



Collaboration for education

Welcome to the education issue of *INCITE*.

Education of new professionals sets the direction for, and develops the skills within, our profession into the future. Our educators play an important role in shaping our future as a profession and it is incumbent on us all as practitioners and employers to be providing them with

input into what we see as the future for library and information professionals in Australia.

On June 26, the higher educators in library and information programs from around Australia met with ALIA staff and me in Adelaide to discuss the recommendations and possible collaborative efforts arising from the Australian Learning and Teaching Commission's report *Reconceptualising and Re-positioning Australian Library and Information Science Education for the 21st Century*.

ALIA, as the accrediting body for our library and information service programs, wishes to work in partnership with the higher educators, library and information practitioners, and employers to ensure the best possible education for our new professionals. I encourage you to read the ALTC report and to look for ways that you and your organisation can support higher educators as they plan for the future.

Of particular note in the report is the lack of a significant research base in our profession and the need for such research in order for LIS educators to meet the research expectations of their higher education institutions. Many of us have chosen this profession for the service delivery and practical aspects of our roles, however higher education institutions also have a focus on research output and the report urges the industry to respond to this issue.

At the same time, there are new training and competency frameworks for our educators to implement and many innovations happening in our educational institutions. Many of these were discussed in Adelaide and you will read about some of them in this issue.

Learning of another kind has also been at the forefront of my mind recently, as I attended, on your behalf, the Cyber Safety Working Group meeting. This group provides advice to the Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy, Minister Stephen Conroy, on issues of cyber safety for the community, and especially children. Thanks to the good work of Sue Hutley, ALIA has a place within this

group and is able to connect with ICT and digital companies, government agencies and not-for-profit organisations, positioning libraries in the mainstream of thinking on these matters. It was an interesting and productive day, with collective effort going towards making the online world safe for Australians.

Finally, it's Biennial Conference time. On page 4 you will see our sponsors, without whom the conference would simply not be possible. My thanks to them and to our Biennial 2012 Conference Committee, jointly chaired with great flair by Fides Datu Lawton and Janet Fletcher. Working on conference committees for ALIA is done on a voluntary basis and the Board is very much aware that each member of the committee also has a real and full job of their own. Thank you to Raymond A'Court, Janet Chelliah, Ellen Forsyth, Margie Jantti, Andrew Spencer and Jan Richards. I know that the committee has been well-supported by the staff of the ALIA National Office, so my thanks also to the team for their support of our volunteers.

The program for 2012 Biennial looks both vibrant and thought-provoking and I would like to thank the committee for their commitment to ALIA and to the learning and development of their library and information colleagues.

I look forward to seeing you at Biennial 2012!

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INDUSTRY SNAPSHOT

PM's literary awards announced

The Prime Minister's Literary Awards shortlist for fiction, non-fiction, poetry and the Australian History Prize were announced at the end of May. Details at www.arts.gov.au/funding/awards/pmla/2012/shortlists.

New name for groundbreaking info service

Almost a quarter century after its establishment, Information Edge is changing its name to Web Search Pacific. First established as a joint venture between the State Library of NSW and Elizabeth Swan, Information Edge was amongst the first fee-for-service information businesses in Australia. The name change reflects the current direction of the company and the dominance of the world wide web as a search platform.