



AUSTRALIAN LAW LIBRARIANS' ASSOCIATION

AUSTRALIAN LAW LIBRARIAN JOURNAL

ANNUAL REPORT TO ALLA LTD

Fiona MacDowall and Robin Gardner

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Introduction

Fiona MacDowall and Robin Gardner were selected as the Co-Editors of the *Australian Law Librarian* (the *Journal*) in September 2018, for a three-year term. Our first issue as editors was volume 26(4) 2018. We have published three issues and have volume 27(3) 2019 in press. We include in this Report a summary of *Journal* activities and developments in the last year.

Becoming part of ALLA Ltd

The *Journal* has always been its own legal entity, with financial management, a bank account and ABN separate from ALLA Ltd. In 2018-19, work began to make the *Journal* formally a part of ALLA Ltd. This was spearheaded by Trung Quach during his tenure as ALLA Ltd National President, and we thank Trung and all those involved for their hard work in bringing this to a successful conclusion. Legal advice has been provided gratis by Arnold Bloch Leibler, and we thank them for their generosity and sound advice. We are in the process of winding up the *Journal* ABN, following a unanimous, formal and minuted vote by the ALLA Ltd Board – the *Journal* will henceforth have the same ABN as ALLA Ltd. We are also in the process of moving the *Journal* bank account to the same bank as ALLA Ltd, although the *Journal* will maintain its own account.

The Co-Editors retain their autonomy and discretion to make all editorial decisions on *Journal* management such as content, format and advertising. Expenditure requires approval by the ALLA Ltd Board.

Office Bearers

We thank the office bearers we replaced: Alex Cato (Editor), Kirsty McPhee (Business Manager) and Amanda Magnussen (Book Review Editor) for their diligent work.

We and the ALLA Ltd Board agreed that, as the *Journal* is now part of ALLA Ltd, it does not need a Business Manager. The ALLA Ltd Treasurer has taken over some of the financial management of the *Journal*, and the Co-Editors have taken over others, such as invoicing, and subscription and distribution management.

The only office bearers of the *Journal* are the Co-Editors.

Journal Reach

All issues of the *Journal* are published in full text on HEIN Online. There had always been a two-year embargo, so that the latest content was only available to subscribers to the print journal. In late 2018 we negotiated an agreement with HEIN Online to:

- a) Remove the embargo so that issues are made available as soon as they are published and sent to HEIN; and
- b) Provide gratis access to the *Journal* to all ALLA members. The *Journal* is the official journal of the Association, so we believe all ALLA members should be able to read it, not just those who subscribe to it in print.

We thank HEIN for their ongoing and enthusiastic support of the *Journal*.

Format and Content of the Journal

The *Journal* is printed and distributed gratis by Thomson Reuters Australia under a long-standing agreement. We began publishing the *Journal* in colour with volume 27(1) 2019 and now include photos of contributors and in the articles, and colour advertisements. We believe this makes the *Journal* more attractive to readers, and more appealing to advertisers. We thank Thomson Reuters for their ongoing support and for enabling us to publish in colour.

In early 2019 the *Journal* Co-Editors, *ALLA News* Editor, Kirsty Wilson, and the ALLA Ltd Board agreed to cease publishing the *ALLA News* and combine some of the information published in the *News*, such as *Member Profiles* and *State News*, into the *Journal*. Along with this content, we have introduced several other regular columns that appear in each Issue:

- *Vendor Voice* provides an opportunity for vendors to write an article on issues and developments in the world of legal publishing;
- *From the Archives* revisits a past volume of the *Journal* to look at what were the issues of the day;
- *Tech Tapas* is a column that showcases technology tools;
- *Shelf Awareness* showcases new books on libraries, librarians and legal research. The *Journal* formerly included a regular book reviews column, which reviewed law books. This became increasingly difficult to sustain, as reviewers were difficult to find, and had fallen into abeyance in recent years. The new column does not review the books and is thus less labour intensive and easier to sustain. In addition, law books are reviewed in many other journals, so we felt that a column on books on libraries was a point of difference and more useful to our readers;
- *Open Access Resources* (now renamed *Info sans Frontiers*) is a column showcasing open access resources such as websites, databases and blogs;
- *Overseas News* provides regular contributors from Canada, the UK, New Zealand, and Africa, to write on law library developments in their region. We are aiming to also include contributors from the USA and South-East Asia.

In addition to the regular columns, we have retained the type of core content that the journal has always included: conference reports, upcoming conferences and feature articles. In 2019, we have run two feature article series: one on collections and collection development in a range of law library sectors; and one on careers in law librarianship.

Scholarships

In 2019, the *Journal* provided an Annual Fellowship scholarship to the IALL conference in Sydney. This is the first time the *Journal* has funded a scholarship to attend a conference. The scholarship is administered by the ALLA Ltd Fellowship Committee, which selects the successful recipient along with the other ALLA Fellowship scholarships. The *Journal* will continue to fund an annual scholarship to attend the IALL conference.

Subscribers

There are currently 140 subscribers for the 2019/2020 period, which is down from 153 in 2018/2019. This reduction in subscriptions is mostly due to the availability of the *Journal* on HEIN Online free for ALLA members, and the removal of the embargo on the platform. The shortfall in revenue will be made up by increasing paid advertising across the year.

Advertising

Thomson Reuters receives two full page advertisements per issue in return for printing and distributing the *Journal*. Paid advertising had not been sought or included for several years. We have actively sought advertising throughout 2019, aiming for at least one full page advertisement per Issue. We selectively contact publishers and other potential advertisers on a staggered basis to spread the advertising through the Issues. This has proven successful.

Financial Report

The finances of the *Journal* have remained relatively stable, with total equity increasing by 2.40%. A drop in subscription revenue has been offset by an increase in advertising revenue. Note that, in the Profit & Loss Statement, the *Local Subscription Sales* figure (\$9,749.04) does not take into account a significant number of subscriptions paid after 30 June 2019. Progress has been made on upgrading the current bookkeeping system and moving to a bank account with online banking facilities.

Australian Law Librarian
Profit & Loss Prev Year Comparison
July 2018 through June 2019

	<u>Jul '18 - Jun 19</u>	<u>Jul '17 - Jun 18</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense		
Income		
Advertising	363.64	300.00
Local Subscription Sales	9,749.04	12,665.50
Royalties	344.88	329.73
Total Income	<u>10,457.56</u>	<u>13,295.23</u>
Expense		
Bank Charges	68.18	2.60
Bank Fees on Transactions	31.80	25.00
Gifts and Donations	1,046.40	0.00
Postage and Delivery	82.50	139.61
Publishing Expenses	5,543.50	5,138.00
Reconciliation Discrepancies	-24.16	0.00
Total Expense	<u>6,748.22</u>	<u>5,305.21</u>
Net Ordinary Income	3,709.34	7,990.02
Other Income/Expense		
Other Income		
Interest Income	270.09	179.05
Other Income	434.02	614.80
Total Other Income	<u>704.11</u>	<u>793.85</u>
Net Other Income	<u>704.11</u>	<u>793.85</u>
Net Income	<u><u>4,413.45</u></u>	<u><u>8,783.87</u></u>

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Balance Sheet Prev Year Comparison
As of June 30, 2019

	<u>Jun 30, 19</u>	<u>Jun 30, 18</u>	<u>\$ Change</u>	<u>% Change</u>
ASSETS				
Current Assets				
Chequing/Savings				
ANZ	188,222.32	183,514.71	4,707.61	2.60%
Total Chequing/Savings	188,222.32	183,514.71	4,707.61	2.60%
Accounts Receivable				
Accounts Receivable	-115.23	-0.22	-115.01	-52,277.30%
Total Accounts Receivable	-115.23	-0.22	-115.01	-52,277.30%
Total Current Assets	188,107.09	183,514.49	4,592.60	2.50%
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>188,107.09</u>	<u>183,514.49</u>	<u>4,592.60</u>	<u>2.50%</u>
LIABILITIES				
Current Liabilities				
Other Current Liabilities				
Net GST	450.19	271.04	179.15	66.10%
Total Other Current Liabilities	450.19	271.04	179.15	66.10%
Total Current Liabilities	450.19	271.04	179.15	66.10%
TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>450.19</u>	<u>271.04</u>	<u>179.15</u>	<u>66.10%</u>
NET ASSETS	<u>187,656.90</u>	<u>183,243.45</u>	<u>4,413.45</u>	<u>2.40%</u>
EQUITY				
Opening Bal Equity	95,888.61	95,888.61	0.00	0.0%
Owner's Drawings	-150,000.00	-150,000.00	0.00	0.0%
Retained Earnings	237,354.84	228,570.97	8,783.87	3.80%
Net Income	4,413.45	8,783.87	-4,370.42	-49.80%
TOTAL EQUITY	<u>187,656.90</u>	<u>183,243.45</u>	<u>4,413.45</u>	<u>2.40%</u>