



# 2013 ALIA ACT National Advisory Congress

National Library of Australia  
10 September 2013

## Attendance:

**Chair: Aileen Weir**  
**ALIA Director**

Minute Taker: Rachael Hind

Attendance: Fiona Blackburn, Judy Brooker, Kate Bunker, Heather Clark, Stuart Ferguson, Jaci Ganendren, Kym Holden, Jill Howard, Sumithra Kolonne, Ian McCallum, Valerie Mackenzie, Melanie McMillan, Vandy Meyer, Roxanne Missingham, Karna O'Dea, Yasna Palaysa, Broderick Proeger, Clare Rix, Helen Roberts, Angela Swann, Karen Vaughan, Eric Wainwright, Lyn Werner, Erin York.

Apologies: Sherrey Quinn, Anne-Marie Schwirtlich, Annette McGuinness, Margy Burn

For Twitter conversation, see Storify at <http://storify.com/ALIANational/alia-act-national-advisory-congress>

## Welcome (by Aileen Weir)

### IFLA Trends Report (Aileen Weir)

<http://trends.ifla.org/>

#### 5 trends:

1. New Technologies will both expand and limit who has access to information.
2. Online Education will democratise and disrupt global learning.
3. The boundaries of privacy and data protection will be redefined..
4. Hyper-connected societies will listen to and empower new voices and groups.
5. The global information environment will be transformed by new technologies.

## The Future of the Profession project

Brief discussion about the ALIA Futures project. The Futures project will help the Board determine the focus of ALIA.

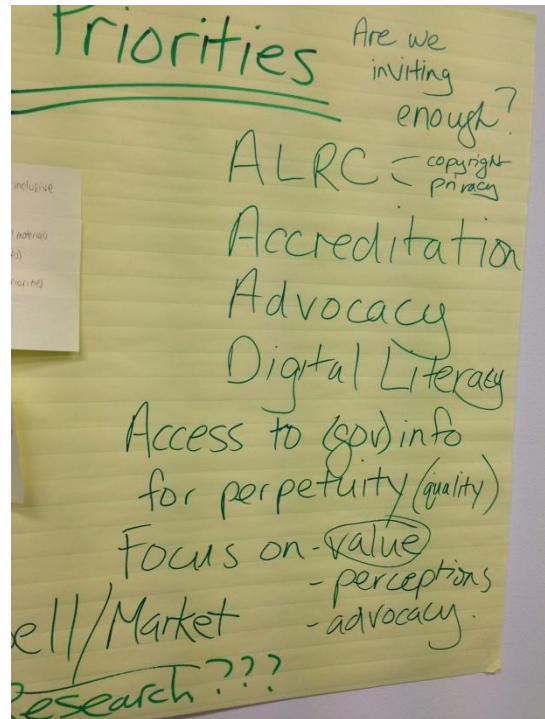
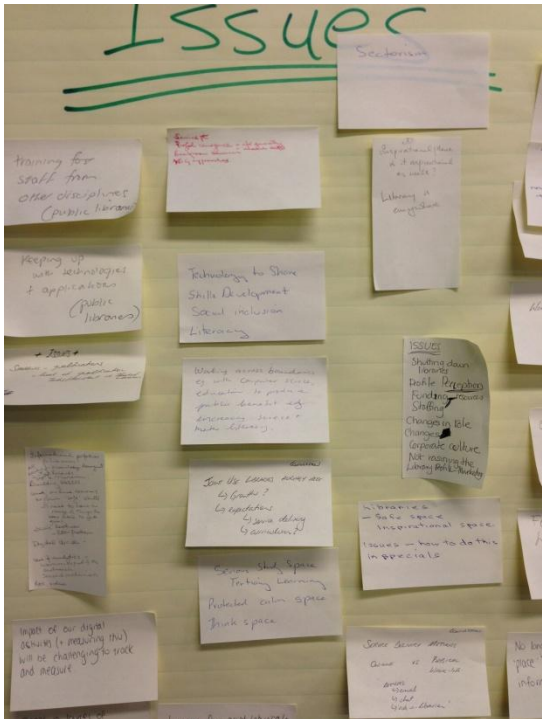


Figure 1 & 2: Brainstorming notes taken at ACT ALIA Futures Workshop, 10 September 2013.

**Question 1: What are our major challenges/issues?**

**Connection:**

Issues raised surrounded training, skills and qualifications of staff, keeping up with changing technologies, funding issues, closing down of libraries, service delivery methods, online vs physical spaces and social justice/equity of access to information in which libraries play a fundamental role in communities/society.

It was identified how important libraries are in connecting people, ideas and allowing thinking and inspiration.

**Convergence:**

Challenges include joint use libraries already in use, changes to collections (including digital) and libraries no longer the 'only' place to go for information.

**Golden Age of Information:**

Issues raised included technological advances, hand held devices, information sources, privacy issues, copyright issues, cost of information.

Trend/Issue	Impact	Likelihood	Opportunity	Challenge
Training for staff	High	High	Yes	Yes
Keeping up with training	High	High	Yes	Yes
Staff qualifications	High	High	Yes	Yes
Skills development	High	High	Yes	Yes
Joint use libraries	High	High	Yes	Yes
Physical space	High	High	Yes	Yes
Change to collections	High	High	Yes	Yes
Self-service/communicating with clients	Medium	High	No	Yes
Digital market/Digital Literacy	Medium	High	Yes	Yes

### Question 2: How should we respond? What are our priorities?

ALRC was identified as being a major priority in the near future. Accreditation, advocacy and digital literacy were also seen as high priorities. One ALIA member commented that ALIA should focus on one or two areas and 'do them really well.' It was advised that value, perceptions and advocacy were important to focus on.

Trend/issue	Individuals	Institutions	ALIA	Other Stakeholders
Accreditation of Library courses	Yes	Yes	Yes	Training/Education providers
Advocacy				
Library courses		Yes	Yes	Training/Education providers
Access to (govt) info for perpetuity (quality)		Yes	Yes	Many
Advocacy	Yes	Yes	Yes	Many
ALRC		Yes	Yes	Many
Big data		Yes	Yes	Many

### Summary, any other business

- Aileen read the values of ALIA: fundamental business of libraries.
- 'Survival through relevance.'
- Vast majority of Australians are able to get more information than ever. Important to be visibly meeting needs.
- 'Assume discovery happens elsewhere and focus on fulfillment.'
- 'Convergence' is used in a different way in this paper than it has been used in the library industry in the last few years.
- New corporate membership of ALIA very welcome.
- ALRC fundamental issue in the next 12 months. Copyright and privacy issues.
- Digital citizenship – advocacy for all having access to information.
- Libraries represent the key things people expect out of society.
- Information will be more expensive. Free information is becoming less common.
- Getting information from the Internet is like trying to take a drink from a fire hydrant"
- Quote from Ismail Serageldin, Director, Library of Alexandria: "the library services of tomorrow are being invented in our minds today."