

FRONTLINE

TAKING A WORLD VIEW



In keeping with the future of the profession theme this year, professional development is on my mind, especially now that we have introduced the new Certified Professional category of

ALIA membership. How do we maintain our relevance into the future if we do not keep up to date with what is happening around us?

In general we tend to respond to those events or directions others may impose upon us. In some cases, libraries lead by example, by delivering new services or revamping old ways to provide customers with a new take on their services.

We keep up to date by reading about new technology, although sometimes market forces dictate to us the way we have to go. We also do it by talking to each other and attending meetings or structured courses.

Attending conferences is always a good way of finding out about what is happening in other library sectors and about current thinking on best practice.

ALIA's conferences are one of the many important ways your Association supports members' professional development. We are working on the next ALIA National Conference in Melbourne, which will be held in September 2014, and at the planning stages of Information Online for 2015, but right now, in August, I am also thinking about IFLA, as their conference is being held in Singapore this month.

If you're not flying out to IFLA this year – well, start planning for the next World Library Information Conference in France in 2014. Get your arguments together to win over the 'powers that be' to support your trip. Did you know that, as an ALIA member, you are eligible for the IFLA membership registration rate?

IFLA may seem daunting but the variety of sections provides an array of interesting topics and the work that IFLA is doing on behalf of libraries internationally is impressive.

A recent example of this is that in June IFLA, in conjunction with the World Blind Union, was successful in obtaining an international treaty for the visually

impaired. This treaty allows for the cross-border sharing of print-disabled accessible books, saving blindness agencies and government organisations from significant duplication of effort. (Mind you, this took over 20 years to achieve but the last five years is where the solid work took place.)

In early August IFLA will go back to the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) to begin the discussion of a treaty for libraries. Briefly, the treaty will focus on:

- Right to Parallel Importation
- Right to Library Lending and Temporary Access
- Right to Reproduction and Supply of Copies by Libraries and Archives
- Right of Preservation of Library and Archival Materials
- Right to Access Retracted and Withdrawn Works
- Right to Use of Orphan Works and Materials Protected by Related Rights
- Right to Cross-Border Uses
- Right to Translate Works by Libraries and Archives
- Legal Deposit

ALIA has begun discussing these issues with the Attorney General, in order to seek their support for the treaty. Even though some of these rights may already be available under our own laws, many countries in the world do not have copyright laws or even rights under any law to just simply lend material. You can find out more about the treaty at www.ifla.org/publications/treaty-proposal-on-copyright-limitations-and-exceptions-for-libraries-and-archives.

This is just one of the many projects that IFLA is working on, so I urge you to consider attending a conference just to see what is being achieved across the globe and how important libraries are for education, fairness, equity and democracy.

If you are attending IFLA this month, make sure you let us know so that we can send you an invitation to the joint ALIA, National and State Libraries of Australasia and LIANZA reception, which takes place at the Australian High Commission, in Singapore. Just drop a line to our events team at events@alia.org.au.

Julie Rae
President

In 2008, Kenneth Crews looked at the statutes of 149 of the 184 WIPO Member States and found that the provision of exceptions vary around the world. He released his findings in the *WIPO Study on Limitations and Exceptions for Libraries and Archives*, including:

- 21 countries do not have library and archive exceptions at all
- 27 countries have general exception solely for libraries
- 74 countries have exceptions for copying for research or study
- 72 countries have exceptions for copying for preservation provisions
- 67 countries have exceptions for copying for replacement of worn out originals no longer available for purchase
- 17 countries have exceptions for document supply
- Six countries have exceptions for loans between libraries
- 26 countries have exceptions for legal workarounds for anti-circumvention of technological protection measures

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