

Directline

Sustainability vs Survivability

IFLA 2010 started with a number of pre-conferences, and there was a lovely quote from the Malmo Library Director saying that libraries support communities to be "sustainable, democratic, knowledgeable, and joyful". But while libraries support their communities, how do they remain sustainable in their own right? You can catch up on all the reports via <http://2010.ifla.org> or our comments at <http://www.alia.org.au/blog>.

When I think of sustainable libraries I think of 'survivable libraries' (actually, I am not sure if survivable is a real word) – sustaining their growth, activities, services, facilities – so that they can truly serve their customers and present return on investment to their funders. Many libraries have survived funding cuts, the effects of the GFC, or being downsized. Others have used sustainable survival tactics to thrive, grow, and expand. To remain a sustainable library you must be able to justify the existence and worth of your library. ALIA is supporting a number of sectors to develop resources to assist in this area. Statistics and reports are often helpful and we look forward to the completion of projects for the Specials and TAFE areas for this during 2011. Our advocacy materials and advocacy help-line, our Every Member an Advocate workshops, and the National Year of Reading are just some of the ways ALIA helps libraries survive and sustain: <http://www.alia.org.au/advocacy/>

There are lots of other sustainable themed articles in this edition of *inCite* – on Green Libraries, being creative, survival techniques, great projects. Does your library have an initiative that is not mentioned in these pages? You can always submit an article to *inCite* to let us know what you are doing in your part of Australia.

Election 2010 and Advocacy

By the time this *inCite* arrives we will know the outcome of the Federal Election. It has been a close race this time, with some unpredictable events. ALIA and other national library associations agreed on a number of topics to focus the government's attention during the campaign. You will have also been informed of the Parties' responses to our main issues. We also developed a Federal Election Campaign Kit, in this, our year of focusing on assisting Every Member to be an Advocate. Hundreds of ALIA members have taken the opportunity to attend one of the free workshops to gain skills and discuss possible advocacy projects within their own library, or in the wider sphere. In some ways the election result is just the start of much work for us at National Office and the Board, to work with the elected government on promises made and existing programs. Our focus will continue to be for funding for national digitisation initiatives, national databases, the National Year of Reading 2012,

and for school libraries, as some of the major ones. We hope you found these resources useful as well as all the information available at <http://www.alia.org.au/election2010>

ALIA Access 2010 Conference – Sold out!

If you missed out on a spot, we hope you accessed ALIA Access 2010 via web streaming, social networking, and your own connections. With the event being sold out (we reached our max of 600 delegate registrations in July), there were quite a number of disappointed potential delegates. May I suggest that you make arrangements well in advance for our 2011 Conferences:

- ALIA Information Online 1–3 February (registrations open now!)
- ALIA National Library & Information Technicians Conference (early 2011)
- ALIA 5th New Librarians Symposium (early 2011)

Inter-library Loan Voucher Review

This review is an important project that we must undertake to meet company audit requirements. If your library deals with ALIA ILL Vouchers, please ensure that you connect with the information and the consultation occurring throughout the rest of the year.

HCL Anderson

On 14 July the ALIA Board of Directors conferred the HCL Anderson Award to Jan Fullerton at the National Library of Australia. The HCL Anderson Award is the Association's highest honour. Jan Fullerton has made an extraordinary contribution to LIS in Australia, showing outstanding leadership, particularly in her work to make unique Australian library materials accessible to everyone. We congratulate Jan on her many years of accomplishment, and welcome her as a patron of ALIA and our library community.

ALIA's sustainability

This year's National Advisory Congress theme is volunteering for ALIA. ALIA relies heavily on its volunteers, but is that the most sustainable model available to us? If you have an opinion don't forget to attend – more details available <http://www.alia.org.au/governance/nac/2010/>

Vale Bob McKee

ALIA joins the international library community to share in the loss of Bob McKee, Chief Executive of CILIP who died in August while at IFLA2010. Our thoughts and sympathy go to Bob's family and friends and the extended CILIP and IFLA family of colleagues that shared his passion for the library profession.

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