

A healthy dose of the news HLA style



HLA News is the flagship publication of the ALIA group, Health Libraries Australia (HLA). Material published supports the group's vision of promoting, informing, uniting, influencing, and innovating libraries and information professionals in the health and biomedical sector.



A direct benefit to HLA members, *HLA News* is published four times a year and pushed out to HLA members' desktops via a PDF email attachment. It is also posted on the HLA website <http://www.alia.org.au/groups/healthnat/hla/>, the most recent issue being password protected and accessible to current members only. Older issues, however, are available under open access.



Melanie Kammermann
Editor, *HLA News*

Getting the bulletin together is no insignificant task especially when a lot of the work is done by volunteers. As HLA's initial convenor, I recall banging out the first incarnation of *HLA News* back in 2001 using Microsoft Publisher. It was the first and *only* issue in this form...I just didn't have the time! This all changed in 2003 when EBSCO Information Services began its very generous sponsorship of the bulletin. EBSCO's backing enables HLA to engage Jo-anne Fuller of Photographis to weave her desktop publishing magic and produce a truly professional looking publication.

The first issue was published in June 2003 under the editorial command of Patrick O'Connor. The issue was 10 pages long and the lead 'article' was an update of the pay claim being made by health library workers in NSW. The feedback received was tremendous.

"...the whole issue looks terrific. Professional and lively"

"Congratulations! This newsletter looks terrific and is full of interesting information."

"The newsletter is looking great - good on you both for doing this and keeping HLA at the forefront."

In 2005, I had the honour of taking over as editor. These days *HLA News* runs to an average of 16 pages and we are fortunate enough to not only have health librarians write for publication but also library academics and health care professionals.

A particular highlight for the bulletin came in 2006 when a joint press release by HLA, CINAHL Inc. and EBSCO Publishing announced that *HLA News* would be selectively indexed for inclusion in the CINAHL database, further increasing the accessibility of content to a national and international audience. Records for 2007 and 2008 are now available in the database.

Further welcome news came in 2008 when InfoSource Publishing announced that *HLA News* would be included in

The Informed Librarian Online in addition to it being indexed in the ILOSearch database.

HLA News is unique in that it is the only national publication devoted to publishing news and articles for Australian health library workers by Australian health library workers. What makes the bulletin such a success is the generosity of our sponsor, EBSCO Information Services, the efforts of the editorial and publishing team and the myriad of professionals who commit to sharing their knowledge through publication.

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ALIA QLD Library Technicians Wanderer's tour

Much needed rain could not dampen the enthusiasm for 12 Queensland Library Technicians who travelled north on 11-12 October 2008 on the D'Aguilar Highway to visit three public libraries and see firsthand the services offered to the people of the South Burnett region.

The wanderers met at Blackbutt, where we discovered the local library was a one-stop shop for residents as the building held the library as well as a community area, bank, Medicare, and Centrelink facilities.

Wandering further north to Nanango Library, we were able to see how staff had developed their inter-library loans process, to better assist their users, and as most of our group worked with inter-library loans and document delivery, this proved to be a popular topic for discussion.

We travelled along the scenic drive to Kingaroy with a stop on the way at a lavender farm where we wandered through a shop full of country charm and as we sat in the garden, had the unusual but very nice lavender scones for our Devonshire tea.

Refreshed we continued to our motel, where we added eight local staff to our group so there were 20 for dinner on our own private balcony upstairs at the Carrolllee Hotel overlooking the town. Everyone had a good night with food, music and dancing.

Sunday morning we utilised Kingaroy's Enterprise Centre to conduct a session called 'Techno tools for libraries'. All 23 participants had a hands-on experience of web 2.0 applications. The workshop covered blogs, wikis, RSS feeds and social networking sites such as Facebook, and also the concept of 23 things. Morning tea at Kingaroy Library gave all a chance to view the library and discuss how our Techno tools could be incorporated into our libraries.

One of the great things about our group was the diversity of the participants; we covered TAFE, Specials, Public, Health, and State including four of our very enthusiastic library studies students, all making for a valuable networking experience, and talk already turning to next year's tour—perhaps wandering to the Southern Downs Region.

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