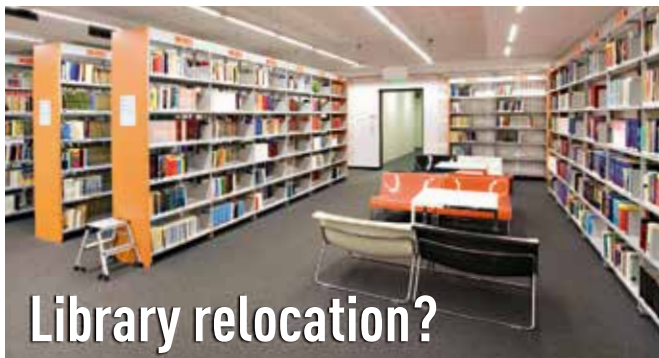


ONWARDS AND UPWARDS

It's a great honour and privilege to be the President of our Association and I am really looking forward to the opportunity to meet and work with Members over the next 12 months.

Each President nominates a theme, and I have chosen International Affairs. As professionals, we work increasingly in a global environment, and I believe that our Association needs to adopt a global perspective to its activities and support our Members as global citizens. To progress this agenda, the ALIA Board has approved the formation of the ALIA International Affairs Advisory Committee, which will have three key aims:

- Increase ALIA's voice in international discussions and debates



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- Raise awareness of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the Asia-Pacific region
- Identify opportunities for partnerships and collaboration in the region.

As our work progresses, I will share our achievements through this column and ALIA newsletters.

It's fortuitous that library design is the theme for this edition of *INCITE*, as it has been an area of personal interest and has been professionally rewarding. Throughout my career I have had the privilege to be involved in the design and delivery of new libraries, major renewals and refurbishments, and total asset management initiatives. It has been satisfying to see the impact of these buildings – whether new or revamped – and observe how they have served as enablers for their library communities. Through these projects I have worked with staff, clients, architects and designers to deliver the best possible projects – and I have learned so much.

Australian libraries have been the quiet achiever in setting a benchmark for library design – locally and globally. Visiting libraries internationally over the last decade, I have frequently reflected that our libraries are world calibre. It's terrific that this year we have the inaugural Australian Library Design Awards, organised by ALIA in partnership with the Australian Public Library Alliance and Council of Australian University Librarians.

The Awards have been created to showcase the best in Australia's contemporary library interiors and exteriors, and to celebrate the investment in libraries made by our nation's institutions, corporations, and local, state and territory governments. Congratulations to the 33 libraries that were nominated.

This year we celebrate our Association being 80 years strong. To have reached such a milestone is a testament to our predecessors, our agility as a profession and our ability to remain relevant and vital. I encourage you to participate in the celebrations and reflect on our achievements.

I would like to formally welcome our new Board members Lyndall Ley Osborne (Vice-President and President-elect) and Directors Jonathon Guppy and Anne Reddacliff, who join Marian Morgan-Bindon and Monika Szunejko. We had our first Board meeting in May, and we are all enthusiastic about the year ahead.

Enjoy reading your copy of *INCITE*. ✨

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