PURPOSEFULLY
SEEKING EVIDENCE

School libraries across Australia are diverse in size and services offered. Critical to their existence is a teacher librarian's ability to effectively advocate to leadership teams, administration and other teachers about what they can do to transform thinking practices of young people. With this in mind ALIA Schools recently held a half day seminar, in Melbourne, titled Advocacy with Evidence and invited Ann Gillespie, Postdoctoral Research Fellow at Queensland University of Technology to talk about her research titled Untangling the Evidence: Introducing an Empirical Model for Evidence Based Library and Information Practice.

Ann outlined her approach to gathering both empirical and 'encountered' information about services and programs with a view to building a body of evidence which crucially should support the goals of the school.

She referred to the process of gathering non-statistical data, information about encounters and feedback from stakeholders. She called this 'intentionally encountering evidence' and provided examples from case studies for a discussion of ways in which this could be used to support and enhance services.

ALIA's Executive Director Sue McKerracher advanced the discussion by emphasising how important it is to market your services; an important point in schools where marketing is often seen to be something which is done for external stakeholders only.

The opportunity was also taken for Sandra Ryan and Kris Johnstone to launch the school library advocacy film titled *Promoting Your School Library* along with promotion of the Australian Institute for Teachers and School Leaders' (AITSL) publication *AITSL Standards for Teacher Librarian Practice.* The film and the document are now available at www.alia.org.au/groups/alia-schools. The ALIA PD Scheme specialisation for school libraries will launch 1 July 2014.

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Above: ALIA Schools Convenor Anne Girolimo and member Sandra Ryan with the AITSL Standards for Teacher Librarian Practice.

BUDGET 2014 WRAP

What does it mean for libraries? Find out here:
bit.ly/aliabudget