



ALIA New Generation Advisory Committee Annual Report 2017

January 2018

Membership

Current: Alisa Howlett (Chair), Elizabeth Smith, Liz Alvey, Holly Radunz and Claire Murphy.

- Departures: Katie Miles-Barnes, James McGoran and Eva Samaras.

NGAC will be fare-welling Alisa Howlett at the end of March 2018.

Meetings

11 January 2017 – Planning for #auslibchat 2017 commenced. Review of ALIA NGAC manual continued. Planning for involvement with NLS8 – bursary and guest tweeter underway.

8 February 2017 – NGAC/SNGG blog collaboration discussion continued. Alisa circulated her CILIP Conference abstract submission for feedback from committee members. Katie, James and Liz continued work on NLS8 presentation. Planning and development of a survey focusing on communications underway, led by James. Planning for a Board Nominees Twitter chat commenced.

8 March 2017 – Promotion of ALIA NGAC NLS8 Bursary ongoing. Committee members reflected on a successful, special edition of #auslibchat with Board Nominees. Alisa reported on a meeting with new SNGG blog coordinators. InCite article drafting underway. James confirmed attendance at NLS8. Alisa's abstract for CILIP conference accepted.

12 April 2017 – Positive feedback received from the ALIA Board regarding Twitter Research Project Report. NGAC/SNGG blog collaboration on hold until after NLS8. InCite article submitted. Winner of ALIA NGAC bursary decided and announced. Planning for NLS8 breakout space underway. Review of ALIA NGAC manual approved.

10 May 2017 – Preparations for NLS8 are focus. #auslibchat continued to tick over. Communications/ e-list survey to be distributed.

14 June 2017 – New Board members join NGAC. Presentation and attendance at NLS8 – positive response. Committee members supported social media engagement throughout the symposium and collected feedback on issues of importance to attendees in the NLS8 Breakout Space.

12 July 2017 – NGAC supported the promotion of ALIA 80th Tribute blog. Further discussion and scoping of the NGAC/SNGG blog collaboration. NGAC provided feedback on the award nominations forms and process, referred to the ALIA Board.



Analysis of feedback received through the Breakout Space at NLS8 commenced. Eva shared exciting news of commencing a PhD.

9 August 2017 – News received of Alisa awarded the Metcalfe Award for 2017. NGAC supported SNGG recruitment drive for new National Resume Review Coordinator and Regional Coordinators. Slack was set up to enable better coordination of social media activities with SNGG. Katie and James submitted InCite article about the NLS8 Breakout Space. Eva and Katie presented NLS8 talk at the ALIA VIC NLS8 Wrap-up event. Data analysis of communications/e-list survey underway.

13 September 2017 – NGAC and ALIA engage in dialogue regarding the Marriage Equality Postal Vote. NGAC provided advice on this issue to support ALIA members. Katie Miles-Barnes submitted resignation from NGAC. Alisa provided insight to her experience at the CILIP Conference held in Manchester in July.

11 October 2017 – Ongoing dialogue with ALIA Board regarding Marriage Equality Postal Vote. NGAC commenced preparation of advice on critical librarianship issues with strong links to information access. Two articles for the ALIA FAIR website on the subject of marriage equality underway. NGAC continued support for SNGG to recruit a new National Resume Review Coordinator. Recruitment for four new NGAC members commenced.

8 November 2017 – Handover preparation underway for departing NGAC members (eg. #auslibchat duties and information). Liz and James submitted a memo to the ALIA Board detailing feedback received at NLS8 in the Breakout Space. Data analysis of communication/e-list survey ongoing. Applications for new NGAC members received.

13 December 2017 - NGAC paper on critical librarianship submitted to the ALIA Board for feedback. Critical librarianship paper results in a number of initiatives from ALIA including the request for papers in next year's APLIC, InCite and JALIA. Liz congratulated on book reviews published in JALIA this year. New candidates confirmed by the ALIA Board. Eva and James farewelled from NGAC.

Summary of main activities

#auslibchat

NGAC continued to organise and host a monthly Twitter chat #auslibchat throughout 2017. This engagement initiative has grown to be a staple in professional development diaries and activities. Topics in 2017 covered current issues such as advocacy, marriage equality, indigenous services, as well as rural and regional services. #auslibchat has raised awareness of these issues by providing a welcoming platform for open discussion. 2018 #auslibchat will see an increase in collaborations with other groups such as LARK.

Recruitment

Towards the end of 2017, NGAC undertook recruitment for four new members to commence in 2018. As a result, two new NGAC members commenced in January, with two to join in April 2018.

Our new members bring diverse perspectives and experiences to NGAC, and will contribute valuable insight by highlighting key issues from across the new and early career library and information professional community.

Publications and conference submission

A big thank you to NGAC members James McGoran (Vice-chair), Katie Miles-Barnes and Liz Alvey for developing and presenting a talk at 2017 8th New Librarians Symposium in Canberra. The presentation drew on the library and information sector's use of Twitter and the example of #auslibchat to explore the benefits and challenges of using online identity as a networking tool.

Alisa Howlett attended and presented at the CILIP Conference, held in Manchester in July. Her presentation focused on the importance of engaging new library and information professionals in conversation and contribution to the research literature, in order to continue advancing the profession's body of knowledge.

NGAC members published two articles in InCite during 2017: May/June issue and Alisa (Sept/Oct issue).

Two articles were also published in the ALIA FAIR website in response to the Marriage Equality Postal Survey:

[With great power comes great responsibility: The issue of neutrality in librarianship](#) - Evanthia Samaras

[Reflections on evidence-based policy, professional responsibility and the Marriage Law Postal Survey](#) - Elizabeth Smith and James McGoran

Questions for the ALIA Board Nominees

A different approach to previous years, NGAC used the #auslibchat platform to host a special Twitter chat where nominees participated in a Q & A with the online Twitter community. This event proved to be a successful way to engage ALIA members in the board member voting process.

Advice submitted to the ALIA Board

NGAC submitted a number of pieces of advice to the ALIA Board in 2017. Submissions included the feedback received from NLS8 attendees in the Breakout Space, the Marriage Equality Postal Vote and critical librarianship.

ALIA NGAC NLS8 Bursary

NGAC received a generous, anonymous donation for a bursary recipient to attend the 8th New Librarians Symposium. A bursary competition was organised and promoted by our partners. The winning submission from Liz Findlay was input to the ALIA Time Capsule commemorating the 80th birthday of the association.

Communications/e-list survey

After concerns were raised about current methods of communication to members and the LIS industry, NGAC began to investigate the efficiency and effectiveness of ALIA communications, especially for new graduates. A survey was formulated and circulated via various ALIA and non-

ALIA channels. NGAC received 155 responses to the survey. The data is currently undergoing analysis, with the aim to publish another detailed report by the second half of 2018.

Brief comments about how this work has aligned with the ALIA Strategic Plan

The current membership of the New Generation Advisory Committee represent diverse perspectives and information sectors. This diversity positions NGAC as leaders of the new library and information professional community enabling us to keep pace with the issues and changes that matter, and advocate on these issues by providing relevant, evidence-based advice to the ALIA Board.

NGAC strives for inclusiveness and accessibility in all that we do, providing opportunities such as #auslibchat and the NLS8 bursary for new library and information professionals to quickly establish themselves through connection, conversation and inspiring ongoing learning and engagement with the profession. Our close relationship with the Students and New Graduates Group ensures ongoing, meaningful professional development opportunities for our community.

Forward plans

NGAC will continue its active engagement with the new and early career library and information professional community in 2018. We value opportunities to promote inclusiveness, particularly discussion and action to reduce barriers to new LIS professional engagement and participation. Through partnerships, and dialogue with the ALIA Board, NGAC works to provide a voice of the issues and concerns our community are most passionate.

Specific projects in NGAC's program of work for 2018 include continuation of #auslibchat and hosting special themes with other groups such as LARK; on-boarding of four new NGAC members, publication and work with ALIA Communications to help optimise social media use and alignment of strategies to community needs.

Summary of the sector/topic

In 2017, the ALIA LIS Education, Skills and Employment Trend Report highlighted high levels of part time employment, low staff turnover and few new full time positions created, reflecting a static job market for new LIS graduates in Australia. This indicates an increasing need for collaboration between key stakeholders to help not only ensure there are continued and varied opportunities for new library and information professionals to demonstrate their skills, knowledge and contribution to the profession, but also that LIS education positions new graduates with agility, resilience and a skillset that matches opportunities in the market.

Also in 2017, the feedback collected from NLS8 delegates by NGAC identified issues about which new library and information professionals are passionate. A range of themes emerged from the feedback and included diversity, social justice, open access, community engagement, innovation, literacy and learning, employment and professional development. This feedback reflects what our community value and their motivations for joining the LIS profession. New and early career LIS professionals are keen and open to find new ways of working, ways to engage

with communities and ways to use and broaden their skillset to generate positive impact. NGAC strives to work alongside new library and information professionals and students to provide a welcoming forum of knowledge sharing and engagement with the professional by providing bursaries, networking, publication and online discussion opportunities.

