

## Finding solutions for a healthy digital future

I am sure that many of us in the library business are testing our friends, family and acquaintances on the *Evs P* debate. With this edition focusing on what a big part our future looks like, it is certainly interesting when you broach the subject of ebooks how so many still react by proclaiming that they love their print books. Recently however, the statistics are showing that ebooks are being consumed at a much greater rate than ever before. Change is upon us - how are you changing with the times?

Print will obviously be a part of our future, but we must ensure that we all have the ability to change rapidly into the new worlds of electronic delivery and service models and ensure that we can digitise our important collections for greater access.

And what is your Association doing about those bigger issues? We are continuing our work with the Book Industry Strategy Group [www.innovation.gov.au/bisg](http://www.innovation.gov.au/bisg) as well as media and discussions internationally on the issue of limiting ebook lending rights.

Our rollout of digital playback players through The Library Initiative with the Department of Families, Housing, Communities and Indigenous Affairs continues -congratulations to the many libraries that are part of this project during 2011(see story on page 25).

These challenges also arose in discussions at our latest ALIA Roundtable meeting in May. The ALIA Roundtable seeks to bring together the major Australian libraries and library associations, and the different sectors of the profession to discuss current and emerging issues, and to develop collaborative solutions and actions. Minutes, papers and outcomes are available from the website at [www.alia.org.au/roundtable](http://www.alia.org.au/roundtable).

The dependence on e & d will also be on how it can be delivered. ALIA has participated in a number of broadband summits and we presented to the public hearing of the House of Representatives Committee Inquiry into the Role and Potential of the NBN on 27th May in Canberra.

And I was proud to be in the Chamber gallery on Monday 23rd May to see Amanda Rishworth MP table the **School libraries and teacher librarians in 21st century Australia** report. This is an important report for all library sectors that includes eleven recommendations relating to digital literacy skills, electronic resources for all Australian schools, the National Year of Reading 2012 and ALIA and ASLA working together with state education departments and DEEWR on a number of studies and reports to support school libraries and teacher librarians. Our advocacy campaign materials can also be found at [www.alia.org.au/schoollibraries](http://www.alia.org.au/schoollibraries).



## Board matters

At the end of April 2011 Andrew Hocken submitted his resignation to the ALIA Board of Directors. This was formally advised to members attending the 2011 Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 17th May 2011. Under ALIA By-law 5, Section 9, if there is a casual vacancy on the ALIA Board it shall be filled by the President making an appointment of a current, personal financial member and at the first meeting of the new Board of Directors on Wednesday 18th May 2011, ALIA President, Margaret Allen advised that she would be appointing Graham Black to the casual vacancy position until the AGM 2012. Graham looks forward to continuing his time on the ALIA Board of Directors for one more year. Our thanks to Andrew Hocken for his contribution to the ALIA Board and to Graham for assisting us in this way.

### Sue Hutley

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PS - I'm sleeping out in the Canberra cold again on 16 June for the Vinnies CEO Sleepout - [www.ceosleepout.org.au](http://www.ceosleepout.org.au)

## YOUR ALIA SNAPSHOT

### Are your membership details up to date?

Check and update your membership details before renewals are sent out at [www.alia.org.au/members-only.html](http://www.alia.org.au/members-only.html).

### Standards and Guidelines for Australian Public Libraries

There are 12 quality level standards and 20 best practice guidelines for public libraries in *Beyond a Quality Service: Strengthening the Social Fabric – Standards and Guidelines for Australian Public Libraries*. Commissioned by the Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA) and the ALIA Public Libraries Advisory Committee (PLAC), the *Guidelines* use the National and State Libraries Australasia (NSLA) annual collation of state and territory statistics as its evidence base and builds on the earlier work on standards and guidelines carried out by the State Libraries of New South Wales and Queensland.

The *Guidelines* are available online at [www.alia.org.au/publiclibraries](http://www.alia.org.au/publiclibraries). Download your copy today.

### Need a library fact?

Working on a submission or making a funding bid? Find handy Australian library facts at [www.alia.org.au/australianlibraries](http://www.alia.org.au/australianlibraries).

### If you're going e...

As it's the e and d issue, don't forget ALIA has recently launched the ePortfolios in professional practice group. This virtual group will use the aliaEPortfolios elist to host discussion and facilitate learning for members already using ePortfolios and those just starting out. Corrinne Hills is convening this group. Subscribe at [www.alia.org.au/alianet/elists/](http://www.alia.org.au/alianet/elists/).