

A Final Word

It has been my great honour and pleasure to be the President of ALIA for the past 12 months, and to work with ALIA staff and Members to pursue my chosen presidential theme of greater engagement with Indigenous matters.

This was partly due to my personal commitment to improving library services and collection management for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and their knowledge held in collections (currently reflected by my day job as part of the team at the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies – AIATSIS); partly because of ALIA's focus on the same objective; and partly to highlight the way that libraries and their staff around Australia are rising to the challenge.

I am proud of our achievements over the past year, although I believe this is only the beginning of a continuing journey. We've had conference presentations; scholarships for Indigenous students to take up library and information studies courses; [Leadership & Innovation Forums](#) on an Indigenous theme around the country; the revitalisation of the Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Library Resource

Network (ATSILRN); work on new cataloguing protocols; and not least, the ALIA report [Improving library services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples](#).

I would like to thank everyone who contributed to making the year's theme such a success. The work will continue, and I hope to continue to be involved.

I would like once again to pay tribute to ALIA CEO Sue McKerracher for her leadership, and the ALIA staff for continuing to ensure that ALIA represents excellent value for money for Members, and to all for assisting the Board to plan a sustainable future for the Association. I wish incoming President Robert Knight the very best and every success for 2019–2020. As well, I would like to acknowledge all the Traditional Owners of this land, to recognise and express my gratitude for their enduring relationship with, and care of Country as I pay my respects to their Elders past and present. 🌸

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A note from the incoming President

I am both proud and excited to be assuming the role of ALIA President in May 2019. Having worked in the public library sector for almost 39 years, I have been involved in numerous committees and projects at regional, state and national levels. I have also been favoured with many inspiring mentors and colleagues, who have collectively influenced the choice of my ALIA presidential theme – Leadership.

Leaders are evident at all levels of organisations, and I want to work with libraries across Australia to understand what great leadership means, identify emerging leaders, and mentor staff at all levels of organisations to support the future sustainability and profile of our libraries. My other career-long professional passion is innovation and continuous improvement, which has driven the success of many organisations and projects that I have been associated with.

Speaking of innovation and continuous improvement, collaborations with industry partners have seen some amazing and advantageous changes during my career. For example, library automation has enabled libraries to

redirect their human resources from task administration to client services; outsourcing opportunities, like collections procurement, allow a greater focus on new and emerging areas of demand; and technology developments have revolutionised access to collections, services, and information.

Perhaps my favourite example of 'supplier enabled innovation' is the South-West Zone Digital Library (SWZDL). Operating across 23 councils and 42 libraries in south-west NSW, the SWZDL makes eresources available to some 330,000 people – many of them in rural and remote areas – across an area of 170,000 square kilometres. Innovation in action is inspiring. 🌸

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