

HELP OTHERS — AND GROW YOUR CAREER



The ALIA New Generation Advisory Committee (NGAC), a passionate supporter of students and new graduates, acts in an advisory role to the ALIA Board and works closely with the Students and New Graduates Group (SNGG). Every month the six members meet by phone to discuss strategies to address the issues faced by the new generation of library and information workers. With the theme of professional development in mind, the committee members reflect on their experiences.

What are some of the challenges of serving on NGAC and how have you addressed them?

Elizabeth Smith: The benefits are great, but the time commitment is not to be taken lightly. It has been a challenge to balance NGAC with my day job and other professional commitments, so I've learned how to manage my time and energy more effectively. It's a very supportive group, and part of that is learning how to ask for help on a project, or being clear about how much capacity you have to support others.

James McGoran: I agree 100 per cent with Elizabeth. As NGAC has evolved, the workload has increased. Peer support and family support are essential. Making sure you have the time to commit is the priority. And it is a commitment. Currently for NGAC, I'm replying to queries for our NLS8 (New Librarians' Symposium 8) bursary, building a communications survey for ALIA members, writing part of our NLS8 presentation (and co-presenting it), discussing our next #auslibchat with ALIA Board nominees and writing this paragraph!

How has NGAC contributed to your professional development?

Alisa Howlett: The most valuable contributions have been in strategic thinking and leadership, particularly as I moved into the chairperson role in January 2016. I need

(Clockwise from top left) Elizabeth Smith, Alisa Howlett, Eva Samaras, Katie Miles-Barnes. Liz Alvey, James McGoran.

to think about how SNGG and NGAC can work together effectively, achieve our goals and fulfil our responsibilities to our community and the ALIA Board. My leadership role also means providing support and direction to other committee members.

Liz Alvey: I've learned a lot from working outside my comfort zone of academic libraries and from adapting to everyone being in different cities. It's a great opportunity to discuss ideas with a wider range of colleagues, particularly when moderating #auslibchat. This dialogue with students and new graduates highlights the importance of professional development for this crucial stage of our careers.

Eva Samaras: I work as an archivist, so being a member of NGAC has been a fantastic way to engage with, and learn from, the library profession. I've developed my online engagement and writing skills through #auslibchat and working on reports for the ALIA Board. I've also had the opportunity to lead our online communication design, which has given me valuable professional creative design experience.

Katie Miles-Barnes: Working with people who are so passionate about librarianship has shown me how much stronger our profession is when we share our ideas and support each other. Our work on #auslibchat hasn't benefited just individual participants; it has also created a resource for our Australian LIS community. I'm inspired by what's possible when we approach professional development collaboratively. 🌟

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