



Everything e and d ... and our future

My first Frontline, and the start of a year which promises to be both interesting and challenging.

Firstly, I'd like to thank past President Graham Black for his leadership through what was a difficult year of the Association. I have also valued the advice and support of Kate Sinclair and Gillian Hallam, outgoing members of the Board. Both have served multiple terms and they have made not only an important contribution to the general work of the Board and ALIA, but have also provided significant leadership of the Education and Professional Development (Gill) and Membership and Awards (Kate) Standing Committees.

I'd like to welcome the three new Board members, Vanessa Little, (Vice President), Kathryn Cass and Joseph Cullen who together with ongoing members Julie Rae and John Bayliss form the Board. My thanks also go to Andrew Hocken who has unfortunately had to step down from the Board but I'm very pleased that Graham Black has agreed to fill the vacancy and continue his work with the Board.

The Board has planned for a balanced budget in 2011 and working with National Office staff we are making good progress towards this goal keeping the long term financial sustainability of ALIA top of mind.

The Board has also been considering and developing our strategy for the coming years and this will be released shortly to members.

Whilst 12 months is only a brief time in which to influence the future of the Association, I hope that the Board can begin a discussion about the future of our profession. What will a library be in 20 years and what will it mean to be a librarian? Our profession is one that is changing rapidly and whilst our core role of connecting people with information is still as relevant as ever, the way in which we do this is changing as perhaps never before.

Our Incite theme this month of everything e and d says it all. New and changing publishing methods, evolving technologies, changes to teaching and learning and information never more easily available are influencing how we interact with and serve our communities. As these changes roll on, what will be the role of the library and the librarian in the future? Are we in danger of becoming 'museums' of the book or will we continue to proactively respond to the needs of the communities we serve?

Whilst I'm absolutely confident of our future, I believe we need to be prepared for a changing profession. One of ALIA's key roles is to define and uphold our professional standards and in a changing world ALIA can and must take a leadership role for and on behalf of the profession. I hope that I can encourage debate and discussion about our future role, and the role of ALIA into the future.

I have already had the opportunity to speak with many members about their expectations of ALIA, and I look forward to lots of further opportunities in the coming months to continue the discussion.

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YOUR INDUSTRY SNAPSHOT

New name for public libraries in ACT

The public library services provided by the Department of Territory and Municipal Services in the ACT has relaunched as Libraries ACT, with a new website to match, offering new services including an events calendar, easy access to e-book services and information about the public and heritage libraries around the ACT. Next on the ACT agenda is the opening of the new Gungahlin Library with a cafe and a retro hang out zone complete with space invaders carpet. www.library.act.gov.au.

Show me the money

The Copyright Australia Limited Cultural Fund has donated \$5000 to each of the finalists in this year's Miles Franklin Literary Award shortlist. The three happy authors are Roger McDonald for *When Colts Ran*, Kim Scott for *That Deadman Dance* and Chris Womersley for *Bereft*.

First yes, now no

The amended settlement agreement in the Google Books case has been rejected. Drafted by Google, authors and publishers to settle their dispute over the digitisation of books, the agreement was determined to be unfair in that it would give Google too significant an advantage over competitors. www.nsyd.uscourts.gov/cases/show.php?db=special&id=115. The law has a way to go to catch up and here's hoping they get on with it – Association of American Publishers trade growth figures in February put e-books in the #1 spot, outstripping print in all publishing categories.

10 Facebook pages for techies

Spotted by ALIA's State Manager for Victoria, Margie Anderson: American Libraries Direct's top ten picks for technology websites at www.allfacebook.com/10-facebook-pages-every-techie-should-follow-2010-10.