

Dear Colleague,

I am just 10 days into the role as ALIA President but very aware that my year will go quickly. Having said that, it's amazing how much can be achieved in just 12 months. I hope you have had a chance to read the [ALIA Annual Report 2016](#), which tells the calendar-year story of an extremely active association with highly engaged Members. Highlights include:

- An awareness-raising [Parliament House event](#) in November 2016 for 80 guests, including library leaders, politicians, their advisers and Department staff. This was a very good opportunity to explain the value and impact of libraries right across Australia to federal government representatives.
- The FAIR [Great School Libraries](#) campaign, which saw more than 200 school libraries listed in Australian Teacher magazine.
- Further advances in [copyright law reform](#). We are so close to achieving our goal.
- Being a lead voice in lobbying for government investment in digital access to collections. We were delighted by the announcement of [\\$16.4 million](#) for Trove and National Library of Australia digitisation projects.

As an ALIA Member, I hope you have been able to take advantage of some of the many opportunities we have made available:

- Are you one of the 1300-plus professional Members, who are part of the [ALIA PD Scheme](#)? Or one of the 41 Members who achieved Distinguished/Certified Professional status in 2016?
- Were you one of more than 500 people who attended [ALIA Training](#) courses, many of them building on digital skills? Through ALIA Training, we provided nearly 12,000 hours of PD for the sector during 2016.
- Did you attend any of the 128 local PD and networking events, many of them free? [Take a look](#) at the calendar for this year, to see what else is happening near you.
- Were you one of the 800-plus delegates at the [ALIA National 2016 Conference](#) in Adelaide, inspired by some exceptional presentations? Perhaps you also joined us for the [ALIA Information Online](#) event in Sydney, in February 2017.
- Did you participate in one of the six free [LIS research](#) strategy events we held in capital cities across the country, in partnership with Charles Sturt University?
- Did your library celebrate [Library and Information Week](#)? And if you are in a school or public library, were your students among the 530,000 who took part [in National Simultaneous Storytime](#)?

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- Have you found useful information, reports, trends, jobs and advice on the [ALIA website](#), in [INCITE](#), [our journals](#), via [social media](#), or through our free [newsletters](#) ALIA Weekly, PD Postings and RecruitLIS?

We are continually looking for ways to make your membership count, whether that is lobbying for the sector or providing you with benefits that will help boost your career.

I plan to send out at least three updates during my presidency, so you can see what is happening. My special focus will be on international affairs, leading up to the first [Asia Pacific Library and Information Conference](#) on the Gold Coast in 2018, but I would also like to hear from you if there is anything you think we should be doing that we're not. You can email me at any time ALIAboard@alia.org.au.

Warm regards



Vicki McDonald
ALIA President