

Thank you **ALIA!**

In February, 32 participants and 9 mentors from libraries and information centres across Australia and New Zealand found themselves in sunny and beautiful Thredbo for the 11th Aurora Leadership Institute.

The Aurora Leadership Institute is held annually and aims to "... assist future leaders in the library and associated cultural and information industry to maximise their leadership skills and potential." John Shannon and Becky Schreiber from Schreiber Shannon Associates lead the program.

Many library and information professionals working in Australia have heard of this course before, or know colleagues who have attended. There is a certain mystique surrounding the Aurora experience, with rumours of dancing across hot coals, challenging moments and tears, singing and cricket matches. Past Aurorans have been sworn to a code of silence so anybody interested should keep checking the Aurora website. Information about the 2009 Institute will be posted there in mid 2008 for interested people to apply and find out for themselves exactly what happens at Aurora.

This year, I was one of the fortunate people selected to attend Aurora 2008. Without giving anything away, I can say the week was very rewarding personally and professionally, and also a lot of fun.



Aimee Herridge, John Shannon and Beck Schreiber

I am an Australian-trained librarian who has been working at the United Nations Office at Geneva Library in Switzerland since 2004. Prior to this I was a volunteer librarian at the Hanoi University of Foreign Studies, Vietnam as part of the Australian Youth Ambassadors for Development program. I was really interested in attending the Aurora Institute to develop my leadership skills and re-connect with Australian librarians and libraries.

Although I could convince my employers of the merits of Aurora, their training budget could not cover the international airfares and the Aurora Institute course fees. I applied for the ALIA Aurora Scholarship and was very lucky to be named the recipient. **Thank you ALIA!** Without your support, i would not have been able to attend Aurora 2008.

Information about the available scholarships to attend Aurora, the Warren Horton Scholarship awarded by the Aurora Foundation, the ALIA Aurora Scholarship, and the AGLIN Aurora Scholarship can also be found on the Aurora website <http://www.alia.org.au/~aurora/aurora.html>

Aimée Herridge
aimeejoan@hotmail.com

Did you hear???

British author JK Rowling is eager to tell a judge that one of her biggest fans is in fantasyland if he believes a Harry Potter encyclopaedia he plans to publish does not violate her copyrights.

The trial comes eight months after Rowling published her seventh and final book in the widely popular series about a boy wizard. The books have been published in 64 languages, sold more than 400 million copies and spawned a film franchise that has pulled in \$US4.5 billion (\$A4.87 billion) at the worldwide box office.

Rowling brought the lawsuit last year against Vander Ark's publisher, RDR Books, to stop publication of the *Harry Potter Lexicon*.

Rowling is actually a big fan of the Harry Potter Lexicon website that Vander Ark runs. But she draws the line when it comes to publishing the book and charging \$US24.95 (\$A26.98) for it. She also says it fails to include any of the commentary and discussion that enrich the website and calls it "nothing more than a rearrangement" of her own material.

Rowling has said she intends to publish her own definitive Harry Potter encyclopaedia.

<http://www.smh.com.au/news/books/jk-rowling-takes-fan-to-court/2008/04/14/>



*J.K. Rowling
(photo courtesy
of SnitchSeeker.
com <http://www.snitchseeker.com/>)*



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