

Editorial

I would like to take this opportunity to refer readers to some documents of interest that may support their practice, submissions, and reports. Firstly, the [IFLA-UNESCO School Library Manifesto](#), which has been updated and recently re-released. On the IFLA website it explains: 'The new edition reflects the many changes in technology, society and education, and represents an important and useful tool for school library advocacy for quality and inclusive education'. It is important that we are all aware of these overarching, international documents.

Similarly, the newly formed ACSL (Australian Coalition of School Libraries), about which we have an excellent article by Jacqui Lucas in our [Interactions](#) section, has recently released four new statements to assist school libraries and school leaders in establishing quality library services. These statements are available on the [SLAV website](#), and look at staffing, funding and resource provision, information literacy, and digital literacy.

Synergy is not themed, but sometimes an edition will have a distinct flavour. This issue has a number of globally-focused articles about collaboration and interaction, offering some very inspirational ideas and opportunities. Two articles ([here](#) and [here](#)) look at the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, [another](#) at the IASL's International School Libraries Month, and yet [another](#) at a very inspirational group of school library professionals and their global collaborative efforts. It is wonderful to see how networks, global initiatives, and dedicated, knowledgeable library professionals can bring communities together to learn and share.

As with many professional development programs, journals, etc., around the globe, *Synergy* continues to welcome articles giving insights into artificial intelligence - its uses and benefits, and its impact. In this edition we have two - [one](#) from our new Reflections and Actions author, Jennifer Branch-Meuller, and the [other](#) from Darryl Toerein from the UK, continuing a discussion he started in issue one of *Synergy*, 2024. We are thrilled to have such highly-regarded commentators exploring this complex topic.

Each year the *Synergy* Board seeks a guest author for the '[Reflections and Actions](#)' section. A section first authored by the longstanding contributor, and Board member, Professor Ross Todd. We have had some fantastic guests and, this year, we are thrilled to have Professor Jennifer Branch-Meuller join us as our guest for 2025. Jennifer brings with her a wealth of experience and connections as the Associate Dean of Academic and Student Experience in the Faculty of Education at the University of Alberta, and she is also the current the President of the International Association of School Librarianship.

You may notice upon viewing this edition, that we are missing the wonderful New Zealand Landscapes section. Circumstances beyond all of our control have meant this section won't appear in issue one but I would like to reassure our readers that it will be back for issue two. We thank the fantastic Miriam Tuohy, who writes this section, for us keeping us updated on happenings in New Zealand and for her dedicated and thoughtful contributions to *Synergy*. We

look forward to her return in issue two.

It is a time of change at *Synergy* and, though I would like to think we are always raising issues and responding to change, this is a momentous change of significant note. This edition will be the first in 18 years without Dr Carol Gordon's contribution in her section '[Research to Practice](#)'. Such a long and extraordinary involvement deserves acknowledgment and our enormous thanks. Carol has been an outstanding contributor to *Synergy* and her input will be greatly missed. In this edition we have the last article in her section - a thank you to Carol which includes a very, very long list of all of her articles, with links to all that are available on the *Synergy* website. I urge you to revisit this valuable archive.

Thank you, as always, to the fantastic *Synergy* board for their support and efforts in the creation of *Synergy*, particularly Dr Rosemary Abbott for her work on [Reviews](#) and [Horizons](#).

Finally, a special thank you to our long-serving desktop publisher and website manager, Monica Williams, who has handed over the reins after many, many years. Monica was involved in the initial design and construction of *Synergy*'s online presence, and the recent design reinvigoration, and has always ensured that our journal maintains a high standard of presentation and accessibility. We thank her for all her hard work, dedication, and good humour.

Happy Reading!

Dr Susan La Marca
Editor