

Towards A NEW ASSOCIATION

Draft timeline

The Leadership Committee, at its meeting on 1 December 1997, developed a timeline for the creation of the new organisation. The key feature of the timeline is that the proposed commencement date for the new organisation has been brought forward from 1 January 2000 to January 1999. The committee believes that, given the goodwill evident among members of both ALIA and ACLIS, the earlier establishment of the new organisation is desirable and in the best interests of both organisations and their members.

27 January Leadership Committee meeting

Mid-February Joint meetings of ALIA and ACLIS members to be organised in each State and Territory. Feedback to all general/national councillors for March council meetings

4 March ACLIS national council meeting — Leadership Committee members attend

12–13 March ALIA general council meeting — Leadership Committee members attend

27 March Leadership Committee meeting

24 April Leadership Committee meeting

21–22 May ACLIS national council meeting. Leadership Committee to attend

1 June June issue of *inCite* posted with extensive progress report and draft model for the new organisation with recommendations for action

16–17 July ALIA general council meeting. Leadership Committee to attend

4 September Possible joint meeting of ACLIS national council and ALIA general council

26 October Presentation by Leadership Committee at ALIA Biennial Conference in Adelaide, and General Meeting of ALIA members

November–December Steps taken to establish new corporate structure

January 1999 New organisation formally launched

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Towards a united future

Victoria

For many Victorian members of ALIA and ACLIS, the decision to create a single peak body to represent our profession was welcomed with open arms. For a number of years, ALIA and ACLIS in Victoria have been working jointly on many activities and have turned our joint lobbying committee into a co-ordination committee to facilitate the creation of the new body in the State.

The co-ordination committee comprises six members, three each from ALIA and ACLIS. For ALIA, the three members are the branch president, vice-president and past-president. For ACLIS, the members are the chair of the state committee and two other members of the ACLIS (Victoria) executive. The chair of the co-ordination committee alternates.

We have already held three formal meetings and are sending the minutes of these to the Leadership Committee as well as reporting the developments to both ALIA and ACLIS. For 1998, in addition to the co-ordination committee, both ALIA and ACLIS will retain the executive structures to ensure 'business as usual'.

However, in 1998, all correspondence to members will go out under a joint logo; all events will be advertised to members of both ALIA and ACLIS; joint communications to members are planned to discuss aspects of creating a new peak body. Where sensible, we

will rationalise sections of ACLIS with the equivalent in ALIA. For instance, the ACLIS resources committee has been subsumed in the ALIA acquisitions section. In addition, retaining the current practice, the president of one association will attend the executive meetings of the other.

As in past years, we will continue to organise joint activities, sharing the risks and benefits. These activities are usually those which have appeal across sectors.

To date, the co-ordination committee has expressed opinions on the proposed consultancies that will inform the creation of a new peak body. It is vital that the needs of existing members and non-members are gauged to establish the priorities of the new body and to inform its organisational structure.

The Victorian ALIA–ACLIS co-ordination committee members are looking forward to the day when we have fewer (half the number?) of professional meetings to attend. We are also anticipating greater resourcing at the local level as a result of a new organisational structure and look forward to this eventuality.

Sue McKnight, ACLIS national councillor

Australian Capital Territory

Following the joint ALIA–ACLIS council meeting in Adelaide in June, the ALIA ACT Branch invited ACLIS ACT to attend branch council meetings as participating observers. A joint ALIA–AC-

► LIS Christmas function was held as the 1997 executive handed the reins to the new for 1998. The endorsement of the *Guidelines for the operations of state/territory committees pending the establishment of the new organisation*, endorsed by the joint ALIA-ACLIS council meeting on 21 November 1997, and the publication in *inCite* of the Leadership Committee's model will provide the basis for a joint executive committee meeting in early February to address the issues of combined meetings, joint functions and the issuing of joint statements on matters of common concern. Subsequently, a meeting of members will be held to obtain input into the process. Over the past few years in the ACT, there has been an ongoing spirit of co-operation in holding joint seminars between ALIA, ACLIS and FLIN, the Federal Libraries Information Network, which provides a sound basis at a local level for future planning for the new organisation.

Joye Volker, ALIA ACT general councillor; Elizabeth Dracoulis, ACLIS ACT councillor

South Australia

There is full support in South Australia for the merger of ALIA and ACLIS and State initiatives during the coming year will reflect the national agenda.

The executives of ALIA and ACLIS have met to discuss how the two organisations can work more closely during the interim period of the merger process.

There is enthusiasm for the idea of the merged organisation and new directions for ALIA and while waiting to create a 'new' organisation, the committees are aware that they should build on the best of the 'old'. The profession is too small in South Australia to have 'competing' organisations and a longer-term strategy will forge much closer links between all the library and information service associations represented in the state.

We are in the unusual position of

having the opportunity to experiment with new associations, new ideas about professional groups and with new structures. It has been agreed that we should be prepared to be dynamic and trial new ideas and be prepared to change them or abandon them.

The first of these new ideas was the sharing of the speaker at the annual general meetings of ALIA and ACLIS. Further co-operation was made evident on 2 December when Ray Choate, 1997 ACLIS SA president, was elected ALIA SA branch vice-president/president-elect while Bill Cations, Flinders University, will hold the position of branch treasurer for 1998.

Di Booker, ALIA SA general councillor; Ray Choate, ACLIS SA national councillor

Queensland

There was a joint meeting of ALIA Queensland Branch and ACLIS Queensland state committee members on 4 December 1997. This meeting has resolved the following arrangements for the conduct of ALIA and ACLIS in Queensland during the interim year before the formation of the new body at the start of 1999.

Our arrangements for 1998 are:

- a single organisational model;
- name of this body: ACLIS-ALIA Queensland State Council;
- executive: president, immediate past president (ALIA), chair (ACLIS), ALIA general councillor, ACLIS national councillor, secretary, treasurer (ALIA), *Quill* editor, training and development officer. ACLIS will retain a treasurer position which will not form part of the executive. The role of the vice-president will be allocated by the executive to one of its members;
- state council: In 1998, the state council will comprise all existing representative positions on the ALIA branch council and ACLIS state committee. It was recognised that this

could be a large group, and that there would be overlap between sectoral and functional sections. However, it was seen to be more important to be inclusive in the transition than exclusive and imposing mergers on sections, although many sections may choose to merge through the year. People elected to ALIA branch councillor positions for 1998 will be encouraged to remain on the state council;

- frequency of meetings: The executive will meet monthly, and the state council will meet four times per year;
- newsletter: *Quill* will be provided to all members of ALIA and ACLIS;
- activities: All activities will be open to all members;
- services to members will include: communication through *Quill* and general meetings; continuing professional development; information sharing in functional areas; mentoring; advocacy/lobbying; public relations and promotion; focus groups on matters of State or national importance; industrial relations (as a mode of channelling information to and from ALIA National Office).

The work of the ALIA special interest groups and the ACLIS working groups will continue. However, some groups aim to amalgamate and rationalise their activities during 1998. Such decisions will be left to the relevant groups.

State council expressed the importance of maintaining and encouraging the significant support of the chief librarians of Queensland, together with encouraging discussion, debate and participation by all ALIA and ACLIS individual and institutional members.

Overall, the meeting endorsed a flexible, collaborative, inclusive and realistic approach to meeting members' needs during the transition year.

Suzie Davies, ALIA general councillor

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