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*Board of Directors
election — your vote
counts, so exercise
your membership
right and get your
vote in on time.*

At the March Board meeting directors set the pace for another busy year ahead and signed off the 2000 annual report for distribution to members and forwarding to the Australian Securities and Investments Commission.

Financial management

Under the *Corporations Law* directors have greater accountability for the financial management of the Association. Financial reports are provided each month and their acceptance and any discussion are recorded at each meeting. The reports include budget income and expenditure, balance sheet, investments, voucher fund activity and any other relevant information or activity during the period, for example, matters regarding taxation, financial systems or the management of ALIA House. ALIA House is a large part of our business activity and carries all those responsibilities of building ownership. Fortunately it is now fully tenanted, with ALIA and the conference room occupying a quarter of the floor space and our five tenants the rest.

Areas of key activity for 2001

These were endorsed for the Board (*see page 25*) and, in addition to guiding activities throughout the year, will be used in promotional materials. The Association will report regularly against the activities.

Strategic partnerships

The Board endorsed a proposal for a closer working relationship with the Australian School Libraries Association (ASLA) with the formal agreement to be signed by the two presidents in April. The agreement includes: encouraging co-operation between ASLA and ALIA groups at the local level in areas of mutual interest and benefit and for professional development and networking activities; offering member reciprocity for membership of e-lists/e-newsletters, and member rates for professional development programs, conferences and publications (including journals); establishing a joint policy advisory group; and establishing a joint taskforce with a brief to report within twelve months on recommended strategies for articulating and promoting the role of library and information services and staff within the school community; investigating employment and career path opportunities for qualified teacher librarians; reviewing publishing programs within the two organisations and opportunities for further collaboration; and identifying professional development priorities for the currency of knowledge and implementing best practice.

In late February Mairéad Browne and the executive director met with Chris Fripp, president of the Records Management Association of Australia (RMAA), and Gavan McCarthy, president, and Catherine Robinson, council member of the Australian Society of Archivists (ASA), to discuss future collaboration between the three organisations. Each organisation will consider offering reciprocal member benefits for professional development programs, conferences and publications.

On 3 April, ALIA will host a meeting of two representatives from each organisation to develop recommendations on closer collaboration on education and continuing professional development. The executive director and Adrian Cunningham, ASA's past president, are to prepare a draft memorandum of understanding between the three organisations.

Communications strategy

Dr Patricia Gillard of User Insite has been invited to run a workshop with the Board at the May meeting to outline objectives and goals for research on the effective use of information technologies to meet member communications and services requirements.

New membership categories

The proposal for consultation on changes to membership categories was endorsed by the Board. Developments include a new self-nominating category above Associate and broadening Associate and Technician membership to include members with qualifications in allied fields recognised by the appropriate professional body. To assist with employment selection, the post-nominal letters will identify a member holding library and information studies qualifications. There will be more details in the June *inCite*.

Information Literacy policy statement and conference

The policy statement prepared by the Information Literacy special interest group was endorsed and will be included on the policy statements web page. The recent information literacy conference in Melbourne, which for the first time brought together a broad cross-section of professional, sectoral and government players in information literacy, agreed that ALIA would be the best organisation to instigate developments. National office staff will work with the Information Literacy group on furthering the issues arising from the conference.

Group restructure

This month there will be a great deal of activity in preparing the submissions for group endorsement for the May Board meeting. In addition to individual submissions, directors will receive information on: groups framework, by geographic, issues or sector coverage; groups budget summary; administrative/clerical support requirements by region; consolidated calendar of activities; gaps in coverage; draft group information for the June/July membership renewal, and a draft by-law for groups.

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The Board also received proposals on new directions for Association awards, policy statements and committees. National Office staff will consider these in the context of other developments, such as the group structure, and report to the May meeting. ■