

MENTORING



You will have seen the announcement about a new ALIA Mentoring Scheme on our website and in ALIA Weekly in May and June. As the International Librarians Network (which powered our previous scheme) ceased at the start of 2017, we needed to find a new way to support our Members.

There have been several attempts to run successful ALIA mentoring programs in the past but unfortunately they haven't, for a range of reasons, lasted long. The desire for mentoring relationships, however, remains strong, particularly among early-career library and information professionals.



Designing Learning Spaces

Creating teaching and learning spaces that support collaborative learning can be a daunting task.

At Abax Kingfisher we work with you to design and create teaching spaces that offer group-friendly seating, clever visual communication solutions and flexible work environments.

This will allow your students to study comfortably and effectively. We help you to create classrooms, libraries and learning commons that change the emphasis from teacher centred to student-centred learning environments.

Contact us to discover how we can help you design and create a learning space that really can work!

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Learning from the lessons of the past, we are piloting a new approach for 2017–18, starting in July. This one that has more scaffolding and support from the ALIA team and is not simply a 'match and dispatch' version.

This time, the ALIA Mentoring Scheme will offer regular support to both mentors and mentees. Mentors will be able to access guidance in best-practice mentoring skills with a webinar before the scheme starts, a workbook to facilitate the mentoring process and a wiki to discuss any issues. Mentees will also have their own wiki and access to the workbook, with a program of emails and webinars on special topics, such as addressing selection criteria, the ALIA PD Scheme, introduction to workplace rights and obligations, and creating a professional online presence. This will complement the mentoring process organised individually with the mentor.

We are charging a fee of \$150, which will contribute to, but not fully cover, the cost of the scheme. The fee sends a clear message to mentors and mentees that the scheme requires a serious commitment and, with the inclusion of dedicated webinars, resources and a workbook program, provides excellent value.

We are aiming to create a sustainable ALIA Mentoring Scheme that will become embedded in the ALIA DNA, so that mentoring will become an ongoing support for developing LIS professionals and a valued opportunity for experienced LIS professionals. We hope that this will be the beginning of a process whereby mentees will naturally transition to become our future mentors.

The scheme is aimed at a wide range of prospective mentees, but to get the most out of the scheme it will help if you are in a workplace and have some relevant context to fully utilise the program. We are also looking for a broad range of mentors – senior LIS professionals in organisations who are willing to give something back to the industry by assisting the next generation of practitioners and leaders.

The ALIA Board is pleased to support this initiative, which relates to two of the four objectives in our strategic plan – professional development and future-proofing – and special thanks go to ALIA Director Jane Cowell for her help in developing the scheme.

You will find more information on the website and we would love to hear from you if you are interested in becoming a mentor or mentee for the next round, which starts in January 2018.

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