

Publishing for the profession

As part of its commitment to informing the profession, ALIA publishes two refereed journals focusing on all aspects of the profession. The *Australian Library Journal* (ALJ) is a journal with an international reputation, having been published since 1951. It is a quarterly and encourages contributions from across the range of library and information related professions. It includes research-based articles as well as case studies from practitioners reporting on innovations in the work place and aims to provide a wide cross-section of material of interest to the broadest audience. It is the most widely read LIS journal in Australia.

Recent editions of ALJ have included articles looking at local history collections in public libraries, professional development and mentoring, e-books, and empowering users. ALJ is indexed in the Australian Education Index, Australian Library and Information Science Abstracts, APAIS, Information Science Abstracts, LISA, Library Literature and the Social Science Citation Index (SSCI) – thus ensuring wide exposure of its contents and providing academic credibility.

Similarly, *Australian Academic and Research Libraries* (AARL), published since the early 1970s, is another high quality journal focused on material of interest to the entire range of academic and research libraries. Its aim is to focus on original contributions which add to the knowledge (both theoretical and practical) which drives the profession forward. Again, published quarterly and indexed by those major services, AARL is widely respected as a key resource for those working in the tertiary sector in particular.

Recent articles include a focus on oral history in supporting key national collections, research into scholarly e-reading

among academics, international students' use of university libraries, and the issue of violence in academic libraries.

Back issues of both journals are freely available via the ALIA website while the most recent two years are available to ALIA members only or, for print copies, to those with subscriptions.

Maintaining the quality and relevance of these journals to the profession depends very much on the input received. It is important for the profession to be undertaking research, investigating new developments, and reporting on successes (and failures) from the workplace in order to inform our actions as we move forward through what is, for most of us, a challenging and uncertain environment. As a professional organisation committed to the growth and development of the industry, ALIA supports the journals in order to foster such research and evaluation of practice that ensures the existence of lively debate and discussion within, and outside, our ranks, that will assist us in meeting our future with confidence.

Please feel free to contact the editors of either journal (Ann Ritchie for ALJ alj.editor@alia.org.au; Bob Pymm for AARL aarl@alia.org.au) if you think you may have an idea or burgeoning article you would like to make available to a wider audience.

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