



ALIA New Generation Advisory Committee Annual Report 2016

March 2017

Membership

Current: Alisa Howlett (Chair), James McGoran (Vice-chair), Eva Samaras, Katie Miles-Barnes, Elizabeth Smith and Liz Alvey.

- Departures: Romany Manuell and Wendy Davis.
- Arrivals: Elizabeth Smith and Liz Alvey.

NGAC will be fare-welling James McGoran and Eva Samaras at the end of 2017.

Meetings

13 January 2016 – First meeting of the year and we received notification of resignation from chairperson, Wendy Davis. Recruitment for two new members commenced. Alisa Howlett was appointed new chairperson. Planning for first #auslibchat was in full swing.

10 February 2016 – James McGoran was appointed vice-chair. The committee also celebrated the success of the first #auslibchat. Data analysis commenced on Twitter research survey. InCite article was accepted for publication in Mar/Apr issue, and the decision was made to again ask questions of the ALIA board nominees for 2016.

9 March 2016 – New member recruitment was underway with receipt of several applications. The committee also welcomed new co-convenors of the Students and New Graduates Group, Ellen O'Hehir and Anna Rubinowski, who will join future NGAC meetings on a rotational basis.

13 April 2016 – Data analysis continued for the Twitter research report. Decision was made for SNGG and NGAC to work more closely together for our communities. Results of #auslibchat pilot survey were collated to inform way forward and future topics.

11 May 2016 – Nominations for new NGAC members were submitted to the ALIA board for approval. We supported the promotion of volunteers for the ALIA national conference. Significant work on the Twitter research report was undertaken by Romany Manuell, Katie Miles-Barnes and James McGoran. A summary of the #auslibchat pilot was published on the SNGG blog. Decision was made to commence a review of the NGAC manual.

8 June 2016 – We assisted with promoting ALIA's federal election agenda on Twitter. Procedures for #auslibchat were updated as NGAC's experience with organising and moderating Twitter chats developed. We considered ways NGAC could be involved in NLS8.



13 July 2016 – We supported the SNGG launch of the Resume Review Service and the recruitment of speaker mentors for NLS8. A proposal to submit to NLS8 was underway.

10 August 2016 – We supported the promotion of ALIA/CSU research events. A proposal to expand the SNGG blog to publish guest submissions was accepted by NGAC and SNGG. We discussed the possibility of sending a student or new graduate to NLS8.

14 September 2016 – Progress was made on the review of the NGAC manual. Proposal for NLS8 was completed and made ready for submission. Decision was made to do #auslibchat in December, but take a break in January 2017.

12 October 2016 – Alisa Howlett met up with Sue McKerracher regarding plans for ALIA's 80th birthday in 2017. Engagement statistics were collected for #auslibchat, with a view the data will help inform ongoing improvement. We also had another article published in InCite. Alisa received wonderful news of an anonymous donation for a NGAC bursary for NLS8. We farewelled Romany and congratulated her on her contribution and achievements.

9 November 2016 – Planning for blog collaboration project with SNGG and the NGAC NLS8 bursary was underway. NGAC and SNGG explored whether the e-lists were an appropriate, relevant and effective method for communicating with our communities as a number of issues had been raised. NGAC assisted with the promotion of the Library Design Awards.

14 December 2016 - NGAC supported the recruitment of SNGG's social media team. Twitter research report was made ready for submission to the ALIA board. Planning for NGAC's NLS8 bursary made significant progress - thank you to James McGoran for coordinating this activity. It was noted that NGAC's following on Twitter had reached over 2000! We congratulated each other on what was a very full but productive and successful year.

Summary of main activities

#auslibchat

Following the success of the pilot, NGAC now organises and hosts #auslibchat on the first Tuesday of every month. Topics range from professional development to cross-sector/organisation collaboration. This program provides opportunities for new library and information professionals to participate and engage in conversation, as well as connect with, and learn from experienced professionals in a friendly and welcoming environment.

NGAC Twitter Research Report & Survey

In 2016, NGAC completed a research project that evaluated the effectiveness of Twitter activity and NGAC's online engagement more broadly. Findings of this research have indicated opportunities for further improvement and development, as well as help inform NGAC's strategic direction in relation to how it connects with, and serves the students and new graduate library and information professional community. The report was submitted to the ALIA Board in late 2016.

Recruitment

As a result of recruitment activity in 2016, NGAC officially welcomed two new members in June 2016: Elizabeth Smith and Liz Alvey. Both members contribute valuable experience and insight to new and early career library and information professional issues. Elizabeth Smith is also a member of the 8th New Librarians' Symposium organising committee, bringing the two groups in closer collaboration.

Publications and conference submission

NGAC members published in InCite during 2016: Alisa Howlett (Mar/Apr), whole-of-committee submission for Sept/Oct issue.

A proposal to present at the 8th New Librarians' Symposium was submitted and accepted. The presentation will draw 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. A big thank you to NGAC members James McGoran (Vice-chair), Katie Miles-Barnes and Liz Alvey for developing, and who will be delivering this presentation in 2017.

Questions for the ALIA Board Nominees

NGAC put some questions to the ALIA board election nominees. The committee wishes to thank all nominees for answering. Responses were published on the ALIA Students and New Graduates Group blog and circulated through various SNGG and NGAC channels during the voting period.

Review of NGAC manual

It was found that the NGAC manual was due for review, as the current version was dated 2013. The NGAC manual covers committee member duties, as well as processes for NGAC's main activities and administration. The review involved updating processes, references to how NGAC and SNGG work together and incorporating the new Advisory Committee Guidelines. A revision of the NGAC manual will be presented to the ALIA board first quarter of 2017.

SNGG and NGAC blog collaboration

An opportunity to encourage increased engagement with the students and new graduates community was identified, involving inviting guest submissions for publication on the SNGG blog. The SNGG blog is an already established platform and communication channel that can potentially create a 'safe space' for students and new graduates to contribute to, and engage in discussion with their peers and learn from each other's experiences. Planning to launch a call for submissions commenced in late 2016 and will continue into 2017, together with the new SNGG blog team.

NLS8 Bursary

NGAC gratefully received an anonymous donation for a NLS8 Bursary in late 2016. The bursary is a paid registration to attend the 8th New Librarians' Symposium being held in Canberra, 23-25 June 2017. Planning immediately got underway and launched a call for submissions early 2017. Submissions are required to create a publication (print and/or digital) expressing hopes and ideas about where the library world will be in 2037, ALIA's 100th year. The winner will be announced in April 2017 and will write a reflection of the event to be published later in 2017.

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

The current membership of the New Generation Advisory Committee spans across various information sectors – archives, higher education, school libraries and public libraries, bringing together different perspectives and insight to what we do, and makes us well positioned as leaders of the new library and information professional community to provide advice to the ALIA Board on relevant issues.

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 lifelong learning. Our close relationship with the Students and New Graduates Group ensures ongoing, meaningful professional development opportunities for our community.

Forward plans

There is no sign of slowing down for NGAC into 2017. NGAC will continue to implement and improve engagement strategies with the students and new graduate library and information professional community. The committee strives for cross-sector collaboration and inclusion in all its activities, promoting the exchange of ideas, experiences and knowledge. NGAC will achieve this by:

- providing opportunities for engagement and connection through #auslibchat and continued use of Twitter, e-lists and the ALIA New Graduates blog
- offering assistance and collaborate with the NLS8 Organising Committee
- publishing and encouraging discussion of topics relevant to new library and information professionals

Specific projects included in NGAC program of work for 2017:

- #auslibchat administration and moderation
- Implement recommendations from Twitter engagement research and survey findings
- Select a winner for the NLS8 bursary
- Recruitment and on-boarding of two new NGAC members
- Host a special #auslibchat for ALIA Board nominees in March 2017
- Complete review of NGAC Manual
- Presentation at NLS8
- Presentation at the CILIP Conference being held in Manchester, UK

Summary of the sector/topic

Library and information professionals entering their career are doing so now with increased hurdles and demands related to sector budget cuts and a tight job market. As a result, new and early career library and information professionals must be able to demonstrate high level skills, knowledge, experience and resilience to enter their chosen profession.

Establishing an online presence and forging connections to share experiences and learnings is of growing importance as well as demonstrating initiative and creating new opportunities through community initiatives, volunteer work or campaigns.

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. NGAC also strives to establish an inclusive online professional discourse for new information professionals through our #auslibchat events which explore emerging issues and concerns for the profession such as critical librarianship.