

## ALIA Special Libraries Advisory Committee

The ALIA Special Libraries Advisory Committee was established by the ALIA Board of Directors in May 2009. The last 12 months have been a busy time for the Committee with much achieved and several key projects identified for the next 12 months.

The Committee's role is to advise the Board on the development of a strategic program for members working in special libraries or with interests in special librarianship. The Committee's terms of reference can be found on the Committee's website <http://www.alia.org.au/governance/committees/special.libraries>

Committee members are: Deanne Barrett (Chair) (WA), Caryl Armstrong (SA), Cathy Brady (ACT), Emma Datson (ACT), Gaik Khong (ACT), Andrew Meier (Vic), Joanna Ruxton (Qld), Louise Segafredo (Vic), Rosa Serratore (Vic)

The Committee took responsibility for reviewing the Guidelines for Australian Special Libraries and sought feedback in 2009. The resulting document was designed to be used as a general guide, rather than providing detailed descriptive guidelines. An updated version of the guidelines was endorsed by the Board in March 2010 and copies are available at <http://www.alia.org.au/policies/special.libraries.html>

One of the Committee's terms of reference is to generate a profile of Australian special libraries that will be useful to ALIA and the special libraries community. The Committee has developed a proposal to conduct a statistical study of Australian special libraries and this has been approved by the ALIA Board. The study will be conducted in the second half of 2010 and the Committee will encourage all special librarians to complete the survey to help ensure the best data set possible.

In May the Committee launched its Special Libraries Wiki. The wiki has been designed to act as a resource sharing tool for the special libraries community and is managed by the

Committee. The Committee hopes that the Wiki will become a useful area for special libraries to share resources, information tools, and case studies. We encourage you to provide feedback and contributions to help us build the wiki. <http://www.alia.org.au/governance/committees/special.libraries/wiki/pmwiki.php>

The Advocacy project focuses on the value that special librarians and special libraries bring to an organisation. The Committee is working to produce a series of documents focusing on special librarians to complement the *Guidelines for Australian Special Libraries*. The Committee is seeking feedback on the value, role, and competencies of special librarians. The Committee is particularly seeking case studies, profiles, and practical examples to support this documentation which, when completed, will become a resource on the Special Libraries Wiki.

Members of the Committee, in partnership with AGLIN and Special Libraries (Vic) have worked hard to create a special libraries stream for the ALIA Access 2010 Conference. With the success of this initiative the Committee will continue to look for conference and PD opportunities.

Our elist has been renamed *aliaSPECIALS* and I encourage everyone to join the list <http://lists.alia.org.au/mailman/listinfo/aliaSPECIALS/>. The discussion list is to promote the interests of special libraries.

In order to best represent the interests and concerns of special libraries across Australia, the Committee welcome and encourage your comments and feedback. Please contact us or visit our webpage to follow our progress.

### Deanne Barrett

ALIA Special Libraries Advisory Committee (Chair)  
deanne.barrett@fedcourt.gov.au

## Special Libraries Program Stream at ALIA Access 2010

The ALIA Special Libraries Advisory Committee, in conjunction with the Australian Government Libraries Information Network (AGLIN) and ALIA Special Libraries (Vic), are convening a stream at the ALIA Access 2010 Conference in Brisbane.

The stream convening committee draws on members of the three 'parent' committees, and this collaboration has worked very well enabling the pooling of expertise, resources, contacts, and experience. The committee has worked very hard this year to deliver an interesting program of professional development for special librarians and library technicians.

The theme for the stream is 'demonstrating value' and eight invited speakers will explore how to add value to library services, demonstrate the value of special libraries to their parent organisations, and find effective strategies to advocate and promote library services.

The presentations will cover change management; strategic planning; advocacy and leadership; library branding and marketing; library services for remote and geographically-dispersed staff; alternative library service models; current awareness/alerting services; innovative technologies and practices (including web 2.0); digitisation; and online/interactive training and service provision.

A panel discussion involving all the speakers will conclude the day and should stimulate some interesting discussion and audience participation. The Special Libraries Stream Convening Committee looks forward to welcoming you to Brisbane!

### Catherine Brady

Convener, Special Libraries Stream  
ALIA Access 2010

## What and where are Australia's Special Libraries?

As part of its terms of reference the ALIA Special Library Advisory Committee (SLAC) is to undertake a statistical study of special libraries in Australia during the last half of 2010. Respondents to the survey will come from several distinct groups: parent organisations, employers (management), and staff of special libraries.

The results of the survey will enable ALIA and special libraries members and employers (management) to gain a better understanding of the current state of specialist information services in Australia. It is also hoped that the findings may be used to increase the level of general public awareness of the specialist library sector.

### Methodology

The Committee will conduct an online survey with the option of a hard copy upon request. The survey will be conducted over a 2 month period. The Committee will disseminate and promote the survey via e-lists, web 2.0, professional contacts, conferences, seminars, newsletters and *inCite*, and various other library groups and related associations.

Special Library Advisory Committee members Andrew Meier and Louise Segafredo have been tasked with managing the survey. Questions and comments can be directed to either Andrew or Louise. <http://www.alia.org.au/governance/committees/special.libraries/>

### Louise Segafredo

Senior Manager, Knowledge Management, Brotherhood of St Laurence  
lsegafredo@bsl.org.au