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Get involved! New Graduate participation in ALIA

Do you see emails to the lists but don't know who's who and what's what? Are you not even sure what the new grads list is, but you've seen events on Facebook or Twitter? Confused by all the acronyms we librarians love to put on everything we do? Well here's a guide to what's going on for new graduates, how all of these committees, conferences, and groups interact, and how you can get involved.

New Generation Advisory Committee (NGAC)

NGAC advises the ALIA Board on issues related to new graduates and students. As an **advisory** committee, our main function is to discuss the strategic issues related to new graduate participation within ALIA, rather than actively putting on events. When the future of the New Librarians Symposium was in doubt, we did a thorough review of the issue. This involved investigating how NLS had previously functioned, and assessing the positive and negative aspects of the conference as it existed. We created four potential models as to how NLS would work, and took these models to relevant stakeholders – including delegates at NLS4, the membership via the new graduates elist, and to the previous conference convenors of NLS. We then collated the feedback, and further discussed internally how we saw NLS surviving in the future, and what model was the preference to both meet ALIA's needs and that of new graduates requiring professional development. We then wrote an extensive Board paper, which strategically evaluated all the pros and cons, and recommended to the Board that NLS continue as a stand-alone conference on the ALIA schedule, focusing on new graduate professional development. The timing of the conference has been modified to better sit within the ALIA conference schedule and recruit sponsorship. Current projects include those detailed below. Questions and suggestions can be directed to the Chair, Naomi Doessel, (**naomidoessel@gmail.com**, @naomidoessel).

New Librarians Symposium (NLS)

NLS was devised in 2002 by our current Executive Director, Sue Hutley, when she was working at UQ. Sue saw a lack of professional development for new graduate and so put on the first NLS in Brisbane. It has grown in leaps and bounds since then, to a two-day conference that has in previous years also included a professional development workshop day, a trade exhibition, and major conference dinner. NGAC did a thorough review of NLS in 2008-2009, and recommended to the ALIA Board that NLS continue as a stand-alone conference. The Board approved our submission, and members of the Library and Information sector within Australia will be able to experience NLS5 in 2011. Further details will be forthcoming in the coming months, but it's sure to be an innovative conference in a fantastic locale.

New Graduates Group (NGG)

The ALIA New Graduates Group provides a forum for new graduates to communicate and socialise with colleagues and build relationships and networks within the profession. The group aims to facilitate networking for the new generation of library professionals, provide a forum for the discussion of issues relevant to new professionals, organise meetings and training specifically relevant to students and new graduates, and facilitate the introduction of new graduates into the wider ALIA community. There are currently active groups in Victoria, Queensland, WA, SA, Tasmania, and NT. Join the e-list from the ALIA website to find out what's happening, and contact NGG convenor Andrew Finegan (**afinegan@gmail.com**, @librarianidol) to get involved.

ALIA Access New Graduates stream

The program for the What Next! stream at ALIA Access 2010 is shaping up to be an exciting and fulfilling day. We are pleased to announce two of our guest speakers on the day will be Kate Davis, Associate Lecturer at Queensland University of Technology (QUT), and Emerald Leung from Civica Library and Learning. Both Kate and Emerald will share their experiences in the information profession and how it has led them to alternative careers

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away from a traditional library setting. We will also hear from recent new graduates who are doing some innovative projects in their libraries and with their careers as well as provide practical tips and advice on how to write abstracts, articles, and conferences papers. Look out for the registration information from ALIA and make sure you're in Brisbane for ALIA Access in September! Convenor Rachel Crowe (**rachellcrowe@hotmail.com**, @rlcrowe) can be contacted for further information.

Advisory Committee Projects

Conference Mentoring: As a major project for 2010 and beyond, NGAC wishes to trial conference mentoring for first time attendees at large ALIA conferences. The American Library Association (ALA) runs this program at their annual conference through their New Members Round Table, and it is an opportunity for first time attendees to meet someone more experienced in the industry and in conference participation, and to gain insight into the best way to approach a major conference. First timers would be paired with more experienced delegates prior to the conference, and a conference focused mentoring relationship would be set up. This would be initiated prior to the conference and officially last for the duration of the conference.

Free conference registration: NGAC believes professional development through attendance at conferences is vital for new graduates. In the 2008 Member Survey, new graduates chose value for money at conferences as one of their most important criteria. NGAC believes ALIA can play an important role in encouraging new graduates to attend ALIA conferences by enabling someone to attend who would otherwise not be able to. The conference attendee would be required to write an article for *Energise>Enthuse>Inspire* in *inCite* on their experience.

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…gives a voice to the new generation of library and information professionals. If you have any suggestions or topics for this column, please contact the column co-ordinator Naomi Doessel, **naomidoessel@gmail.com**