

# Strategic collaboration and partnerships



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Representatives from ALIA, the Australian Society of Archivists (ASA) and the Records Management Association of Australia (RMAA) held a strategic planning meeting focusing on education, training and professional development at ALIA House on 6 April 2001. This was the first initiative of a meeting of the presidents of ALIA, ASA and RMAA held in February 2001. Adrian Cunningham, ASA past president, led the discussion.

Initial discussions served as an information-sharing session to enable all participants to understand and appreciate the similarities and differences between each association.

The main areas for collaborative initiatives canvassed were: quality assurance, especially in relation to private provider Registered Training Organisations (RTOs) and delivery; CPD and mentoring and potential for a common or overlapping approach; the possibility of identifying a common core of information functions and tasks as well as unique tasks and functions; the future of entry-level courses and opportunities for common curriculum and course structure; course recognition processes including an integrated schedule of visits and perhaps processes; membership levels including cross-recognition of qualifications; and the role of employers.

Actions identified include:

- development of a core knowledge or suite of linked statements on core knowledge across the three information sectors;
- integrated course recognition activities;
- instigating discussions on the future directions for undergraduate and graduate course development and delivery;
- mapping equivalences and complementarity across training packages as a move towards integration of delivery of the library and information services package for AQF levels 2-6 with equivalent levels for the record keeping (archives and records management)

package to achieve efficiencies in delivery and increase learning and career options for students. It would be necessary to work with the two Industry Training Advisory Bodies (ITABs) concerned and the Australian National Training Authority to do this;

- joint lobbying activities to work with and through the relevant ITABs, particularly on the issue of quality assurance for RTOs;
- exploring with the two relevant ITABs the possibility of incorporating components of the Archives/Records Management training package being developed into programs for delivery of the VET Museums training package (developed with the Library sector training package) in rural areas; and
- collaborative CPD and mentoring schemes.

Each association will recommend to its governing body that a joint education and CPD policy committee be established to further these suggested actions. The ASA and RMAA have recently established a joint committee to examine issues for working more closely together, particularly in the area of professional membership and will now review how this fits with possible future directions arising from the workshop.

## Yes Minister

Our letters to the Premier and relevant ministers prior to the Queensland election have resulted in Matt Foley, the Minister for Employment, Training, Youth and the Arts, inviting ALIA Queensland Branch President Vicki McDonald and past president Christine Mackenzie to meet with him this month to further explore our proposals for public libraries and public access information networks initiatives. Their role in the government's Smart State program will be pursued.

Craig Anderson, retiring director and past president, will lead our participation in the development of the Victorian Government's new policy for that State's public library network. ■

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At the recent strategic meeting of ALIA, ASA and RMAA were (left to right): Jill Caldwell, ASA; Stephen Smith, RMAA; Brenda LeGrand, ASA; Marie Murphy, ALIA; Margaret Starre, ALIA; Chris Frupp, RMAA; Jennefer Nicholson, ALIA; Adrian Cunningham, ASA; Marilyn Hart (absent), ALIA.