



Thinking ahead for all of us

In the coming weeks, ALIA will hold National Advisory Congress (NAC) meetings in capital cities across Australia, plus teleconferences to assist rural and regional members to participate. Don't be put off by the title; the NACs are an opportunity for members to share your views directly with the

ALIA Board of Directors and ALIA staff. They are an opportunity for a conversation with colleagues and with the Board, and the discussion and feedback is used to influence future plans for the Association.

This year the NAC discussion will be about the future of our profession and what it will mean to be a library and information professional in 2020. Views of our future will help ALIA ensure we continue to meet the needs of members and the profession. Check the ALIA events calendar and watch e-lists for details of the event closest to you.

ALIA conferences are rated by members as one of the most highly valued of all ALIA services. I've been fortunate recently to attend both the National Library Technicians Conference and the New Librarians Symposium held in Perth. The energy, enthusiasm and commitment to our profession from delegates and speakers alike were both extraordinary and inspirational.

So too was the volunteer effort of the two organising committees who have spent the last two years creating highly relevant professional programs interwoven with opportunities to meet vendors and network with colleagues. My thanks and congratulations go to both committees.

However, increasing costs to host conferences, the significant volunteer effort required to organise each event and an acknowledgement of the pressures on organisational and personal development and

training budgets have led the Board to consider how best to deliver our premier professional development opportunities in a sustainable way into the future. Your Board is currently considering the future model for delivery of ALIA conferences (from 2013), to ensure our conferences remain highly relevant and continue to add value, while remaining sustainable in terms of the enormous volunteer effort required.

A recurring theme throughout both recent conferences was professional development with a number of sessions providing career and personal advice on how to take

care - and control - of your own professional career. The need for a compulsory professional development and certification scheme was raised and discussed in a number of sessions. As you will read elsewhere in this issue ALIA

Health Libraries Australia has been exploring this question and is developing a formal framework for certification for health librarians. This framework will help inform future directions for a profession-wide compulsory scheme.

If you are a personal professional member of ALIA then our Professional Development Scheme and courses offered through ALIA Training are two great places to start to take control of your own professional development. If you don't already participate in the ALIA PD scheme then I would highly recommend you do - not only do you gain Certified Practitioner status by recording your professional development, the scheme also assists you to identify topics and areas of practice that may need updating or brushing up to improve your career prospects. Check it all out at www.alia.org.au/education/pdf/.

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YOUR INDUSTRY SNAPSHOT

Oxford Uni Press goes mobile

Oxford University Press has launched mobile-optimised websites for its full range of journal websites. Users can now log in via an institution's Wi-Fi and access that institution's subscriptions while individual subscribers can access their subscriptions via username and password identification.

SA Public Libraries MoU signed

While Victoria's public libraries are fighting to retain funding, in South Australia a new Memorandum of Understanding between the State Government and the Local Government Association (LGA) has been signed, securing the highest State per capital funding in the nation according to the LGA. Meanwhile the historic Mortlock Library is about to be gifted away from the State Library to the SA Museum to be used as exhibition space as part of exiting Premier Mike Rann's "legacy", according to recent news reports.

Swets acquires Accucoms

Swets has recently completed the purchase of Accucoms, specialist sales and marketing providers for academic and professional publishers internationally. Swets has also been included in E-Content Magazine's *100 Companies that Matter Most in the Digital Content Industry*.

Distance learning services surveyed

American library services for distance learning have been surveyed and the results have just been published by the Primary Research Group. With over 50% of college libraries active in providing these services, tailored services such as purpose-built websites, online courses in information literacy and video tutorials feature strongly but only colleges with over 500 distance education students had specifically allocated funding.