



Editorial

Mary Anne Kennan, Alison Fields, Bhuva Narayan & Fiona Russell

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Editorial

In this, the final issue for the year, we always like to explicitly thank our authors, peer reviewers and book reviewers. Thank you! Without you the journal would not exist, nor its contribution to the wider profession and discipline. Peer reviewers, especially as you get no individually acknowledged recognition, please know that your work is highly appreciated and valued by those of us on the editorial team.

To introduce this issue: Following this editorial there is a call for papers for a forthcoming issue of *JALIA* to be titled ‘Serving the Whole Person in GLAMs’. The issue will be guest edited by Drs Kiersten Latham and Noah Lenstra and seeks to bring together researchers and practitioners interested in learning more about how galleries, libraries, archives and museums serve the whole person, the body and the spirit as well as the mind.

The papers begin with an essay by Anna Shelmerdine titled ‘Library anxiety: Stories, theories and possible solutions’. The essay was awarded the 2018 Jean Arnot Fellowship which is named in honour of the late Jean Fleming Arnot, MBE, FLAA, a former staff member of the State Library of New South Wales who was active in women’s organisations and a pioneer in the campaign for equal pay for women. The Jean Arnot Memorial Fellowship is funded by a generous donation from the *National Council of Women of New South Wales* and the *Australian Federation of Business and Professional Women’s Associations* to commemorate Miss Arnot and her achievements. It has been running for more than 20 years and is judged by a panel chaired by the Mitchell Librarian.

We then have four research papers beginning with Amanda Magnussen’s timely paper titled ‘Who Do We Think We Are? Library Sector Populations in Australia’. A census of Australian libraries has not been conducted for many years, and this paper provides an update by reporting the various library sectors and their populations. The results provide readers with up to date context of Australian library populations in early 2018. The second research paper by Elham Abdi, Paola Beretta and Christine Bruce titled ‘Immigrants’ information experiences: An informed social inclusion framework’ reviews research related to immigrants’ information experience identifying key themes in the literature associated with immigrants’ engagement with information. As an outcome of their analysis, the authors propose an evidenced based ‘informed social inclusion framework’ that defines the role of information in immigrants’ settlement journey towards social inclusion. The framework is intended to be used as a guide to inform both research directions in information-focused migration studies, and the professional practice of libraries and other information agencies serving immigrant communities.

Marita Shelly and Margaret Jackson explore how 13 Australian universities are assisting their researchers to manage the growing expectation to make research data more accessible. Their research paper identifies which university groups are supporting staff with research data management (RDM) activities and finds that there is not a consistent approach to RDM at the 13 universities studied and that while there was generally strong encouragement to store research data securely during and after research projects, there was overall a lack of practical support in how to undertake this activity. Shelly's and Jackson's findings raise the question warranting further research: do library staffs have the appropriate experience, training and professional development to enable academic libraries in Australia to expand their RDM role? The final research paper for this issue is by Heather Brown, who was awarded the ALIA Research Grant Award in 2015. This paper investigates disaster planning for hybrid collections in national and state libraries in Australia and finds that library disaster plans generally focus on managing just the physical collections. The digital collections are managed separately with the digital disaster planning role assigned to IT systems staff. Based on these findings the potential for developing an integrated disaster plan that could align disaster responses across all collection formats – physical and digital is proposed. Building on the research, the author worked with experienced State Library of Queensland (SLQ) staff to develop a 'proof of concept' template for an integrated disaster plan, using the SLQ plan as a model.

Interestingly the research-in-practice paper by Johanna Garnett, Paul Arbon, David Howard & Valerie Ingham also looks at disaster preparedness, this time with regard to special collections in university libraries. Titled 'Do university libraries in Australia actively plan to protect special collections from disaster?' they report on a survey of Australian university libraries designed to understand library planning for the protection of special collections. The research concludes that special collections held by Australia universities are at risk and that the role of the university librarian is undervalued in the global efforts to protect cultural and historical heritage in the event of a disaster.

We also have an information-in-practice paper by Leo Ma and Ling Ling Yu who report on the quality assurance (QA) system used at Hong Kong University (HKU) SPACE to guide the implementation of their collaborative programmes with their academic partners. Their paper is a case study of the QA process for HKU SPACE's collaborative courses with Charles Sturt University which could be used to guide discussion on QA for similar collaborative programs between other organisations.

Before finishing off the issue with another selection of informative book reviews, we have a short paper honouring some of the Information professionals recognised in the 2018 Australia Day and the Queen's Birthday honours lists. All too often, work in the information professions goes unrecognised beyond the appreciation of the communities for whom services, resources, places and spaces are provided, so it is wonderful when achievements are recognised more broadly.

Finally, we the Editorial team wish all our readers, authors, peer and book reviewers a happy new year for 2019, and look forward to your continuing work for, and association with, the *Journal*.

Mary Anne Kennan

Editor

 mkennan@csu.edu.au

Alison Fields

Book Reviews Editor

Bhuva Narayan and Fiona Russell

Associate Editors