options. Flat Shelves, Angled Display and Slatwall Display Inserts. Custom signage and display inserts are also available to be made. Choose from a wide selection of finishes in Melamine, Veneer, and powder coating to suit your particular decor.

#### STANDARD DIMENSIONS

- Overall dimensions = 1950mm H x 915mm W x 915mm D
- Shelf width = 595mm
- Shelf depth = 250mm
- Display shelf depth = 250mm
- Custom heights and sizes available under the Standard Dimensions

#### FEATURES

- Durable construction
- Stylish design
- Wide choice of colours
- Units can be all flat shelves, all display shelves or a mix of both
- Slatwall Display Back panels available
- Canopy tops and shelves available with title strips
- Shelving adjusts in 15mm increments
- Custom designed and configured units to suit your needs.
- **Ask about our new curved display system**

For more information, a quotation or to arrange to have a representative discuss your particular needs on site, please contact us by phone, fax or email.

**Phone:** 1300 300 369 | **Fax:** 1300 300 676 | **Email:** info@abax.com.au | **Web:** www.abax.com.au