

INDUSTRY INNOVATION

is more than skin deep

The second [ALIA Library Design Awards](#) conference was held on 14 March 2019 at the State Library of Queensland, at which three trophies were awarded for school, public, and academic libraries, plus one for the ALIA Members' Choice Award.

While there was no doubt the structures and interiors of all the nominated libraries were engaging, attractive and, in many cases, stunning, the judges did not award the prizes purely based on good looks. They examined each entry against a set of criteria, which included the capacity of the building to deliver innovative programs and services. A contemporary structure, no matter how dazzling, is an empty shell if it isn't accompanied by an aspirational library team with fresh ideas.

This issue's theme of industry innovation is wholly appropriate for the library and information sector in 2019. Our sector not only encompasses some of the most outstanding new civic and campus buildings, it is also at the leading edge of digital transformation. New technologies are driving service improvements; new publishing models are increasing access to information; clever programming; and the latest public access devices are helping people keep pace with the changing world around them.

One of the best things about libraries is the way we collaborate. Innovation rarely happens in a bubble, it is much more likely to come about as a result of group-think. The ALIA team spends a lot of time liaising with external stakeholders and libraries' keen interest in exploring new opportunities with many different partners is one of the things which sets us apart. Politicians, government agencies, academia, civil society groups and commercial entities – often people are amazed and delighted by the way we are willing to put vested interest to one side to work out the best solution for all parties.

While many organisations developed their federal election agenda behind closed doors, ours was an open process, where Members were encouraged to comment on a published draft and provide feedback. The [final version](#) benefited as a result of this broad consultation, and it has proved its worth in the lead up to the polls.

While lobbying comes to the fore at election time, there will be a big job to do post-election with the new government, and we will continue to invest time and resources in an active advocacy program for the sector.

In 2018, we engaged in 30 meetings with government, responded to 16 inquiries and reviews, generated significant media coverage (print, online and broadcast), and built our social media reach to more than 30,000 across Twitter, Facebook and Instagram. It was because of your support that we were able to do so much. As an ALIA Member, you can be sure that you are contributing to the future of the library and information sector. Thank you. 🙏

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BLUE SHIELD
Australia



Australian Library and
Information Association



1 May 2019

**Make sure your library is
disaster-prepared**

To be released during MayDay 2019 events:

- ALIA Guide to Disaster Planning, Response and Recovery for Libraries
- ALIA Disaster Planning for Libraries

<http://blueshieldaustralia.org.au/>