



ALIA Research Advisory Committee Annual Report 2015

Membership

At the end of 2016, the Committee has 12 members who work in professional and academic positions. Suzana Sukovic, Ed Kostraby, Michael Olsson, Gail Schmidt and Margie Anderson left the Committee and we thank them for their contributions.

Suzana Sukovic and Diana Hodge finished their term as chairpeople in September, but continued in this role until November to complete work commenced in 2016. Bhuvu Narayan and Fiona Salisbury took over as co-chairpeople.

Meetings

RAC held 11 regular meetings (09 February, 08 March, 12 April, 10 May, 14 June, 12 July, 09 August, 07 September, 11 October, 08 November, and 13 December).

The main points of the discussion related to the following topics:

- Research award applications, selection and management of approved projects.
- Funding of Research Grant Award moved to Research Fund – supported by RAC.
- Inclusion of research papers in ALIA conferences. A proposed model was shared with ALIA Board.

Activities

Research awards.

- Three very high quality applications for the Research Grant Award were received – the Grant was awarded to Ann Ritchie and Michele Gaca for their project – *The contribution of Australian hospital libraries towards their organisations' achievement of accreditation by the National Safety and Quality in Health Care Service (NSQHS) Standards.*
- The Grant Report templates were revised.

Assistance with reports and submissions:

- The LISRA (Library Information Science Research Australia) project was supported by the RAC and ALIA. Sue McKerracher and Di Hodge volunteered to be on the Steering Committee for this project. Sue and Di assisted with the video competition and the awarding of the RADAR Grant.



- RAC supported the *Relevance 2020* project and assessed applications for the Rapporteur position.
- RAC contributed to the ALIA submission in response to the Australian Government National Research Infrastructure Roadmap Issues Paper in July.
- In May a response was provided to the *Issues paper: education evidence base*.
- RAC provided feedback on the *Research Library Associations Endorse Open Data Accord*.
- RAC provided feedback Federal Election agenda.

Organisation and delivery of events to promote research in the profession

- ALIA National conference workshop held. Very positive feedback was received and the workshop *Research in information practice* was rated in the top 3 at the conference (presented by Terri, Liz, Bhuva, Fiona, Ying Hsang, Katherine).
- A remote presentation was delivered at the Research Support Community Day, VALA. Suzana was invited to talk about LARK, and she included information about ALIA research activities.
- Relevance 2020 in Sydney – presentation about LARK and ALIA research activities prepared by Suzana and presented by Bhuva.
- In October Terri Pamment presented at the Technicians' Symposium and spoke about research opportunities and raised awareness of the Technicians Research Grant, also mentioned LARK.

Other activities

- ALIA Digital Repository – Katherine Howard is RAC representative.
- RAC contributed to redesign of ALIA website to make Research information and content more visible.
- ALIA LARK group joined the Canadian research network *C-EBLIP*.
- Student survey – RAC conducted a survey of LIS research students to investigate their needs. Fifty plus responses received.
- The research column in *Incite* continued. Pre-print version of articles was published on the LARK blog after publication in *Incite* as in the previous years.
- Register of research interests spreadsheet online was created.



Alignment with ALIA Strategic Plan

Outcome 1: Strengthening our membership

ALIA members have opportunities to take part in RAC activities. For research active members of the profession, a strong research presence may be a reason to join ALIA.

Outcome 2: Strengthening our Association

RAC as a group and its individual members have a key role in strengthening ALIA research agenda. RAC activities strengthen connections with academia.

Outcome 3: Strengthening our Profession

By providing advocacy for research, RAC makes an important contribution to strengthening our profession.

Outcome 4: The Future of our Profession

By supporting research through the Research Grant Award and supporting and contributing other LIS research projects we help to ensure an informed and relevant profession

Plans for the next year

RAC continuously looks for opportunities to strengthen research in the profession through education, promotion and advocacy. The following are some of the activities planned for the next year:

- RAC members intended to deliver a workshop at Information Online 2017. At the time of writing this report, we can confirm that the workshop *Data in Action* was presented in two parts: *Action research* (Suzana and Fiona) and *Online data* (Bhuva and Ying-Hsang)
- RAC members will continue to write for the research column in *InCite*.

Concluding Remarks

The ALIA RAC had a busy and productive year in 2017. Significant achievements being the completion of the delivery of a very successful Research Workshop at the ALIA National Conference in Adelaide, continuing improvements in managing the process of research award applications, the selection of winners for the Research Grant Award and contributions to *Relevance 2020* and the *LISRA* projects. With a renewed membership the RAC is well placed to further the ALIA research Agenda and the initiatives mentioned above.



Australian Library and
Information Association

Diana Hodge and Suzana Sukovic, March 2017.