

ALIA research grants and awards now open

Applications for the Research Grants and Twila Ann Janssen Herr Award are now open. As the peak body for the library and information industry, ALIA is committed to supporting and promoting research within our sector. These grants and awards are dedicated to assisting members to further their research goals and support the development of excellence in knowledge and practice in the library and information services sector.

ALIA Research Grants provide funding of up to \$5000 and are open to practising librarians or library technician members who have been personal financial members for at least two years, and with a minimum of three years' experience at the time of application.

These grants are designed to assist professional members to undertake projects they would otherwise be unable to consider because of the time and costs involved. Recipients are supported to undertake a study program on a selected library or information issue of present and future relevance to the development and improvement of library and information services in Australia. The project may include preliminary work, local or overseas visits and/or consultations, attachment to another organisation, or preparation of a publication. It is expected that the project will provide an opportunity for self-development as well as benefit the recipient's institution and present position.

Full details of the Research Grants can be found at www.alia.org.au/awards/research.grant.

The Twila Ann Janssen Herr Award for early career library and information services supports practitioners undertaking research in the area of information services for people with a disability. It is named after Twila Herr, FALIA and life member of the Association, in recognition of her tireless work in the pursuit of excellence in library and information services, in particular services to those with a disability, the disadvantaged and senior citizens.

This award aims to encourage research and projects that explore the potential for further development of existing Australian services for people with a disability, investigations into the use of emerging technologies in the provision of access to services for those with a disability, or aiming to increase the knowledge and skills of practising library and information professionals in services for people with a disability. For more information on this award, visit www.alia.org.au/awards/herr.disability.

Applications for the ALIA Research Grants and the Twila Ann Janssen Herr Award close on 2 July 2012. For full information on awards and grants, visit www.alia.org.au/awards/terms.and.conditions.



With Library Week and National Simultaneous Storytime almost upon us, the spotlight this month is well and truly on public libraries. Which means it's a good moment to ponder the work of the ALIA Public Library Advisory Committee (PLAC). PLAC is just

one of ALIA's advisory committees working on behalf of members to advocate for the profession.

PLAC provides a pivotal role linking public libraries and ALIA so that together we can work towards maximising the outcomes for the public library network across Australia. ALIA PLAC works with local representatives from each state on advocacy projects such as production of the *ALIA National Standards and Guidelines for Public Libraries* and the *ALIA Internet*

Romancing the future

ALIA members travel far and wide and work in many different places. Recently, ALIA member Madeleine Lefebvre was reappointed for a second term as Chief Librarian of Ryerson University Library and Archives in Canada. Her tenure there has included significant achievements such as achieving acceptance of the University Library into the Canadian Association of Research Libraries – making it only the second academic library to attain such membership in 34 years. She also published a book in 2005, *The Romance of Libraries* (Scarecrow Press).

Now, as a member of the Student Learning Centre building committee, Madeleine is playing a major role in the design and development of Ryerson's learning centre for the 21st century. Her vision for the expanded library space will incorporate collaborative learning and innovative digital technologies and she has shared the link with us to give her fellow members a peak at the action: www.ryerson.ca/ryersonbuilds/studentlearn.html.