

Report on Involvement in International Activities

ALIA has consistently exerted its influence and maintained a presence in international activities. In 2017, an *International Relations Advisory Committee* was formed to advise the Board more consistently on issues related to international affairs, advocate on the benefits both for individuals and the Association in international engagement, encourage international collaboration and sharing of ideas and build awareness within the Australian library community of involvement in various international initiatives. Regular reports will be made in the various outreach opportunities provided by the Association.

Participation in Indian Public Libraries

Christine Mackenzie has had a long-time involvement in international library concerns, particularly through the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) and is currently President-elect of IFLA. She spoke at the third Indian Public Library Conference for over 400 delegates in New Delhi in early October 2017. Indian libraries have a proud tradition going back over one hundred years but have lost impetus more recently and need rejuvenation and redevelopment. The Indian Public Library Movement (IPLM) has been formed to highlight the opportunities and challenges facing public libraries in India. Founded by Dr "Shaddy" Shadrach, IPLM is hosted by the National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM) Foundation and is focusing on repositioning public libraries as local gateways to knowledge within their neighbourhoods.

The October conference highlighted the great need for libraries in India and outlined the role libraries play throughout the world in rich and poor societies. The energy and enthusiasm of participants at the conference brought hope and optimism that Indian libraries will receive appropriate Government support and see a resurgence of their role and renewal of their influence in the community. Further details on the conference are available at <https://www.christinemackenzie.com.au/news>.