DIGEST PD

As the year is drawing to a close, there's an opportunity for reflection on all that has happened in the last 12 months and to plan for the new year.

2016 has been a jam-packed year for ALIA. The year always starts well with Library Lover's day breakfasts around the country. Not that I am focused on food but ALIA members are noted for their ability to combine learning with celebrations. We had the hugely successful Australian National Early Literacy Summit in March. Outcomes and plans from that event are still bearing fruit.

Brisbane's ALIA Student and New Graduates Group had a Picnic in the Park in March and Vic Specials continued the food theme with the Edible Book Festival in April. May in WA began with a celebratory dinner to honour Kerry Smith. SA had Library Celebrations at the Pub and Library Week was full of dinners. The ALIA Top End Group had a Beach Breakfast in July while those in the South were shivering with wintry weather Christmas in July dinners. As you know, not all cooking is frivolous as last year's 'Cooking for Copyright Campaign' showed.

Networking remains one of the most important activities supporting a professional career. This year's ALIA National Conference in Adelaide was excellent for facilitating conversations with vendors, discussing presentations and research, and taking full advantage of colleagues innovative ideas. For those who could not get to Adelaide there were tweets, conference Wrap Ups and papers published on ALIA READ.

The 2016 ALIA Education Trend Report identified challenging issues for the profession, but one thing was reinforced – the importance of continuing professional development.

Opportunities to learn are abundant whether they are formal, such as the tertiary courses listed in our Annual LIS Education Handbook enclosed with this issue, or informal through webinars, MOOCS, and professional reading. So much is now available at your desk that choice and time are now the greatest challenges to learning, not access. Use ALIA's *PD Postings* to identify and motivate you to undertake PD each month.

Combining this with networking and something delicious, you can look forward to a fulfilling and professionally rewarding 2017.

JUDY BROOKER AALIA (CP)
Director of Learning
judy.brooker@alia.org.au

ALIA'S 80TH CELEBRATIONS

The inaugural gathering of the Australian Institute of Librarians at the Albert Hall in Canberra on 21 August 1937. Photo: Courtesy of the Mitchell Library, State Library of NSW

Next year ALIA will be celebrating '80 years strong'! Our anniversary will celebrate the inaugural gathering of the Australian Institute of Librarians at the Albert Hall in Canberra on 21 August 1937.

Tricia Genat, President of ALIA, said: 'Then, as now, there was recognition that by working together we can achieve more – improving the quality of the profession, which in turn improves library services.

'When I look at the photograph of the occasion, I am impressed by the formality of the day and the seriousness of the occasion. You can't help but wonder how the photo would look today. Of course, there would be a much wider range of ethnicity and gender, reflecting the changes in Australian society.

'But I am sure that the love of this profession and our core values, such as the free flow of information and ideas through access to recorded knowledge, information and creative works, has not changed.

'The aim of preserving the human record is still paramount, but the way it is done – through digitisation, creation of digital works and accessing information online through cloud-based services – could not have been imagined in 1937.

'But I am sure that the increased accessibility of information would have been welcomed by our founders, and we owe it to them to continue to innovate and transform the way we deliver our services in this information-rich world.'

One of the ways ALIA will commemorate the occasion is with a function at ALIA House in Canberra, and other groups in our national organisation are planning their own state and territory-based events.