



ALIA pushes for international copyright treaty

There is no doubt that, in our digital world, enabling clients to access information within an increasingly complex copyright and rights holders' management framework is a challenge. In Australia we are reasonably fortunate to have well-

established copyright legislation allowing libraries, at least in the print environment, to carry out our core role. But this framework is increasingly challenged to meet the legal, policy and user expectations in a digital world. Perhaps more than ever before the voice of libraries in this debate needs to be heard in support of the democratisation of information.

The International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) has developed a *Draft Treaty on Copyright Exceptions and Limitations for Libraries and Archives* to argue for a binding international instrument on copyright exceptions and limitations to enable libraries to preserve their collections, support education and research, and lend materials. The IFLA *Draft Treaty* defines the requirements of the international library community and the agenda for the November meeting of the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) will include a three day meeting on exceptions and limitations for libraries and archives.

Working with the Australian Libraries Copyright Council and the Australian Digital Alliance, ALIA is lobbying the Federal Government to make our support of the *Draft Treaty* known so that the needs of Australian libraries and archives are well understood for the forthcoming WIPO discussion. More details on the *Draft Treaty* can be found at www.alia.org.au/copyright.

ALIA Conference format to change

I recently attended the ALIA Top End Symposium in Darwin and had the privilege of hearing some inspiring and interesting presentations as well as the opportunity to meet members from across the Northern Territory. The quality of the program delivered within a cost-effective format underscored for me the validity of the recent decision taken by the Board of Directors to adopt a new

model for ALIA conferences.

As mentioned in my last *Frontline*, the volunteer effort required and the costs of holding our flagship Biennial, Information Online, Library Technicians and New Librarians Symposium conferences are creating sustainability concerns. The Board, at its September 2011 meeting, agreed to a number of significant changes to the way in which ALIA conferences are created, managed and delivered.

The Board agreed to maintain a separate event targeted at those new to the profession, still titled New Librarians Symposium, but aligned with the Information Online Conference held every two years. The details of this and the next symposium are still to be finalised, but a satellite event is favoured. This alignment will enable those new to the profession to participate in a large conference, experience the trade show and mix more broadly with established members, while also ensuring both the opportunity and support needed for early career-stage members to present papers and participate in professional debate.

A separate Library Technicians biennial event will continue to be held but the format, venue style and management structure will be modified to ensure that we continue to create a relevant, high quality program at a reduced cost so as to maximise the opportunities for members to attend. The ALIA National Library Technicians Group will be organising the 2013 conference. Dates and details for all our upcoming conferences are available at www.alia.org.au/conferences/2013.

ALIA will also work closely with convention bureaus across Australia to competitively source value for money venues and locations for our major conferences. Members of conference organising committees will be drawn from across the country, providing increased opportunities for members to be a part of this important work. The role of ALIA staff in support of the organising committees is also being redefined.

As with all new ways of doing things, future Boards will monitor the outcome of this new approach, but we are confident this new strategy will continue to deliver the high quality conferences which are highly valued by ALIA members.

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YOUR INDUSTRY SNAPSHOT

Legal information for newly arrived migrants

The NSW Legal Assistance Forum (NLAF) has launched an online catalogue of legal resources specifically targeted for newly arrived migrants and refugees. It lists written, audio and visual formats in a variety of languages and website links for downloadable resources, plus information about the stage in the settlement process at which the material is most appropriate. www.nlaf.org.au/reports/new_arrivals.html.

Europe's National Librarians support Open Data licensing

The Conference of European National Librarians (CENL) has voted overwhelmingly to support the open licensing of their data. CENL represents Europe's 46 national libraries. Support for open licensing will mean access to the vast quantities of reliable data through Europe's national library catalogues and open up opportunities to create new relationships between data sets. CENL believe taking this step will put "national libraries at the heart of innovations in digital applications".

Library partners with James Bennett

Library has partnered with James Bennett with the aim of making eBooks more readily available to Australasian libraries. They've also signed up a new publishing partner – Australian Academic Press – a niche academic publisher for the behavioural sciences.

State Library NSW launches Jewish digital resource

The State Library of NSW has been working to preserve their unique collection of materials relating to Jewish life in Australia and has now launched the collection online. It covers cultural, economic, religious and sporting contributions made by the Jewish community and will also eventually include oral histories of Holocaust survivors who have settled in this country. The project has been supported by funding from the Australia-Israel Chamber of Commerce. www.sl.nsw.gov.au/discover_collections.