



ALIA Board of Directors meeting

Take home messages

Monday 5th & Tuesday 6th December 2022

Deakin Downtown, Collins Street, Melbourne and via Zoom

Present

Vicki Edmunds (President)
Clare Thorpe (Vice President)
Hero Macdonald
Janette Wright
Kathryn Eyre
Mary Carroll
Alissa Sputore

Meeting summary

At meetings held over two days in December, the ALIA Board discussed a wide range of issues some of which are set out below.

1. Market research

The Board had a presentation from Bastion Insights, a market research company engaged by ALIA. Bastion have been carrying out focus groups and a survey (which closes on Friday 16 December) to inform ALIA's membership model and membership offerings. ALIA wants to understand what members value the most so we can design our services to meet those needs.

Some clear trends are already emerging about key areas we will focus on, what needs to be improved and what we should continue doing. The results of the survey and the focus groups will be carefully analysed and a report will be available for members in 2023. You will also hear about changes we are making and new approaches we are taking in response to your feedback.

2. Advocacy

ALIA's role in advocating for the sector has been a key issue of concern that has been brought up repeatedly in meetings across the country, through the leadership and innovation roundtables, the professional pathways consultation and the Membership focus groups.

In 2023 we are proposing two key advocacy areas of focus:

- Employer engagement around the role of LIS professionals
- School libraries

These areas of focus will help to prioritise work, and to build a core set of messaging and resources that can be used to support ALIA's policy and advocacy work. Structured advocacy campaigns also provide the opportunity to integrate core values and research, as well as frameworks such as the Sustainable Development Goals.



Alongside these advocacy priorities, we will continue to work in partnership with other organisations to progress mutually agreed policy agendas in areas such as reading promotion, media literacy and funding for the GLAM sector, and be in a position to respond to emerging issues and take advantage of points of opportunity.

ALIA's [submission](#) to the National Cultural Policy highlighted the centrality of libraries to Australia's Arts and Cultural ecosystem and made a number of recommendations for policy and program initiatives, from funding to support First Nations people to enter and progress in the LIS sector through to funding for school libraries and copyright reform. ALIA also made a [joint submission](#) with [Books Create Australia](#).

Following the submission, ALIA CEO Cathie Warburton was invited to join other representatives from not for profit arts organisations to a [dinner with Arts Minister Tony Burke](#) and special envoy for the arts Susan Templeton. At that meeting Cathie was able to speak about the importance of libraries to the National Cultural Policy.

3. Professional Pathways

Geoff Stempel, Chair of the Professional Pathways Advisory Board (PPAB), joined the meeting to provide a report from the PPAB on the progress of the Professional Pathways initiative. Since the August ALIA Board meeting the first consultation phase has been completed, with face-to-face and online workshops, written submissions and a survey.

The ALIA Board heard that the PPAB had considered the preliminary feedback from the consultation and identified the areas of general agreement and areas where more work needs to be done. The PPAB has established three working groups to progress work before the next PPAB meeting (February) and ALIA Board meeting (March):

1. Framework structure and conceptual design
2. Recognition and categorisation
3. The question of mandatory/optional CPD

The ALIA Board noted the contributions of all the people who had contributed to the consultation and the contribution of the PPAB Members, and the importance of progressing the recommendations 2: strengthen LIS education and 4: employer engagement, in 2023.

4. Leadership and Innovation Roundtables

In the second half of 2022 ALIA held a series of small functions across Australia with members and leaders in the library and information services industry. The purpose was to facilitate discussion about industry trends, challenges and opportunities from the perspective of those working across all sectors, from schools to universities and from public libraries to special libraries as well as LIS educators and researchers. ALIA also wanted to hear feedback on its performance and where members thought it should be focusing its efforts into the future. A total of eight Roundtables were held, one in the capital city of every State and Territory, with more than 100 people in attendance.

Members brought much goodwill and energy to the meetings and were pleased to have the opportunity to gather together once again to share stories, discuss issues and brainstorm future initiatives for ALIA and the industry. From these conversations across the country a number of common themes emerged. They often started with the identification of a particular challenge and quickly moved on to an analysis of the possible causes and then a range of strategies to address the issues. There was no shortage of 'leadership' and 'innovation' at the table. A full report will be available to members in 2023.

5. 2023 Conference update

May

ALIA Information Online 2023

ALIA Information Online will take place on 17 and 18 May 2023 as a virtual event. Registrations opened on 5 December 2022.

National Simultaneous Storytime 2023

The date of 24 May is locked in for NSS 2023 and the book is 'The Speedy Sloth' written by Rebecca Young and illustrated by Heath McKenzie and published by Scholastic Australia. Registrations are open. Merchandise sales have also opened.

June

Health, Law and Specials conference

The Asia-Pacific Health, Law and Special Libraries Conference is scheduled to take place as a virtual event on 13, 14 and 15 June 2023.

Library Design Awards and Changing Spaces Conference

The new amazing library design website was launched in October along with the call for nominations. Nominations are accepted for public, academic, school and special categories along with a new 'other' category to encourage applications from new concept, pop-up, temporary or specialised libraries. Nominations close 6 March 2023. There will also be a members choice category. Voting for this award opens 14 March 2023.

The Changing Spaces conference is planned to take place on 22 June 2023 at the State Library of Queensland.

July

NLSX

The symposium will be held online on 29 July 2023. Holden Sheppard (author) and Catherine Clark (State Librarian WA) have been confirmed as keynote speakers.

September

National Library and Information Technicians' Symposium

The event will be held 20-22 September 2023.

November

Greening Libraries Conference

A Greening Libraries conference is planned as a virtual event for 15 November 2023.

6. ALIA Groups

ALIA groups have continued to meet and plan events over this period. Some highlights include:

ALIA Multicultural launched on Tuesday 22 November with a successful webinar featuring Professor Lo Bianco and with welcomes from ALIA President Vicki Edmunds and ALIA CEO Cathie Warburton. More than eighty people joined the seminar, following which a survey was launched to gather feedback on community priorities.



ALIA Rainbow's applications for a float in Sydney World Pride has been successful and ALIA will be marching (dancing) again with a routine that leans into and breaks away from stereotypes set to Bjork's "it's oh so quiet".

ALIA's newest group, the Digitisation Community of Practice (DCoP) grew out of a QULOC group, recognising the need for a supportive community that stretched beyond state and sector boundaries. The group aims to share digitisation processes and procedures to ensure best practice across the sector.

A small group of First Nations ALIA Members, led by Yanti Ropeyarn and Rebecca Bateman, are leading the work to reinvigorate ATSLIRN. After collecting feedback from some key people in ATSLIRN's history, a survey has been launched for First Nations People and Allies in the sector. This will inform a work program in 2023. The issue of the revision of the ATSLIRN protocols has been identified as a priority for a number of contributors.

Work continues on the ALIA HLA specialisation, with the first unit under development (led by contractor Daniel McDonald supported by ALIA Training Lead Gary Lom) and discussions are underway with a University who may be able to host the course.

To celebrate ALIA LARK's 10th anniversary, a well-attended research symposium was held at UTS in Sydney. Attended by practitioners and researchers, it was a great opportunity to connect and share research passions and experiences.

7. JALIA presentation

JALIA Editor Adjunct Associate Professor Mary Anne Kennan and Associate Editor Associate Professor Bhuva Narayan presented on the Journal of the Australian Library and Information Association (JALIA). The ALIA Board were pleased to hear of the successful year for JALIA with growing citation scores and impact factor. The special edition on Artificial Intelligence (AI) was particularly popular and demonstrated the important role the journal plays in progressing cutting areas of research. The current status of JALIA as a Green Open Access journal was discussed in light of the changing open access landscape. The ALIA Board thanked the Editors and noted the contributions by all the Editorial Board and contributors.

8. Financial sustainability

The financial report for October 2022 was considered and approved by the Board. An update on ALIA's investment portfolio to the end of September 2022 was also noted.