

ALRA AGM (17 Aug 2016)

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

1. Executive committee activities:
 - Met twice in Canberra with almost full committee, with the exception of our Web Manager, Jung-sim Kim
 - Points of discussion:
 - I. Different roles of subject specialists and librarian liaisons – Michelle Hall's paper several years ago reminding us of the need to give due recognition of this issue. The committee discussed the need to redefine who ALRA is trying to reach and what the organisation can offer members
 - II. List of subscribers – to extend the list and perhaps to hold a closed and an open list to cater for different purposes
 - III. Widening subscribers list – to extend to other parties of interest within the region
 - IV. To promote the use of existing communication channels, e.g. mailing list, website and newsletter
 - V. The role of ALRA: coordinating and advocacy role. To coordinate Asian Studies libraries and librarians community, and advocacy to individual home libraries and other public/private institutions.
 - VI. Closer association with ASAA – to link websites, etc.
 - Projects:
 - I. ALRA to take over maintenance and updating the Asian Studies subscribed databases list from ALIM.
 - II. To create an inventory list of home archives – this arising from panel discussion at the ASAA conference in July.
 - III. To change the ALRA logo and to revamp parts of the website.

ASAA COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT

The idea of instituting the position of Library Representative was raised with Kathryn Robinson in 2010, the then President of ASAA Council. The rationale for this was to raise the profile of library services, to engage the academic community in the process of building information infrastructure for Asian Studies in Australia, and to further improve coordination of library activities in their support of Asian Studies across Australia.

The objectives of establishing this role are:

1. To focus attention on the issue of library resource (monographs, serials, electronic resources, data, etc.): its the current set of challenges, the technological

environment it is situated in, and future directions and development, within the broader discussion of Asian Studies and its future directions

2. To establish and/or further strengthen the symbiotic relationship between Asian Studies and Asian Studies librarians by building on the combined strengths, knowledge, experience and network for the future of Asian Studies in Australia
3. To work towards a more equitable access to Asian Studies and Asia-related material for all researchers across the country working on the subject.

As a group, we think this position fulfils two roles: coordinating and liaison.

1. To build a national community of Asian Studies librarians and library liaisons (non-specialists who work to support Asian Studies), and to coordinate communication, collaboration and sharing of knowledge and information within this community; and
2. To represent it to the Asian Studies scholars community, in particular in its liaison role with ASAA Council.

The Representative has attended two Council meetings since taking over this position and as part of this responsibility:

1. published a paper reporting the current state and status of Asian Studies libraries and specialist
2. Organised two panel discussions at the ASAA conference in July. The panels were very well attended and discussions were lively, constructive and on diverse topics. The newsletter will publish a special issue on this very soon.