

## Renewing – ALIA membership really does have its advantages



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As I write this column, ALIA's annual membership renewal time is upon us, so this month I'm reflecting on some of the activities of our professional Association and the benefits it offers you.

ALIA membership has some new advantages. At the ALIA Annual General Meeting on 16 May 2006 ALIA's outgoing president Gill Hallam launched a new partnership with Member Advantage that delivers great discounts to our members for products such as insurance, car hire, buying a car or electrical goods, home loans, or airline lounge membership. See page 33 of this issue of *inCite* for further information or go to <http://alia.org.au/membership.benefits/affinity.html>. ALIA also partners with the HotelClub for generous discounts on hotel accommodation.

Are you making connections, contacts and networks? Involvement with ALIA's varied groups (<http://alia.org.au/groups.html>) has always been a great way to connect with your colleagues, to share your skills and talents and to contribute to the work of ALIA. We need you to contribute, so consider it a part of your 2006/07 membership to find out about group events and activities in your local area, join e-lists, or set up chat sessions through ALIA's chat server.

Look after your career through ALIA: your Association offers you a comprehensive range of professional development services and activities. Find out what is happening in your area and around Australia at <http://alia.org.au/events/> or checking out the events listings here in *inCite* each month. You can attend any of ALIA's numerous conferences, seminars and workshops, and we also have special member rates for the workshops and training courses delivered to you through ALIA's partnerships with professional training providers.

In the 2006/07 membership year there will be three significant conferences: Click06, the ALIA Biennial Conference in Perth on 19–22 September (<http://conferences.alia.org.au/alia2006/>); the New Librarians' Symposium (NLS3) in Sydney on 1–2 December (<http://conferences.alia.org.au/newlibrarian2006/>); and, Information Online in Sydney on 30 January – 1 February 2007 (<http://www.information-online.com.au/>). ALIA is also partnering with Web Search Pacific to deliver

'Power Searching with the Pros' workshops in June and October this year with planning underway to run them in other areas of Australia in the first half of 2007. Check the events (<http://alia.org.au/events/>) pages for your region to find out where and when these workshops will be held.

If you're looking to move on in your career, you can subscribe to the recruit-LIS, our members-only vacancies e-list, to keep up with the latest positions vacant. Or visit our employment pages, <http://alia.org.au/employment/>, at any time for a list of the latest vacancies or other key employment resources. You can also or call on the expert advice from our industrial relations advisor.

For those of you concerned with copyright there is a wealth of information on our website <http://alia.org.au/advocacy/copyright/> or you can contact our copyright officer for expert advice on specific problems. Moyra's latest column is on page 28 of this issue.

Your membership contributes to the wider work of the Association through our Advocacy program. ALIA is active in advocacy in many areas including the current debate on Internet filtering, broadband for communities and copyright. Our annual activities such as Library and Information Week and National Simultaneous Storytime are integral to our advocacy program. ALIA is dedicated to communicating to all levels of government the important role that libraries of all types play in society. Information about ALIA's advocacy program can be found at <http://alia.org.au/advocacy/>, which also includes information about ALIA's policy statements and a number of member-only resources to help our institutional members with their own advocacy program.

Finally, your membership ensures the successful governance of ALIA Ltd, including supporting the work of the Board of Directors and the many advisory groups to the Board <http://alia.org.au/governance/>.

So when your renewal invoice drops into the letterbox, don't hesitate to renew. You can do so online at <http://membership.alia.org.au/renewal.aspx> (you will need your membership number and website password) or by phone, fax, or post. We are looking forward working with you through your involvement in the Association, and its activities, to keep ALIA vibrant and relevant. ■

### Local liaison officers

LLOs are ALIA representatives in each state/territory. Their duties include being a point of contact for members and non-members and ALIA groups.

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— from 1 July 2006

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