



Information literacy...

ALIA Information Literacy Forum [<http://groups.alia.org.au/infolit/>]

Round Table and National Information Literacy Coalition: As part of our advocacy role the Special Interest Group (as it was) held a Round Table on 28 February 2001 in Melbourne. The day was sponsored, and the thirty invited attendees included representatives from the education sector, public and state libraries, and business and community organisations. Subsequently the group has advanced this to form a steering committee with the National Library of Australia and the National Office of the Information Economy to assess the feasibility of a national coalition for advocacy in information literacy.

Information literacy standards: As a follow up to the publication and launch of the Council of Australian University Librarians' *Information literacy standards* at the February round table, members of the group have undertaken to work within the TAFE and state/public library sectors to advance the use of these standards. They were endorsed by the Council of Australian State Libraries (CASL) in March who are now preparing their own version for publication. They have also been endorsed by TAFE libraries.

Statement on information literacy for all Australians: The committee revised its draft statement and presented it to the ALIA Board for endorsement in March. The statement was revised again in October and put into the new ALIA policy format for re-endorsement.

Professional development activities: The group held its second online forum using the aliaINFOLIT e-mail list. Judy Peacock led the debate on 'thriving with information literacy' in September.

ALIA Information Literacy Forum — new group: In line with the ALIA restructure the group was successful in forming the new forum for the next two years. This involved preparing a business plan as well as canvassing the support of members. A key part of the application was financial support to advance a national coalition for information literacy (as above). There are now more than 500 members. The annual general meeting will be held at the fifth National Information Literacy Conference to be held in Adelaide 30 November to 1 December.

Prue Mercer, president, ALIA Information Literacy Forum

Essential for information specialists...

The ALIA Information Specialists Group [<http://groups.alia.org.au/infospec/>]

After completing surveys of our members nationwide to establish their needs, the Information Specialists Group (ISG) undertook several strategic positioning exercises with the assistance of Robert McEntyre of Robert McEntyre and Associates. This helped us to identify priorities and to compile a strategic direction document [see <http://groups.alia.org.au/infospec/>].

Our members told us that they want:

- information to help them in their jobs;
- networking opportunities;
- opportunities to visit interesting libraries; and
- support as information professionals.

Therefore we have focussed on packaging and delivering products that will meet these needs.

After5 club meetings last from 5:30–7:00pm and are friendly, fun, provide networking opportunities and information about products and services. Seven After5 club meetings were held during the year. The State Library of New South Wales provided the venue, however there was also a special After5 club meeting held at Dialog.

Behind the scenes meetings are carefully selected opportunities to take our members behind the scenes in especially interesting library environments. This year our members visited AGSM, Pymble Ladies College, and Fairfax.

Round table meetings are designed as discussion groups to focus on issues important to our members such as education. In October the group held a *Round table on education for information professionals* — for twenty invited participants. A summary of these discussions is available.

Information online every two years also meets some of our members needs for information and for networking. The 2001 conference returned a profit to the Association in excess of \$41 000.

In March 2001 the group organised, in conjunction with NSW Branch, a presentation on e-books at the State Library of New South Wales by Paul Mosher.

In addition to these activities the Townsville group of Information Specialists held an inaugural meeting in August, and a presentation by Erica Maxwell from Fretwell-Downing in October.

We have received expressions of interest from individuals in Melbourne, Brisbane and Perth to offer activities in those areas.

Additionally the committee has met regularly on the first Wednesday of every month. The committee sought competitive quotes from conference organisers for *Information Online* in 2003 and with the approval of the ALIA Board, selected Conference Action Pty Ltd to be the conference organiser for the 2003 conference.

With the assistance of ALIA National Office, the aliaINFSPEC e-list has been established and currently has more than 300 members. Recently the co-ordinator for the Australian Information Brokers e-list recommended that the infobroker list should be absorbed into the aliaINFSPEC e-list. We are receiving very positive responses from members to the discussion list — responses such as 'The InfoSpec list is where it is at. Thank you for making me feel included.'

Individual committee members have also contributed to professional activities in other ways:

- Julia Bale addressed the International Association of School Librarians in Auckland, New Zealand, and the ALIA group on children's literature;
- Kay Harris spoke at an AGSM seminar on management in libraries;
- Rosemary McLauchlan and Kay Harris are lecturing University of Technology, Sydney students on business intelligence;
- Jan Titcombe convenes the LIFE (Libraries in Financial Enterprises) group for Australia and New Zealand;
- Elizabeth Swan addressed the SCIP (Society for Competitive Intelligence) conference.

Committee members during 2001 were: Anu Suttie; Bronia Renison; Caroline Regan; Elizabeth Drynan (secretary); Elizabeth Swan (president); Jan Titcombe; Julia Bale; Kay Harris ▶

(treasurer); Lyn McCullagh; Mary Anne Kennan; Paul Bentley; Robin Shelley Jones; and Rosemary McLauchlan.

Elizabeth Swan, president, ALIA Information Specialists Group

Your time, your place...

ALIA Off-Campus Library Services [<http://groups.alia.org.au/off-campus/>]

The core activity this year is preparation for the coming conference — *Your time, your place, your off campus library service*. The program is exciting as it has attracted speakers from a range of institutions beyond those traditionally associated with off campus library services.

There will be speakers from Griffith University, the University of Queensland, and the University of Southern Queensland. There will be two very different papers from the University of South Australia. Five papers are coming from New South Wales with one from Charles Sturt University, another from the University of New England, one from the NSW Department of Agriculture, one from the University of Technology and two from the University of NSW. The Victorian educational sector will be represented by presentations from Deakin and Monash universities.

We will also have as special guests Cecilia Falk and Eva Nymen from the Lulea University in Sweden. We look forward to their paper on the Lulea model which includes networking with public libraries and study centres.

The topics covered include the off-shore experience — 'Thursday Island and beyond' and, 'Expanding the horizon: library services to off-shore students'. Several papers will investigate the 'human face' of remote services within an electronic

environment. Other papers look at costing, efficiencies and surveying services.

The conference will be held at Monash University, Caulfield Campus, Melbourne, Victoria 4–5 February 2002 (prior to the VALA conference 6–8 February).

For more information, contact Dolly Bishop at Dolly.Bishop@lib.monash.edu.au

Marie Therese Van Dyk, convenor, ALIA Off-Campus Library Services

Feeling lonely?

National OPALs 2001 [<http://groups.alia.org.au/opalsnat/>]

2001 was a tumultuous year in the life of the One Person Libraries Group (OPALs). As the name suggests, the National OPALs group exists to assist professionals who work on their own. The aim is to develop and provide a network for the exchange of ideas and discussion of issues which affect them and the wider library community.

This year, OPALs continued to build on this foundation by holding formal and informal gatherings throughout the country, publishing the *OPALessence* newsletter (which is distributed via e-mail and post) and hosting the aliaOPAL mailing list.

The 9th Specials, Health and Law Librarian's conference in Melbourne was the venue for the OPALs national meeting. At the conference, members of OPALs presented papers on dealing with difficult people, budgeting, intranets and weeding collections at a panel session. OPALs also celebrated its 6th birthday at the Biennial General Meeting (BGM) after the session. The BGM provided a great way for members from all over Australia to meet and discuss ideas for the future. ►

Do you want to work in the UK?

TFPL is a UK based Recruitment Agency specialising in the Library, Information, Records and Knowledge Management Sector. We have Temporary/Contract vacancies ranging from one day to two years.

If you are interested in working throughout the UK please contact Jayne Garner, Keri Weekes, Luisa Jefford or Anna Acland on **020 7251 5522** on your arrival or when you require work during your stay.



www.tfpl.com

TFPL Recruitment, 17-18 Britton Street, London EC1M 5TL

Ph: +44 020 7251 5522 Fax: +44 020 7336 0605 e-mail: recruitment@tfpl.com

MAP 4093

► The OPALs group did experience a few hiccups during the ALIA restructure but things have settled now and plans are underway for a bigger and better year in 2002.

The National OPALs executive would like to thank all its members for their support in 2001 and wish everyone a merry Christmas and a happy new year.

Maria Athanasatos, national convenor, ALIA National OPALs

TAFE working together

ALIA TAFE National Group 2001 [<http://www.alia.org.au/groups/tafenat/>]

The ALIA TAFE National conference was held at the Sheraton in Brisbane in October, with a stimulating program of speakers from TAFE libraries around Australia. Keynote speakers included Rachel Hunter, commissioner for the Office of Public Service Merit and Equity, and Davie Christie, management consultant. Approximately 150 delegates attended this valuable conference.

A workshop on information literacy followed the conference, at which it was agreed that the CAUL *Information literacy standards* would be adopted (with suitable examples) by TAFE libraries nationally. Approximately eighty participants spent time getting to know the standards and identifying possible assessment statements.

The TAFE libraries newsletter has not been published this year, as the previous editor resigned. However a new editor has just been appointed, and it is expected that publication will resume before the end of the year.

The ALIA TAFE National Group has consolidated its ties with

the National Working Group for TAFE Library Services, and a joint meeting was held in conjunction with the TAFE conference. It was agreed that the two groups should work as closely as possible together to maximise the outcomes for TAFE libraries.

Discussions were held regarding the collection and publication of TAFE library statistics with key stakeholders. While the instrument for collecting these statistics was developed some years ago, publication of national data has not yet occurred. It is anticipated that national statistics for 2000 might be published late this year.

Diana Harrison, convenor, TAFE National Group



Roundup 2001 – ACT...

A mixed year for technicians...

ACT Library Technicians [<http://groups.alia.org.au/libtact/>]

ACT Library Technicians have had a year of mixed activities including library visits, supporting ACTive ALIA (formerly ACT Branch) and social activities. Visits included the new Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS) library with its modern design and unique collection which documents Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture. A visit to the renovations and new look Hancock Library at the Australian National University proved to be popular.

Technicians have been well represented at ACTive ALIA meetings and activities included a presentation on the new *Digital Copyright Act* as well as the annual winter dinner. The Group regularly contributes to the newsletter *ProACTIVE*.

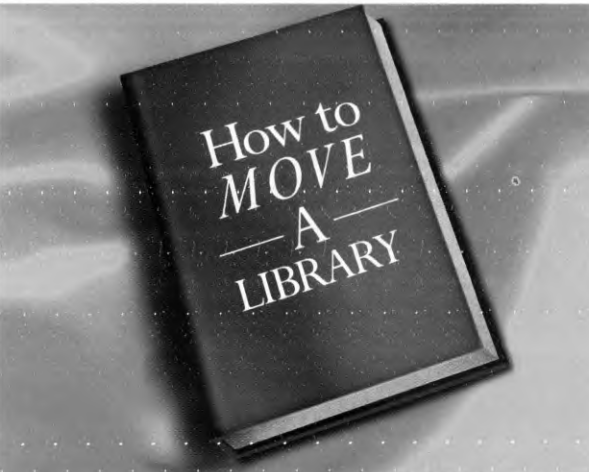
The group takes an active role with its involvement with the library studies course at the Canberra Institute of Technology (CIT). This included sharing with the new intake of students, encouraging students to join ALIA and the benefits of networking. A notice board provided by the group in the library studies laboratory provides relevant information to the students. The group participated in the CIT Annual Awards of the Faculty of Business and Information Technology where a book voucher was given as an encouragement award to a library studies student. In conjunction with ACTive ALIA the group conducted an essay competition. The winners of the competition, one student and one qualified library technician, were given a grant to attend the 11th National Library Technicians Conference in Hobart.

Social activities have included the National Library Technicians Day breakfast which is turning out to be a very successful event; a midwinter dinner; a pre-conference afternoon coffee; a post-conference dinners and a final end of year pot luck dinner reminiscing with recently retired Donna Reid who was head of library studies at the CIT many years ago.

ACT Technicians were well represented at the 11th National Library Technicians Conference and were elated when one of their own, Marion Boyd was presented with the ALIA Library Technician of the Year Award. Marion has been the second technician from Canberra to earn this prestigious award in recent years.

We look forward to another year with a mixture of activities for the library technicians of Canberra.

Beth Clary, convenor, ACT Library Technicians



We wrote the book

At Chess we have the industry expertise and the specialist equipment to make your next library move fast, simple, secure, and 100% reliable.

- Fully enclosed trolleys safeguard against loss
- Fixed height shelving prevents damage to books
- Rapid access contents during transport if required
- Efficient relocation and reinstallation
- Sequentially numbered trolleys preserve your library numbering system.

Phone Australia wide
13 14 69
Branches Australia wide

Chess

ADJUNCLIS WIL 272662