

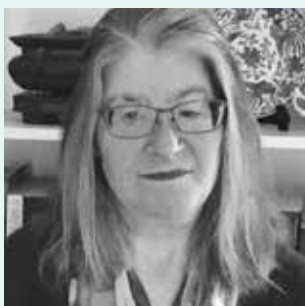
HOPES FOR THE FUTURE

Only 20 years to go! As we head toward our 100th anniversary, ALIA wanted to hear the thoughts of our Advisory Committees and Groups on the future of the LIS sector. Here are their inspiring ideas about their expectations for the future.



Sandy Tomley
Co-convenor
ALIES

I would like to see a continued growth in the appreciation of what libraries and librarians can offer to their clients, communities and organisations. We are that link to information and knowledge for people, whatever their needs, at any time of their life.



Melissa Francis, (CP)
Convenor
Special Libraries Group,
South Australia

I joined ALIA as a new graduate about nine years ago. Since then, I have been to workshops, training sessions, planning days, conference round-ups and social get-togethers, each time coming away with a broader knowledge of the range of activities going on in the sector, fantastic examples of how other organisations are handling change in

their workplaces, and my enthusiasm and focus renewed.

I am now the convenor of the Special Libraries group in South Australia. With this group we have toured some amazingly special places where librarians are, as usual, doing so much with so little.

We need our national body, ALIA, to continue standing up for libraries. It will always be a battle to explain to accountants what immense value libraries contribute to communities, organisations and corporations, despite the figures on their spreadsheets. ALIA needs a big strong voice in these times of rapid change and upheaval, and we should all be there to stand stronger together.

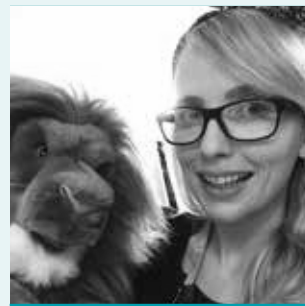


Kim Lewin, AALIA
ALIA Queensland

As a child, I always wanted to be a butcher. I loved the butchering of the meat and the charisma of the butcher. Butcher shops and butchers haven't changed all that much; butchers are still full of personality.

It was fortunate, though, that I didn't follow that childhood dream. Instead I turned to librarianship, a profession, unlike butchery, that has undergone – and continues to undergo – rapid, change and disruption. The disruption to the profession has instilled in me the importance of keeping an open mind and a positive attitude, the qualities of being solution-focused, the significance of reflective practice, the importance of unlearning and relearning and the strength of sharing and networking.

I look forward to future disruptions as we continue to reshape and reinvent the profession so that we remain relevant, innovative and lead change into the future.



Nicola McGeown,
ALIA Tec (CP)
Convenor
ALIA CYS group

I hope that with the ever-changing role of the library we will always provide spaces for reading. Magical spaces

for readers of all ages that will transport them into the amazing world of books and foster a love of reading. I hope that libraries will continue to be seen as special places that spark our imaginations and enrich our lives.



Anne Girolami, AALIA (CP)
ALIA Schools & School
Library Advisory
Committee Chair

The professional development opportunities offered by ALIA Schools are responsive to innovation in both the education and library sectors. Exploring new ways to make these opportunities more widely available is a focus for this year as well as into the near future.

ALIA Schools has a creditable list of publications, especially over the past decade. This list illustrates the capacity to take the initiative in responding to developments in both the education and library sectors. Currently the School Library Advisory Committee, one of ALIA's advisory groups, is writing suggested guidelines regarding time allotment of face-to-face teaching and library management duties. In common with the other publications, this will provide practical advice and support to practitioners. Other publications will appear as new policy directions are identified and the implications for library staff are explored.



Lauren Stratton, ALIATec
Chair
ALIA SA

Through membership of ALIA, I have gained a community of enthusiastic, like-minded people who support, encourage, challenge, and inspire me. My membership enabled me to join the ALIA SA Group in 2015, and provided me with the opportunity to take on my current role as Chair of the committee. Actively participating in an ALIA group has helped me to develop valuable transferable skills, contribute to the LIS sector, expand my professional network, and engage with GLAM

professionals across Australia. ALIA has also given me invaluable opportunities to volunteer at conferences. I can honestly say joining ALIA was one of the best decisions I have made for my career.



Alisa Howlett, AALIA (CP)
Chair
ALIA New Generation
Advisory Committee

Driven by a sense of responsibility and a desire to learn how to be an active library and information professional, I have volunteered with ALIA over the last seven years. I have broadened my awareness of information sectors and contexts and sustained my curiosity through meeting other professionals and learning about their experiences.

Being a part of, and chairperson of, the New Generation Advisory Committee (NGAC) has been the most rewarding of my volunteer roles. Through collaboration with a diverse team, and in partnership with the Students and New Graduates Group, I continue to be inspired by what we achieve for our new library and information professional community. The future of the library and information profession relies on the sustainability of our body of knowledge, by continuing to enable and inspire new library and information professionals to participate, engage, converse and contribute.



Jan Richards, AM,
FALIA (CP)
Chair
Australian Public
Library Alliance

As I write this I have just returned from an Australian Public Library Alliance meeting in Geelong, where I was reminded, once again, of how lucky I am to work in the collaborative world of public libraries. All Australian states and territories were represented around the table by committed library professionals, all at different stages in their careers and each bringing a wealth of knowledge and experience to the discussion. When I reflect on what I have learned from this group, and the combined wisdom and generosity of the many people I have interacted with in the

45 years since I first started in libraries, I realise that my career has been richer for their shared input, and I look to the future with excitement knowing that together we can climb mountains.

Happy 80th birthday, ALIA, with many more to come.



Debra Hannan, AALIA
Co-chair
VET Library Advisory
Committee

People used to think of libraries as just quiet places of reading, but now they also see them as essential places of learning that extend beyond the library walls. The library is not only a place to access knowledge, but also an innovative, multi-use community space where you can try new things, develop ideas, create, share and work together. The future provides exciting opportunities for libraries to play an increasingly significant role in developing communities and building futures. As new technologies emerge, libraries will continue to evolve and transform.

A library consists of collections and buildings, but in the 21st century the library is also about people and experiences. Professional library staff play a vital role in ensuring that learners are equipped with the skills and knowledge they need to participate and succeed, to provide services to their communities and to help their libraries and communities grow.



Dr Suzana Sukovic, AALIA
ALIA LARK

Library Applied Research Kollektive (LARK) is a group of library and information professionals and academics who believe in the importance of applied and practice-based research. The group was formed five years ago in Sydney where it is still predominantly based. Earlier this year, LARK extended to South Australia with the beginning of its Adelaide chapter. Although most of our face-to-face events are still in Sydney, LARK has a strong online

presence and organises a couple of online events each year. Our collaborative blog has visitors from all over the world. We are always happy to consider blog posts on research-related topics. LARK maintains close connections with other professional groups interested in how people learn and work with information.

Anyone who is interested in practice-based research is welcome to join us online or in person. The best opportunity to connect with LARK this year will be our seminar on 22 September – Holy Evidence: Research in information practice.

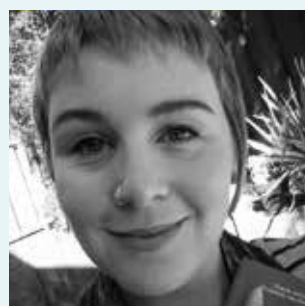


ALIA Students
and New
Graduates Group

When we were asked to write down our hopes for the future of our sector, we knew that the most important aspiration for us would be collaboration. This is also why our picture shows our whole group (which has grown further since we created the collage!), because it is the teamwork in our group that has allowed us to achieve so much.

The ALIA Students and New Graduates Group works with ALIA and other GLAMR associations, LIS schools and the industry to improve access to the profession for students and new graduates and to allow them to take ownership of their careers. For the future, we envision continued sharing of knowledge and experience between new and established professionals, and also stronger networks between GLAMR sectors.

Collaboration makes us better and stronger as individuals and as a profession.



Mel Duncan, ALIATec (CP)
Group Convenor
ALIA Hunter

Who can say what libraries will look like in 20 years? There is one thing I've learned in my short time in the field, though: that we need to remain people-focused

even through periods of great change. Networks like ALIA will remain relevant even as technology and communities change beyond recognition. Being part of a local ALIA group has not only enriched my professional life, but helped to better humanise a profession that focuses so often on information. My hope for the future is that we continue to keep that important relationship between the information we manage and its human uses. We are more than just gatekeepers – we are also here to engage, and encourage engagement in others. Here's to 80 years of ALIA, to 100 years, and beyond.



Matthew Griffiths
ALIA Tec (CP)
Convenor ALIA NSW
Library Technicians

ALIA Membership and the other professional networks I belong to broaden my knowledge on how we do things, especially as we move increasingly into the digital environment. I love networking and collaborating with our library and information colleagues as we share valuable information to make our job more rewarding, and we will still be relevant when we turn 100 in 20 years' time as we all learn to adapt to challenges.



Ann Ritchie, AALIA (CP)
Health Convenor
Health Libraries Australia
and the Health Libraries
Advisory Committee

Longevity in a career isn't as valued as it once was, and staying a long time in a job or a career contradicts current beliefs that switching jobs every year or so and having multiple careers is the best way to get ahead.

In the world of health librarianship, however, loyalty and having a sense of vocation appear to be the norm – once a health librarian, always a health librarian. Why is this so? There are three possible reasons:

1. Health librarianship is a dynamic profession in which librarians are challenged by the need to learn and adapt, and be flexible and creative.

2. Health librarians are passionate about their professional commitments and responsibilities, and are deeply committed to the principle of equity of access to information – because knowledge is power. We also value research-based evidence and literacy in a world in which everyone with an opinion is a so-called expert.

3. Many health librarians are professionally isolated, often the only person in their organisation who is doing their kind of work. Belonging to HLA and ALIA enables us to develop our careers and our library and information services so they align with our organisations' goals of clinical care, research and education. On a national level, research-based advocacy has given us a stronger, unified voice, helping our profession to thrive.



Rebecca Barber, AALIA (CP)
(left), and **Aileen Weir,**
AALIA (CP)
Co-convenors
ALIA University and
Research Libraries (URLs)

Big data, digitisation, Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs), research repositories, open access – it's an exciting and pivotal time for information professionals working in educational and research institutions. ALIA URLs has been at the forefront of issues affecting library professionals in higher education for years. Our annual seminars and popular lunchtime PD sessions have tackled topics ranging from copyright and ebooks to social media, advocacy and library design. Our forthcoming 2017 seminar, titled Partnerships and Collaborations in the Age of Digital Disruption, focuses on the ability of information professionals to continually adapt, exercise skills in new ways and cultivate relationships. With all the change that surrounds us in our working lives, we need a strong, united and vibrant professional association. And ALIA is us – so don't hesitate to put up your hand and get involved in an ALIA group, advisory committee or the planning of an event. You will have fun, strengthen your skills and establish great contacts. No regrets, guaranteed! 🌟