



ALLA CONFERENCE PROGRAM

AUSTRALIAN LAW LIBRARIANS' ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE

ARCHITECTURE OF INFORMATION

MELBOURNE (NAARM)

19-21 AUGUST 2026



ALLA Conference Program 2026

WEDNESDAY 19 AUGUST - Pre-Conference Activities	2
<i>Workshops & Tours</i>	2
9.00 - 2.00 FLO Legal Research Workshop	2
10.00 - 11.00 Parliamentary Library of Victoria Tour #1.....	3
11.30 - 12.30 ‘Scratch the Surface’ Talk.....	3
2.00 - 3.00 Parliamentary Library of Victoria Tour #2	3
2.30 - 4.00 Victorian Supreme Court Law Library Tour	3
3.00 - 4.30 Moys Legal Classification Workshop	3
<i>Social Events</i>	4
5.00 - 7.00 Opening Drinks	4
7.00 - late Winter Drinks hosted by ALLA (Vic)	4
THURSDAY 20 AUGUST 2026 – Conference Day 1	5
8:00 - 8.30 Pre-conference Wellbeing: Chair Yoga with Jaymala.....	5
8.45 - 9.00 Welcome to Country.....	5
9.00 - 9.15 Opening Remarks [BIALL Past President, Sinéad Curtin]	5
9.15 - 10.15 Information Governance in Legal Institutions [Keynote, Elizabeth Tydd]	5
10.15 -10.45 Morning Tea	6
10.45 - 11.45 AI and LLMs [Keynote, Caroline Counsel]	6
11.45 - 12.10 Platinum Sponsor Address - LexisNexis	6
12.10 - 12.15 Gold Sponsor Address - Victorian Legal Services Board & Commissioner	6
12.15 - 1.00 Speed Networking at the ALLA Saloon	6
1.00 - 2.00 Lunch & ALLA Limited AGM	7
2.00 - 3.30 Case Study Parts 1 & 2: Reimagining the Profession in the Age of AI	7
3.30 - 4.00 Afternoon Tea.....	7
4.00 - 4.45 Case Study - Part 3: Bringing Solutions to the Room.....	7
4.45 - 5.00 Conference Day 1 Wrap Up & Announcements	7
<i>Social Event</i>	8
6.30 - 10.00 Gala Dinner sponsored by Thomson Reuters	8
FRIDAY 21 AUGUST – Conference Day 2	9
8:00 - 8.30 Pre-conference Wellbeing: Breathing with Jaymala	9
9:00 - 9.15 Opening Remarks [AALL President, Jenny Foster]	9
9.15 - 10.00 Chief Justice Niall, Supreme Court of Victoria [Keynote].....	9
10.00 - 11.00 A Treaty Signed, but Where to From Here? [Expert Panel].....	9
11.00 - 11.15 Morning Tea	10
11.15 - 12.15 Law Reform in the AI Age: A Discourse, Dialectic or Paradox? [Expert Panel].....	10
12.15 - 1.15 Wellbeing, Sustainability & Collective Care [Keynote, Emily Knowles]	10
1:15 - 2:15 Lunch sponsored by De Gruyter Brill.....	10
2:15 - 3.15 AI Literacy & Tools [Expert Panel].....	11
3.15 - 4.15 Librarian Blueprints from Cuneiform Tablets to Code [Expert Panel]	11
4.15 - 4.20 Conference Wrap Up, Closing remarks and Thanks.....	11
<i>Social Event</i>	11
4:15 - 5.00 Closing Drinks sponsored by Taylor & Francis Australasia	11
Speaker Biographies.....	12
Sponsors	23
Acknowledgements	25



WEDNESDAY 19 AUGUST - Pre-Conference Activities

Workshops & Tours

Join your fellow conference delegates for a day of (optional) practical professional development workshops and organised tours exploring Melbourne's premier legal libraries. This is an opportunity to combine professional growth and cultural enrichment on one day.

9.00 - 2.00 FLO Legal Research Workshop

Venue: Law Institute of Victoria (Level 13, 140 William Street, Melbourne)

Finding the Law Online (FLO) is an online professional development course designed to develop law librarians' foundational research and legal information skills. In this session facilitated by Sue Ann Yap, FLO's modules are used as a guide to teach three modules:

- **Legal Research with Open Access Resources** (1 hour)
Presenter: Gemma Walsh, Liaison Librarian, Learning and Teaching, Law Library, Melbourne Law School
Foundational legal research skills using open-access platforms.
- **Business Research Fundamentals** (1 hour)
Presenter: Lauren Grabar, Business Research Librarian, Allens
New to the FLO program, this session will deliver business research insights and introduce tools available from specialist legal publishers.
- **Legal research databases** (2 hours)
Presenters: Legal publishers
Database specific guidance on delivered by the platform experts. Presenting publishers include BarNet Jade, CCH Wolters Kluwer, LexisNexis and Thomson Reuters.

The FLO workshops are designed for early career law librarians and those keen for an opportunity to refresh their skills in a world of ever-changing legal information resources and tools.

- \$50 for members
- \$110 for non-members. This secures access to FLO and the recorded session for a whole year in addition to a one-year ALLA membership
- Light lunch included

10.00 - 11.00 Parliamentary Library of Victoria Tour #1

Venue: **Parliament House (Spring Street, East Melbourne)**

Join a behind-the-scenes tour of the Parliamentary Library of Victoria, one of Australia's oldest continuously operating parliamentary libraries. Construction of the Library commenced in 1858 and was first used by members of Parliament in 1861. Today, the Library still operates as a fully functional library used by members and staff. This guided visit offers an opportunity to explore historic reading rooms, galleries and collections while learning about the evolution of parliamentary research and information services within a working Parliament. Highlights include the ornate reading rooms, winding staircases, brass fireplaces and striking glass dome crowned by a magnificent Belgian crystal chandelier.

11:30 - 12:30 'Scratch the Surface' Talk

Venue: **Victoria Legal Aid (Level 12, 570 Bourke Street)**

What does it mean to read a city? For historian and author Robyn Annear, Melbourne is a living archive; layered, complex, and full of stories waiting to be found. Her motto says it all: "nothing is ever really gone". In a session that speaks directly to the heart of our conference theme, Robyn will bring old Melbourne back to life through vivid street stories and historical photographs, before sending delegates out into the city with a bespoke self-guided walking tour. A beautiful reminder that information lives not only in our libraries, but in the walls, laneways, and footpaths all around us.

2.00 - 3.00 Parliamentary Library of Victoria Tour #2

2.30 - 4.00 Victorian Supreme Court Law Library Tour

Venue: **Supreme Court of Victoria (210 William Street, Melbourne)**

Step into history with a tour of Victoria's beautiful Supreme Court Library. We'll be guided by a Court Librarian through the first two floors of this 170+ year-old institution and meet the architect involved in its refurbishment. They'll discuss the architectural significance of the building and the challenges involved in updating its spaces to meet today's needs.

The tour will end with a visit to one of the original court rooms dating back to 1884. The building is a working court, library and heritage space, with beautiful architecture, artwork, and historical collections.

3.00 - 4.30 Moys Legal Classification Workshop

Venue: **Law Institute of Victoria (Level 13, 140 William Street, Melbourne)**

Join us for a practical, hands-on introduction to the Moys Classification Scheme. This session will launch the new online Moys training platform, highlighting key features and tips to navigate its modules effectively. Participants will also share real life classification challenges and work through solutions with peers.

The workshop will provide librarians with the opportunity to troubleshoot tricky cataloguing changes and connect with others working with Moys every day.

- \$50 for members
- \$110 for non-members. This secures a years' access to the Moys online module – alongside a 1-year ALLA membership

Social Events

5.00 - 7.00 Opening Drinks

Venue: **Evoqué Events (123 Queen Street, Melbourne)**

Kick off your 2026 ALLA Conference experience at the Welcome Reception. Enjoy drinks and nibbles whilst catching up with old friends and making new ones.

7.00 - late Winter Drinks hosted by ALLA (Vic)

Venue: **Cabinet Bar & Balcony (11 Rainbow Alley)**

Continue your ALLA Conference celebrations - ALLA Victoria style.
All conference delegates are welcome.

To RSVP, please visit <https://events.humanitix.com/alla-conference-afterparty>



ARCHITECTURE OF INFORMATION 19-21 AUGUST 2026



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THURSDAY 20 AUGUST 2026 – Conference Day 1

Venue: Collins Room, Evoqué Events (123 Queen Street, Melbourne)

8:00 - 8.30 Pre-conference Wellbeing: Chair Yoga with Jaymala

Join Jaymala for an optional chair yoga session to help you prepare and focus for the day. Suitable for all skill levels and abilities, from beginners to advanced.

8.45 - 9.00 Welcome to Country

Speaker: Perry Wandin, Wurundjeri Elder

Wurundjeri Elder, Perry Wandin, will conduct a Welcome to Country.

9.00 - 9.15 Opening Remarks [BIALL Past President, Sinéad Curtin] Making the most of your ALLA membership

Speakers: Sinéad Curtin, BIALl Immediate Past President & Legal Knowledge Manager, Chief State Solicitor's Office, Ireland

9.15 - 10.15 Information Governance in Legal Institutions [Keynote, Elizabeth Tydd]

Speaker: Elizabeth Tydd, Australian Information Commissioner

As legal institutions navigate accelerating digital transformation, the need for robust and adaptive information governance has never been more critical. In this session, the Australian Information Commissioner Tydd will explore how governance frameworks across courts, legal practices, and academic institutions can be strengthened to ensure accountability, transparency, and trust in an increasingly data-driven environment. Attendees will gain insights into how regulatory frameworks are converging to support responsible data use while safeguarding individual rights, and what this means in practice for legal professionals and institutions.

10.15 -10.45 Morning Tea

Venue: Queens Room Exhibition Space

Take time to visit our generous sponsors and their trade exhibitions while fuelling up for more conference sessions.

10.45 - 11.45 AI and LLMs: This Could be Heaven, or This Could be Hell [Keynote, Caroline Counsel]

Speaker: Caroline Counsel, Principal, Caroline Counsel Family Lawyers

AI use in courts and legal practice is growing, and with it the need for guidance, verification and risk assessment. As a result, law librarians are increasingly contributing to AI procurement and evaluation, database assessment, user training, policy development, compliance monitoring, verification workflows and research governance frameworks.

In this session Caroline explores these themes and reflects on the role law librarians play as AI assurance and governance specialists. Caroline will also reflect on the development of agentic AI in automating drafting and research activities, and with it the increasing need for expert supervision by information professionals.

11.45 - 12.10 Platinum Sponsor Address - LexisNexis

Hear from Stephen Mullarky, Manager Data Discovery and Enrichment, LexisNexis Asia Pacific in conversation with Dr Tina Popa, Senior Lecturer, School of Law RMIT University and Amanda Ferguson, Director of AI, Transformation and Strategic Partnerships, Court Services Victoria.

12.10 - 12.15 Gold Sponsor Address - Victorian Legal Services Board & Commissioner

Hear from Kerri-anne Millard, Executive Director, Policy & Outreach, Victorian Legal Services Board & Commissioner.

12.15 - 1.00 Speed Networking at the ALLA Saloon

Hosts: Marshall Maverick Mick and Wild Whip Suzy

Tighten that bandana y'all, this ain't your normal hoe-down. Come together for rapid-fire seven-minute conversations in the ALLA Saloon. Together, we will throw one heck of a southern frontier of a meet-and-greet. The Saloon is gathering law librarians, library and information studies students, and legal publishers for an hour of whirlwind howdy-doody.

- Jaw with folks you've never had the gumption to say 'howdy' to before
- Learn what duties they wrangle back at their ranches, their challenges and triumphs
- Hear their personal stories, myths and legends behind the cattle, the lasso, the boots and the emails
- Turn these connections into collabs, wisdom-swaps, and ride into the sunset

1.00 - 2.00 Lunch & ALLA Limited AGM

Lunch venue: Queens Room Exhibition Space
AGM venue: Collins Room

The 2026 ALLA Limited AGM will be held during the lunch break. This is a member's only event and members are invited to bring their lunch into the Collins room for the duration of the AGM.

2.00 - 3.30 Case Study Parts 1 & 2: Reimagining the Profession in the Age of AI

Facilitators: Alison Laird, Director of Innovation
Centre for Legal Innovation, College of Law

With Michael Coats, Fiona MacDowall, Naish Peterson, Melissa Spain

This interactive, scenario-based workshop focuses on key challenges facing the legal information profession. Facilitated discussion and debate will identify the relevant risks, opportunities and future considerations within five case study themes:

- Fluency, not fear: Mastering emerging legal technologies
- How can we use influence to reinforce our value?
- Rigour meets LLMs: designing hybrid legal research strategies
- The 'Library' as a collaborative space
- Wellbeing and sustainability in a tech driven profession

Before the session, participants are asked to consider two case study themes from the above, to share and discuss within groups during the session.

The event will culminate later in the afternoon during Case Study Part 3, where groups will share their ideas, so that all participants gain an understanding of the ways librarians are approaching different issues, in turn shaping the future of our profession.

3.30 - 4.00 Afternoon Tea

Venue: Queens Room Exhibition Space

Take time to visit our generous sponsors and their trade exhibitions while fuelling up for more conference sessions.

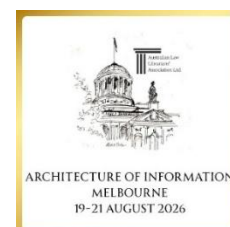
4.00 - 4.45 Case Study - Part 3: Bringing Solutions to the Room

Facilitators: Michael Coats, Fiona McDowall, Naish Peterson, Melissa Spain

Following on from Case Study Parts 1 & 2, participant groups will briefly outline the key problems they identified and the solutions they suggest for their selected case study themes.

4.45 - 5.00 Conference Day 1 Wrap Up & Announcements

Speaker: Kate Freedman, ALLA Limited President
Digital Learning and Capability Librarian
Australian Catholic University



Social Event

6.30 - 10.00 **Gala Dinner sponsored by Thomson Reuters**

Venue: **The Hotel Windsor (111 Spring Street, Melbourne)**
Dress code: **Semi-formal**

Step out of the glistening Melbourne winter evening, and be welcomed into the warm, red-carpet embrace of the Hotel Windsor for the ALLA Conference 2026 Gala Dinner generously sponsored by Thomson Reuters.

Make your way to the ballroom, to reunite with fellow conference delegates and celebrate excellence in Australian law libraries with the presentation of the annual ALLA Awards. A live band will fill the room with music, transforming the evening into a true gala festivity.



ARCHITECTURE OF INFORMATION 19-21 AUGUST 2026





FRIDAY 21 AUGUST – Conference Day 2

Venue: Collins Room, Evoqé Events (123 Queen Street)

8:00 - 8.30 Pre-conference Wellbeing: Breathing with Jaymala

Join Jaymala for an optional pre-conference Breathing session to help you prepare for the final day of the Conference with clarity and calm.

9:00 - 9.15 Opening Remarks [AALL President, Jenny Foster]

Speaker: Jenny Foster, AALL President
State Law Librarian, Hawai'i State Judiciary

9.15 - 10.00 Chief Justice Niall, Supreme Court of Victoria [Keynote]

Speaker: Chief Justice Niall, Supreme Court of Victoria

The Honourable Chief Justice Niall will consider the potential impact of emerging technologies on the legal sector and what it means for the future of legal practice and administration of justice. He will discuss the critical role law libraries play in organising and providing access to legal information, and how new technologies provide exciting opportunities for librarians.

10.00 - 11.00 A Treaty Signed, but Where to From Here? [Expert Panel]

Panellists: Clare Asquith Finegan, Jedda Atkinson-Costa and Tui Raven

Facilitator: Gemma Walsh

On 12 December 2025 a Victoria's Statewide Treaty was signed with First Peoples, commencing at a ceremonial exchange between the government and First Peoples' Assembly in Victoria. As stated in the Treaty's preamble, 'one of Victoria's greatest strengths is its courage to face the truth – to listen with open hearts, and to move forward with honesty. Yet the relationship between First Peoples and the State of Victoria has been profoundly shaped by colonisation and its enduring harm'. So, where to from here? How will the Treaty affect the lives of Victorians and those outside this state? Will it lead to a more just and equitable future? How can those of us outside the treaty process, working in libraries around Australia, support the aims of the treaty 'to be part of a shared future grounded in justice, understanding and unity'. Jedda Atkinson-Costa, general member of Gellung Warl the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria (Metro region), and Tui Raven, a representative from ALIA's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Expert Group, and, Clare Asquith Finegan, a Canadian law librarian, will discuss.

11.00 - 11.15 Morning Tea

Venue: Queens Room Exhibition Space

Take time to visit our generous sponsors and their trade exhibitions while refuelling for more conference sessions.

11.15 - 12.15 Law Reform in the AI Age: A Discourse, Dialectic or Paradox? [Expert Panel]

Panellists: Laura Racky, Miriam N Mochales, and Associate Professor Olivia Barr

Facilitators: Sue Ann Yap

Artificial intelligence is reshaping both the process of law reform and the substance of what must be reformed in law. This dynamic and thought-provoking panel explores AI as a double-edged force—simultaneously a powerful tool for improving legal information access and analysis, and a disruptive technology demanding urgent regulatory response.

Panellists will discuss the paradox of AI in law reform, looking at how AI can potentially enhance legislation analysis, case law research, public consultation and access to justice, while also considering the complex questions around privacy, bias, accountability, liability, ethics and the protection of fundamental rights. The discussion will draw upon Australian and international legal developments, considering where current legal frameworks may fall short and what effective, future ready law reform may require.

Integral to these issues is the role of law librarians in safeguarding public trust in legal institutions, and the interpretation, tracking, and communication of evolving legal issue. The panel will also consider how the paradox of AI tools can impact considerations relevant to fundamental legal research methods, including the potential risks and benefits of the generative AI iteration cycle.

12.15 - 1.15 Wellbeing, Sustainability & Collective Care in Law Librarianship [Keynote, Emily Knowles]

Speaker: Emily Knowles, Wellbeing Manager, Law Institute Victoria

Facilitator: Andrew Curtis

Law librarians are expert navigators, educators, and wellbeing allies within the legal system - strategically guiding lawyers through complex information, supporting professional and organisational wellbeing, and ensuring knowledge flows efficiently to enhance outcomes for clients, teams, and the profession as a whole.

This session provides practical strategies for law librarians to support relevant clients effectively while maintaining their own wellbeing. Participants will learn about current evidence-based resources, how to direct lawyers and staff to relevant supports, and explore sustainable self-care practices, boundary-setting, and ways to foster a culture of wellbeing within professional communities.

1:15 - 2:15 Lunch sponsored by De Gruyter Brill

Venue: Queens Room Exhibition Space

Enjoy lunch sponsored by De Gruyter Brill. This will be one of your last chances to visit our generous sponsors and their trade exhibitions.



2:15 - 3:15

AI Literacy & Tools [Expert Panel]

Panellists:

Jack Stoneman, Dr Amanda Head, Pauline Courtney, Benjamin Ponte, Yule Guttenbeil, Kathleen Foley, and Judge Wise

Facilitators:

Melanie Spain & Renée Naylor

The perspectives of lawyers, students, graduates and judges are brought together in this session to examine how artificial intelligence is reshaping legal research, practice, education and procedure. Panellists will explore AI's real-world impact across the legal profession to provide insight into how law librarians can be leaders in AI literacy and responsible adoption.

Panellist will also consider the changing nature of legal research tools, and what impacts this has on legal research methodologies, including challenges of evaluation, verification and ethics. Practical insights into current and emerging AI tools will be shared, and the impacts these are having on the work of law libraries.

3:15 - 4:15

Librarian Blueprints from Cuneiform Tablets to Code [Expert Panel]

Panellists:

Erin Cairney, Alison Jones, Fabian Horton, and Holger Aman

Facilitator:

Fiona MacDowell

From cuneiform tablets in the Royal Library of Ebla, to digital artefacts and artificial intelligence, librarianship has been essential to the discoverability of information. Under varied job titles, we have moved through shifts in technologies with the dexterity many professions lack.

In this panel, hear from leaders in law libraries and legal information technologies as they discuss ways to pivot historical experience into emerging legal information technology leadership, demonstrating undeniable value, and positioning librarians as strategically indispensable – not just a cost.

Law librarians remain integral to legal information, even more so in this era of ever-expanding AI influence. This panel discussion will help reframe conversations from cost to value, identifying evidence, allies, and how to employ critical judgment in embracing new technologies so that librarians can become champions of the information and knowledge frameworks of their organisations.

4:15 - 4:20

Conference Wrap Up, Closing remarks and Thanks

Speaker:

Incoming ALLA President

Hear from the incoming ALLA President about plans for the coming year, announcements about the next ALLA Conference and, the insider's guide to what to do and where to go while visiting Melbourne.

Social Event

4:15 - 5:00

Closing Drinks sponsored by Taylor & Francis Australasia

Venue:

Evoqé Events (123 Queen Street, Melbourne)

Wrap up the conference on a high note by joining us for Closing Drinks. An informal and celebratory gathering to share experiences and raise a glass to the connections made during the 2026 ALLA Conference.



Speaker Biographies

Keynote speakers



Elizabeth Tydd

**Australian Information Commissioner,
Office of the Australian Information Commissioner**

Elizabeth Tydd took up the position of Australian Information Commissioner in August 2024 for a 5-year term.

Elizabeth is an experienced agency head and has occupied several statutory decision-making roles, including the Information Commissioner and CEO of the NSW Information and Privacy Commission, the Australian

Freedom of Information Commissioner, the Deputy President of the Workers Compensation Commission and the Deputy Chairperson of the former Consumer, Trader and Tenancy Tribunal.

Elizabeth has extensive regulatory and governance experience at an executive and board level in a range of jurisdictions and industries, including commercial, not-for-profit and public sector oversight. She holds a Bachelor of Laws and Master of Laws from the University of Technology Sydney, as well as postgraduate certificates in executive management and governance together with post graduate qualifications in leadership and policy from Harvard University. Elizabeth possesses expertise in digital government and has written extensively on this subject.



Caroline Counsel

Principal, Caroline Counsel Family Lawyers

Caroline is an Accredited Family Law Specialist with more than 40 years' experience and is principal of Caroline Counsel Family Lawyers. She is the author of 'Divorce the Court: A Better Life Together...Apart' - a guide for couples and families to assist them remain as intact as possible post separation.

Caroline is a past president of the Law Institute of Victoria (LIV) and is the current Chair of the Specialisation Board of the LIV. She is also the Family Violence Portfolio holder for the Institute and co-chair of the Family Violence Working Group. Caroline also served on the board of the Law Council of Australia for several years and the Legal Admissions Board in Victoria for 20 years. She has been made an Honorary Life Member of the Law Institute of Victoria.



The Honourable Chief Justice Richard Niall

Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Victoria

The Honourable Chief Justice Richard Niall was appointed as the 13th Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Victoria from 3 February 2025 following a long and distinguished career.

His Honour commenced practice in 1990. He was Associate to the Hon Justice Ryan of the Federal Court before signing the Bar Roll in 1995. His Honour was appointed silk in 2010. He was then appointed as Solicitor-General for Victoria in

2015. In 2017 his Honour was appointed as a judge of appeal of the Supreme Court of Victoria. The Chief Justice also serves as the Chair of the Courts Council, which is the governing body of Court Services Victoria.

Courts Services Victoria is the independent statutory body providing services and facilities to Victoria's courts, VCAT and other Victorian statutory entities. The Chief Justice is also the chair of the Judicial College of Victoria and the Judicial Commission of Victoria. The Chief Justice is a Senior Fellow at the University of Melbourne, teaching public law and separation of powers in the graduate program. His Honour is a Fellow of Monash University and the Australian Academy of Law, and a member of the Australian Judicial Officers Association; the Australian Association of Constitutional Law; and the Australasian Institute of Judicial Administration.



Emily Knowles

LIV Wellbeing Manager, Law Institute of Victoria

Emily Knowles was appointed Wellbeing Manager at the LIV in 2024. She is an endorsed Organisational Psychologist with a master's degree in psychology, and a law degree. While Emily started her professional career working as a Judge's Associate in the Supreme Court, she then re-trained as a psychologist, and has since specialised in workplace wellbeing across settings.

Emily has further fine-tuned her dedication to, and expertise in, worker wellbeing to sub-specialise in lawyer wellbeing. She is deeply passionate about improving lawyers' work-related quality of life, providing resources and supports, and creating sustainable practices and systems that support legal professionals. Emily offers wellbeing support and education to LIV members, and the legal profession at large. She has designed and is currently implementing a sector-wide Wellbeing Strategy for lawyers and legal workplaces. Emily is committed to embedding wellbeing into services that wrap around the practice of law.



Expert panellists and international speakers



Holger Aman

Associate Director, Library Services for Research and Learning, Australian Catholic University

Holger Aman is Associate Director, Library Services for Research and Learning at Australian Catholic University, where he leads initiatives across research support, learning, and academic engagement. He began his career in law libraries within the justice sector before moving across public, special, and academic libraries in Australia and the UK. Most recently, he worked in higher education art libraries in London, an experience that continues to shape his thinking around creativity, engagement, and the role of libraries in supporting diverse disciplines.

Across his career, Holger has moved between sectors and across borders, drawing inspiration from different institutional contexts and user communities, and applying those insights to new environments. This journey has informed his strong focus on innovation in library services, with a particular emphasis on connecting innovation with a human-centred approach to research, learning, and engagement. Holger has held a range of leadership roles, including serving as President of the Australian Law Librarians' Association (NSW), and was awarded the ALIA Metcalfe Award for outstanding early career achievement.

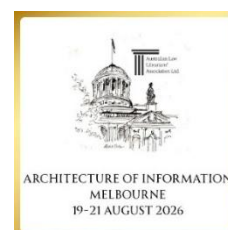
He is particularly interested in how people move from study into niche careers and continue to reshape their professional identities over time. His perspective on the “librarian blueprint” reflects a balance between honouring the profession’s foundations and recognising librarians as creative, adaptable practitioners and trusted stewards of knowledge.



Robyn Annear

Historian and author

Robyn Annear is author of ten books of history, including *Bearbrass*, *A City Lost & Found: Whelan the Wrecker's Melbourne*, *Adrift in Melbourne* and, most recently, *Shutter City: Fragments of a forgotten Melbourne*. Her podcast, *Nothing on TV*, presents stories from Trove historical newspapers. Robyn also appeared in the acclaimed 2022 documentary, *The Lost City of Melbourne* (streaming on SBS and Netflix).





Clare Asquith Finegan

Librarian, Information Services, Courthouse Libraries BC, Canada

Clare Asquith Finegan is an experienced Outreach and Reference Librarian with Courthouse Libraries BC, Canada, where she has spent eight years supporting public, self-represented litigants, and the legal community in accessing and navigating legal information. This publicly accessible law library is a rare resource in Canada and internationally. Clare's background is diverse, spanning the arts, archives, community startups and more, but a constant in her career has been her dedication to reducing barriers to information access. She has provided comprehensive training on legal and legislative research to lawyers, students, public librarians, and Indigenous legal clinics, helping to build research skills across these various user groups.



Jedda Atkinson-Costa

General member for the Metro Region, Gellung Warl - First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria

Jedda Atkinson-Costa is a Wemba Wemba, Yorta Yorta, Mutti Mutti and Barapa Barapa woman from Narm and an elected Metro Member of the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria.

Having worked as an Indigenous Affairs Reporter for the ABC, Jedda's career has always been grounded in storytelling, truth, community voice and representation.

During her time at the national broadcaster, Jedda's impactful reporting earned her the Victorian Rural Press Club's Young Journalist of the Year Award in 2021 and since then, she has channelled her expertise into training grassroots campaigners and community advocates to amplify their messages effectively in the media.

Known for her active presence across the Victorian Aboriginal community, Jedda continues to uplift First People's voices and push for better outcomes in her community.



Dr Olivia Barr

Associate Professor, Melbourne Law School, University of Melbourne

Dr. Olivia Barr is an Associate Professor at Melbourne Law School where she is the Director of the research programme 'Geography, place and the possibilities of law' at the Institute for International Law and the Humanities. She has previously worked as a public lawyer in the role of government solicitor, in law reform and for the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, and studied at UWA, UBC (Canada) and Melbourne. Olivia's research focuses on the interdisciplinary field of law and humanities, with expertise on the many relationships between law, place and sovereignties. With a long-standing interest in law reform, her research applies theoretical insights to more practical public law settings, including investigating future possibilities for state recognition of First Nations' sovereignty, sovereignties, and self-government. In 2026, she designed and taught a new JD elective at Melbourne Law School called 'Law Reform'.



Erin Cairney

Customer Success Manager, Thomson Reuters

Erin Cairney is a legal knowledge and AI professional based in Auckland, Aotearoa New Zealand. She brings over 25 years' experience in law firm libraries and knowledge roles with current work in AI governance, trust and adoption. Erin is Customer Success Manager, AI Solutions at Thomson Reuters, where she works with legal professionals to embed AI into real workflows and support confident, practical adoption. Before moving into legal technology, she spent a decade as Knowledge & Information Manager at MinterEllisonRuddWatts, one of New Zealand's leading law firms. She also led AI trust and integrity work for a US-based legal technology company, supporting responsible AI adoption and contributing to system documentation and benchmarking research comparing large language models with human reviewers. Erin is a former President of the New Zealand Law Librarians Association (NZLLA) and now chairs the Library and Information Association of New Zealand Aotearoa (LIANZA) Standing AI Committee, supporting and empowering the library and information sector to engage with AI in thoughtful, ethical and practical ways. She is an IAPP-certified AI Governance Professional.



Jasmine Carboon

Student, Library & Information Services Swinburne University

I am a student currently studying a Diploma of Library and Information Services at Swinburne University. I am halfway through my diploma and scheduled to finish at the end of the year. With my Library Technician qualification, I intend to work in the sector and explore the variety in libraries and work.

Once I find the space for me, I hope to continue my library studies at a higher level. For the moment though, I am loving my studies and discovering how wide the world of libraries is.



Pauline Courtney

Barrister and Commercial Mediator (FAMINZ Med), Legal AI Associate – Corporate, Quillio AI

Pauline is an experienced civil litigator and commercial mediator who has appeared as counsel at all levels of the New Zealand courts. She has developed particular expertise in how to use artificial intelligence systems in legal and Alternative Dispute Resolution practice. Pauline has provided significant advice, and presentations, on issues related to the use of AI systems including to senior members of the judiciary; and to law firms, barristers and professional organisations. Pauline is a member of the New Zealand Bar Association Technology Committee. In that capacity, and for clients, she has tested and evaluated the Quillio AI system, applying it across the skills, tasks and workflows undertaken by lawyers and ADR practitioners. She has benchmarked its output against five other legal-related AI systems available in New Zealand. Pauline practises through Kate Sheppard Chambers (a virtual chambers), having previously spent more than 20 years with Crown Law, including as a Senior Crown Counsel. Her broader areas of expertise include revenue and customs law, public law, company/commercial law, creditors' remedies, and trusts. She is currently undertaking a contract with Quillio.



Sinéad Curtin

BIALL Immediate Past President & Legal Knowledge Manager, Chief State Solicitor's Office, Ireland

Sinéad Curtin has been working in the legal information sector for over 25 years, starting out in the Law Library in Dublin. Following that, she joined the law firm McCann FitzGerald as legal information manager, where she managed the firm's library service. Since 2021, she has been the legal knowledge manager in the Chief State Solicitor's Office, where she manages the Office's knowledge management and legal research functions. Sinéad has been an active member of the British and Irish Association of Law Librarians (BIALL) throughout her career, serving in roles such as Convenor of the BIALl Irish Group and as Chair of the Legal Information Management Editorial Board. She is currently BIALl's Immediate Past President, following her term as BIALl President in 2025/2026.



Kathleen Foley SC

Barrister, VicBar / Koiki Mabo Chambers

Kathleen Foley SC is a Victorian barrister with a broad practice spanning trial and appellate work in commercial, public law and common law matters. Kathleen also has an active public interest litigation practice. Prior to coming to the Victorian Bar, Kathleen was employed as an Associate in the litigation group of the New York office of Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP. She passed the New York Bar exam in 2006, having completed her Master of Laws at Harvard Law School. From 2004 to 2005, Kathleen was Associate to Justice Hayne of the High Court of Australia. From November 2020 to February 2026, Kathleen was a part-time commissioner with the Victorian Law Reform Commission. As part of that role, Kathleen worked on a reference concerning the use of AI in Victoria's courts and tribunals. Kathleen presents regularly at panel discussions concerning the use of AI in legal practice.



Jenny Foster

AALL President & State Law Librarian and Access to Justice Coordinator for the Hawai'i State Judiciary, USA

Jenny Foster is the State Law Librarian and Access to Justice Coordinator for the Hawai'i State Judiciary, and the President of the American Association of Law Libraries (AALL) - the first Hawai'i resident and first Korean-American to serve in this role in AALL's 120-year history. She has dedicated her career to advancing access to justice, information literacy, and the legal information profession, serving as a Judiciary liaison to the Hawai'i Access to Justice Commission and as a national and regional speaker on artificial intelligence, DEI, legal research, and library-community partnerships. A past-president of the Hawai'i Library Association (HLA), Jenny stewarded HLA's centennial celebration in 2022. Jenny has been recognized with the Hawai'i Women Lawyers Distinguished Service Award and the Ka Palapala Po'okela Award for Excellence in Literature for her book, *Century of the Tiger: 100 Years of Korean Culture in America*. Her writing has appeared in AALL Spectrum, the Hawai'i Bar Journal, and beyond.



Yule Guttenbeil

Principal, Attune Legal Pty Ltd

Yule Guttenbeil is the Principal of Attune Legal, a commercial law practice focused on technology law and energy law. He is recognised for his expertise in the safe and ethical adoption of artificial intelligence in legal practice and was named SME AI Consultant of the Year at the 2024 Australian AI Awards.

Yule advises clients on AI strategy and adoption, trains lawyers on using AI well - in accordance with professional standards, and works on contract drafting, negotiation, and preventative legal systems that help clients avoid disputes. He is a co-founder of Mode Law an online platform for businesses to manage legal work, and of the Lex Nova Guild, a community advancing collaborative co-opetition across the profession.



Dr Amanda Head

Senior Lecturer (Teaching and Leadership), Lifespan Health and Wellbeing Research Centre, Macquarie Law School

Dr Amanda Head is a Senior Lecturer at Macquarie Law School, Macquarie University, where she serves as Course Director of the LLB program. She convenes several of the law school's largest units, including Foundations of Law, Legal Ethics, Torts, and Remedies, with enrolments in any one unit exceeding 1,000 students and she is the recipient of multiple Vice-Chancellor's and Faculty teaching awards for excellence

and innovation in education.

Amanda is admitted as a lawyer to the Supreme Court of NSW and is also a Certified Practising Accountant. Her teaching and scholarly interests centre on legal education pedagogy, assessment design, and the integration of AI and large language models into legal education and professional formation. She is developing a suite of learning and assessment tools that embed genuine engagement with the learning process, while remaining flexible in how students engage. Amanda has presented on AI and Legal Education to members of the Legal Profession Admission Board and other professional audiences. She sits on Macquarie University's Academic Senate Education Committee and the Law School Advisory Board.



Dr Fabian Horton

**Lawyer
ConnectLaw Australia**

A senior-level lawyer, risk manager, technologist, and educator with over 20 years' experience across multiple practice areas.

Dr Horton has a unique combination of experience in legal practice, technology implementation, and education design. Through his involvement in the legal profession, he has built a solid reputation as a thought leader in technology and innovation in the law. Dr Horton currently sits as Chair of the

Futures Committee at the Law Council of Australia and is an Executive Member of the Technology and Innovation Section of the Law Institute of Victoria.



Alison Jones

**Librarian (Systems)
Attorney General's Department**

Alison Jones is Librarian (Systems) at the Attorney-General's Department Library, based in Canberra. Her role focuses on ensuring library systems support departmental work, while also contributing to reference services and the daily work of a law library as part of a library team.

Prior to her current role, Alison was Research Librarian with the software company Atlassian, where she designed and curated a digital library for the research team. She previously worked as Knowledge Manager at Geoscape, a locational data company, where she established the organisation's intranet. Earlier in her career, Alison was the inaugural Library Manager and Knowledge Manager at Canberra law firm Meyer Vandenberg, building and delivering a comprehensive legal library service. In 2015, she was the recipient of the Australian Law Librarians' Association Law Librarian of the Year.



Miriam N Mochales

**Founder
Mochales Consulting Services**

Miriam N Mochales is the Founder of Mochales Consulting Services, an interdisciplinary consultancy focused on the intersection of law, artificial intelligence, regulatory systems, and human-centred technology.

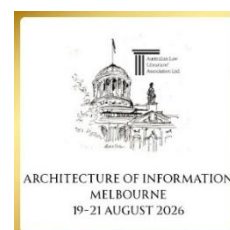
She is a former Chief Operating Officer of Regnet.Ai, a global regulatory intelligence platform, where she led work across legislative data infrastructure, AI-enabled regulatory tools, and

large-scale legal source systems.

With a background in law and anthropology, Miriam brings an interdisciplinary perspective to how technology is reshaping legal systems in real time. Her work focuses on how legal information can be structured, interpreted, and made more accessible through technology, including the transformation of legal documents and legislative materials into machine-readable formats.

Miriam is particularly interested in the limits of AI in law, how legal meaning can (and cannot) be translated into computational systems, what is required to make legal information usable by machines without losing its human context, and what we risk when legal reasoning is forced to fit within machine logic.

Her broader work explores the future of legal research, AI governance, regulatory intelligence, and the design of trustworthy legal technology systems.





Renée Naylor

**Library Education & Communications Coordinator
Law Library Victoria**

Renée Naylor is a qualified librarian and trainer with over 15 years' experience in academic and law libraries. Her current role is Education and Communications Coordinator at Law Library Victoria, where she leads the design and delivery of the Library's education program for lawyers, legal professionals, and court staff.

Renée has expertise in legal research, instructional design, and professional training. She has led the development of the Law Library's resources on artificial intelligence and digital literacy to assist legal practitioners in adapting to emerging technologies. She also coordinates the Library's regional outreach program, which includes training, strategic communications, and statewide visits to support lawyers in person.



Ben Ponte

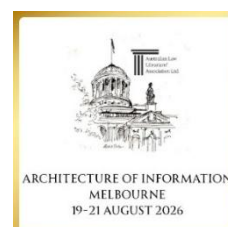
Juris Doctor candidate, University of Melbourne

I am a former VCE teacher and co-ordinator turned Juris Doctor candidate at the University of Melbourne. I expect to graduate in November and crack on with my legal career full time in 2027.

Over the past year I have been lucky enough to undertake seasonal clerkships at three national firms and have held a law clerk role in the Dispute Resolution team at Sladen Legal. I

have developed a strong interest in commercial disputes and competition law, but I haven't met a field of law I haven't enjoyed yet, although criminal law freaks me out a bit.

I consider myself an avid and reasonably proficient user of AI, both as a student and as a clerk, and I've spent a higher proportion of my meagre student income on Anthropic tokens than I would like to admit. There aren't many problems I haven't interrogated through the use of AI, but I have also come to learn a lot about its limitations and pitfalls. In case you were wondering: I did write this bio myself.





Laura Racky

Director, ll.gold

Laura Racky is a Melbourne-based commercial lawyer, entrepreneur, and strategic advisor with nearly two decades of practice spanning commercial litigation, banking, finance, and insolvency. She is the founder and principal of commercial law firm ll.gold and serves as Chairman of the Board of Big Group Hug, a Melbourne not-for-profit supporting families in crisis. Laura holds degrees in Law and Arts and a Masters in

Commercial Law from Monash University.

She is a Graduate Member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors (GAICD) and a Fellow of the Governance Institute of Australia (FGIA). Her engagement with AI and law reform is grounded in practice. Running a commercial law firm has put her at the coalface of how AI tools are actually being adopted by clients, by practitioners, and across the legal system, and what that means for regulation, accountability, and access to justice. Laura also reaches a substantial public audience as a content creator and commentator, with over 140,000 followers across Instagram and TikTok and more than 30 million views. She has been published in the Australian Financial Review and hosts the Let's Just Start Podcast.



Tui Raven

**Senior Manager Indigenous Programs,
Deakin University Library**

Tui Raven, Yamaji Nyungar, is the author of the Guidelines for First Nations Collection Description and Senior Manager, Indigenous Program, Deakin Library.

As a member of the ALIA Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Expert Advisory Group and the IFLA Indigenous Matters section, she works with colleagues across the sector to make library spaces more equitable and culturally safe. In 2024, Tui was awarded a CAUL Indigenous Leadership Award. *Speaker profile photo: Copyright Mauro Palmieri.*



Abbey Saxon

Student, Information Science, Curtin University

Abbey is a final year student of the Masters of Information Science at Curtin University. Over the course of her degree, she has completed placements at State Library Victoria in collection arrangement and description and the Victoria Legal Aid Library. Currently, she is undertaking an internship at University of Melbourne Archives, working on metadata enhancement and research for a significant collection of Victorian architectural drawings. She also works as a public library officer at Yarra Plenty Regional Library. She is particularly interested in maximising collection access, and supporting information access more widely, through reference support and description.



Jack Stoneman

**Head of AI Legal Practice (M&A and Capital Markets),
MinterEllison**

Jack Stoneman is a Head of AI Legal Practice (M&A and Capital Markets) at MinterEllison and a Senior Fellow at Melbourne Law School, where he works at the intersection of law, technology and artificial intelligence.

His work combines traditional legal practice with software engineering and product design. He holds a JD and Bachelor of Commerce from the University of Melbourne and a Master of Computer Science (majoring in AI) from Monash University, and speaks regularly on how generative AI and software-engineering principles are reshaping the practice of law.



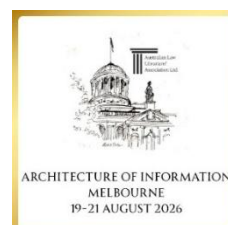
Judge Michael Wise

County Court of Victoria

His Honour Judge Michael Wise was appointed to the County Court in January 2024 after 31 years practice as a commercial barrister, the last 7 as Silk.

He has had a long standing interest in technology and has always been an early adopter. He is particularly interested in the interface between technology and the law and has run a number of cases centred around various technologies.

He is a former Chair of the Victorian Bar's Information & Technology Committee and is currently a member of the County Court's Digital Information & Artificial Intelligence Committee.



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