

A FINAL WORD

The theme of this issue of INCITE is 'international affairs', which has also been my Presidential theme. The focus on international affairs has provided a catalyst to acknowledge the significant work that Australians are contributing internationally, but also prompted strategies on how we can make an even stronger contribution, particularly in our region. During the last 12 months, I have been working with the [International Affairs Advisory Committee](#) to develop an Action Plan to guide our work.

Against this context, it is therefore appropriate that I am writing my final President's column from Barcelona where I was privileged to participate in the launch of the [IFLA Global Vision Report](#). The report is the result of consultation with over 213 countries and territories, and has involved six regional workshops and hundreds of discussions. I am pleased to report that Australia has been represented in all phases of the consultation. The report demonstrates that as a sector, irrespective of our global location or the sector we work in, we are united in our goals and values. We also share a deep commitment to the enduring value and role of libraries. Importantly, however, it identifies that if we are to connect globally we need to take effective action at the local level.

The Global Vision report provides a powerful mandate for action. Over the coming months there will be an opportunity for Australians to contribute to the next phase. Ideas will be gathered to create a strategy and action plans that will turn the vision into reality: a strong and united library field powering literate, informed and participative societies. I encourage you to consider how you can play a part in shaping the future of libraries - at both the local and global levels.

It has been a career highlight to serve as President of the Association. I acknowledge my fellow Board members for their commitment and enthusiasm - it has been an honour to work with you. And, finally my utmost admiration and gratitude to our CEO Sue McKerracher and staff of ALIA - your achievements are extraordinary. On behalf of all Members - thank you. 🌸

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A NOTE FROM THE INCOMING PRESIDENT

The Association, with its 2017-18 presidential theme of international affairs, has indeed been making a significant contribution in the international arena under the presidency of Vicki McDonald and it's wonderful to see this issue of INCITE draw even greater attention to the work of libraries both nationally and internationally.

Moving into the 2018-19 year, whilst we continue to build on the work that is already being undertaken, we will also be looking more closely at Indigenous matters. ALIA already has a statement on [Libraries and information services and Indigenous peoples](#) which provides foundational guidance to libraries to 'engage with Indigenous clientele and with issues arising from Indigenous knowledge and the experiences and priorities of Indigenous Australians.'

You can further your education through the ALIA Training short course [Cultural Connections: library services for Indigenous Australians](#), running 24 July-13 August 2018, or read the [Indigenous Literacy Initiative](#) report, all available to you on the ALIA website. You might also like to check out the [Storify version](#) of last September's #auslibchat on Indigenous services, with guest moderator, Nathan Sentance (@SaywhatNathan). Nathan is a Wiradjuri man who has a library degree, works in a museum, and is currently secretary of the Australian Society of Archivists Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Special Interest Group (ATSI-SIG).

I look forward to seeing the profession build on such strong foundations over the next year, particularly as we celebrate the International Year of Indigenous Languages in 2019. No doubt there are already some exciting activities in the planning stages for libraries around the country and around the world.

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