THE RELEVANCE
OF RESEARCH

Lisra

LIBRARY AND INFORMATION
SCIENCE RESEARCH AUSTRALIA

The importance of research goes unquestioned in the scientific sector. But research is also critically important for libraries if they are to continue to be relevant to the communities they serve. HELEN PARTRIDGE and LISA GIVEN report on a new research project that will help to make libraries more effective.

The Library and Information Science Research Australia (LISRA) is a three-year project aimed at encouraging and enabling research culture and practice within Australia's library and information science (LIS) profession. The project is funded by the Australian Research Council and involves the University of Southern Queensland, Charles Sturt University, the Australian Library and Information Association, and National and State Libraries Australasia.

In 2016, LISRA launched the Research Assistance & Development for Australian Researchers (RADAR) Grant to provide a series of supportive activities to foster research activities in the Australian LIS profession. The RADAR grant provides research funding to teams of academics and practitioners to explore a research problem that will contribute to knowledge and practice in LIS. It also provides a supportive network of academics and practitioners to foster engagement and build capacity in LIS research practice.

A call for applications for the RADAR grant was announced at the ALIA National 2016 Conference held in Adelaide last year. All LIS academics and LIS practitioners living in Australia were eligible to apply. Thirteen applications, exploring many different facets of LIS practice, were received. Three projects were funded and will be undertaken this year:

- *The Role of Academic Libraries in Promoting Scholarly Communication Literacy Amongst Australian Researchers: Open Access, Researcher Identity and Social Impact.*
Edward Luca, Bhuva Narayan, Mal Booth, Belinda Tiffen and Ashley England, University of Technology Sydney
- *We're all in this together: investigations of a single presentation for books in all formats.*
Dana McKay, Swinburne University of Technology; George Buchanan, University of Melbourne
- *Non-library use immigrants: how can libraries support their information experience?*
Elham Sayyad Abdi and Kathleen Smeaton, Queensland University of Technology; Debra Cooper, Logan City Council Libraries

Last year the LISRA project also launched an online survey aimed at exploring the research activities and experiences of Australian LIS practitioners. We thank the 404 practitioners who completed the survey. The key findings from the survey will be shared with the Australian LIS sector in the coming months.

All Australian LIS practitioners, students and researchers are invited to participate in this study. To learn about the many ways you can contribute to the project, follow @LISResearchAu on Twitter or contact the project investigators, Professor Helen Partridge and Professor Lisa Given (see contact details below).

For more information on the LISRA project go to lisresearch.org.au.

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ALIA 80 YEARS STRONG