

What research topics should be explored in the Australasian library and information profession? A panel discussion.

It is frequently noted that there is a divide between research and practice in library and information science (LIS)[1]. LIS researchers lament that practitioners are not applying research findings and LIS practitioners say research is too “ivory tower” and not relevant to practice. Although there may be some truth to these statements, there are many points of collaboration and application of research across the sector, worldwide. This panel explores researcher-practitioner engagement by critically considering: what research topics should be explored in the Australasian library and information profession? This interactive session takes the form of an inverted panel[2] where RAILS delegates are invited to respond to questions posed by panelists. Delegates at the 2016 Australian Library and Information Association National Conference were also invited to share their views on this question; the results will be shared at RAILS to provide additional context to shape the discussion. The panelists will act as critical friends, enabling and supporting the discussion and critically exploring the realities faced by researchers and practitioners in conducting and applying research.

For example:

1. Booth, A. (2003), “Bridging the research-practice gap? The role of evidence based librarianship”, *New Review of Information and Library Research*, Vol. 9 No. 1, pp. 3-23;
Crowly, C. (2005) *Spanning the theory-practice divide in library and information science*. Scarecrow Press. UK.;
- Haddow, G. and Klobas, J.E. (2004), “Communication of research to practice in library and information science: closing the gap”, *Library and Information Science Research*, Vol. 26, pp. 29-43.

2 Finch, M. (2016) Beyond panels. <https://matthewfinch.me/2016/05/17/beyond-panels/>