

FROM THE CEO

DIRECTLINE



The ALIA National 2016 Conference was busier than any of our events for a number of years. We had not only a packed conference program but also workshops and summits within and on both sides of the main event.

We were delighted to support the ALIA Australian Public Library Alliance with the Library Stars showcase and National and State Libraries Australasia with *Linked Up, Loud and Literate*, its forum for digital citizenship. We welcomed many VET and higher education academics to the Education Summit and this ran over into a second day, with the Library Technician Educators' Forum.

We were also pleased to host the Special Libraries Summit. This event, whose aim was to identify joint advocacy initiatives for the coming years, attracted delegates from health, government, law, policy and other special libraries.

In addition to these events, visitors to the ALIA booth at our exhibition had the opportunity to try out READ (Resources, Electronic and Archived Documents), our new open-access information hub for ALIA-generated information. Visit repo.alia.org.au.

We hesitate to call READ ALIA a digital repository, as this will raise expectations of the level of metadata, but we are in the process of uploading documents with useful basic information comprising 15 elements, including description, source, language, coverage and rights.

We were fortunate to have the support of ALIA Member Joanne Achison, formerly Manager at the Australian Emergency Management Library, who spent 10 weeks at ALIA House working with our IT Manager, Jedd Casella, to create the framework for READ ALIA, based on Dublin Core Metadata, Library of Congress Subject Headings and using a Drupal platform.

Jo and Jedd not only scoped and built READ ALIA, but they also populated it with more than 300 items, such as annual reports, conference papers, trend reports, standards and guidelines, planning aides, policies, advocacy guides and submissions to government reviews. Their work was complemented by Veronica Delafosse's incredible commitment to putting the records of ALIA Health Libraries Australia Group (HLA) online. Veronica worked with Jo to upload HLA newsletters, reports and other information dating back to the 1970s.

READ ALIA will be a work in progress for the Association and we are in need of volunteers to help us catalogue resources so that we can upload even more of these valuable resources in a timely fashion. If you might be able to assist, please contact me on 02 6215 8215 or via email at sue.mckerracher@alia.org.au. Your help will be much appreciated and will ensure that future generations of library and information professionals have access to the rich knowledge contained in our records. ✨

SUE MCKERRACHER
ALIA CEO
sue.mckerracher@alia.org.au

