

Australian Law Librarian (ALL)

Report to ALLA Annual General Meeting 2016

The Australian Law Librarian is the official journal of the association. Published quarterly, it contains articles of interest to those working within the field of legal librarianship and the legal information service sector. It also provides a vehicle for information sharing amongst divisions of the ALLA as well as serving as a forum for discussion of issues related to legal publishing.

The editor of the journal, Mary Greenfield, finished her editorship in January 2016, and Alex Cato took over as editor. The journal remains as the official journal of the Association. It is published four times per annum and is currently distributed in hardcopy.

The journal currently has 170 subscribers. This subscription base is comprised of both individuals and organisations.

James Butler is the Business Manager of the ALL. Amanda Magnusson is the book review editor. Regular contributions to the journal are made by Nancy McCormack from Queens University in Canada contributes 'News from Canada' for each issue. Ruth Bird, also makes contributions from the Bodleian Law Library at Oxford, with the 'Letter from Oxford' column. The New Zealand law librarians' community has been approached to contribute to the journal.

Over the past year, the journal has had two combined issues, issue 3&4 of 2015 and issue 1&2 of 2016. These combined issues were unavoidable however going forward the journal is working to ensure the consistent publication of 4 issues per year by releasing the theme of the next years issues. The following issue themes are scheduled:

- Volume 24
 - Issue 4 Looking forward, looking back
- Volume 25
 - Issue 1 - Conference Edition
 - Issue 2 - Practical Research and the Practical Researcher
 - Issue 3 - Library, information and the law
 - Issue 4 - Mentors, mentoring and growing as a professional.

In addition to this a number of new columns have also been introduced:

- The essentials – recommendations for essential tools used by members of the profession
- Leader Profile – Q&A with leaders within the industry.

With these themes and diverse formats we are looking to encourage people to contribute to the journal. We want to support both new writers and experienced writers to contribute to this important publication.

This publication is however only sustainable through written contributions. The Australian Law Librarian needs assistance, in future, with provision of articles, book reviews and other timely, topical information, for example technology changes/updates. Please put your hand up to help improve the content and quality of the Association's publication.

Over the next year, the editor intends to reassess and explore different methods for publishing the journal and also ways to increase access to past issues of the journal for members of the Association.

The Journal finances are relatively stable. The journal is reporting a reduced revenue at the time of reporting not all renewals for the 2016-2017 financial year had been processed. This year the Board and Divisional Presidents signed a Deed Poll linking the funds of the Journal with the association however a decision as to whether to amalgamate the funds has not yet been made.

Any questions regarding the Journal should be directed to the Editor.

Alex Cato, Editor

James Butler, Business Manager