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# Maria Gemenis Award

The following is the text of a speech made by Jan Cree, President, ALIA Special Library Section (NSW Group), in honour of Louise Butler, winner of 1989 Maria Gemenis Award for Outstanding Contribution to Special Librarianship. The Award was presented at a dinner in Sydney on the 12 July 1989.

'It is a very great honour for me to present the 1989 Maria Gemenis Award for Outstanding Contribution to Special Librarianship to a member of the Special Libraries Section (New South Wales Group).

'As many of you are aware, I spent a number of years working with Maria on the New South Wales Special Libraries Committee. It was through her 'address to a brick wall' that I became actively involved. Maria was a creative leader and supportive committee member; she had a pragmatic approach to life. There have been many times over the past few years when I have very much missed the opportunity to discuss a particular problem with Maria or share a laugh about skiing.

'It is particularly gratifying to remember that something of Maria's vitality and enthusiasm is being kept alive through the annual presentation of this award.

'The criteria for the award are:

- willingness to share professional expertise;
- breaking down the barriers of librarians in isolation;
- successful promotion of library and information services, by achieving outstanding recognition from the parent organisation.

These criteria were specified because they were the things that Maria was especially concerned about.

'Maria was always willing to share her professional expertise and to encourage others to do so. To further this, she arranged meetings in different libraries and was always prepared to talk to librarians on an individual or group basis. She was very concerned about the isolation of special librarians, not only in a geographical sense, but also in the sense that in smaller libraries they often work alone and have little or no contact with other librarians.

'Perhaps the final criterion, i.e., successful promotion of the service achieving outstanding recognition from the parent organisation, is the one that was most important to Maria. She had a strong concern for the quality of the profession and was very much in favour of selling the service to its users and justifying it to senior management.

'The seventh Maria Gemenis Award

for Outstanding Contribution to Special Librarianship goes this year to Louise Butler, Librarian at the Australian Finance Conference.

'Louise has demonstrated her willingness to share her professional expertise by being actively involved in two special librarians' groups. Until recently, when the demands of post-graduate study became too great, she was a member and Treasurer of the New South Wales Special Libraries Committee. Since her appointment to the Australian Finance Conference in 1984 she has become convener of the LIFE group.

'The LIFE group, or librarians in financial institutions, is a group of information professionals from organisations such as banks, chartered accountancy firms, insurance companies, legal firms, management consultancy firms, government departments and credit agencies.



4 Jenny Adams (last year's recipient of the Maria Gemenis Award) with Louise Butler at the Special Libraries section (NSW Group) dinner

'Louise has been responsible for maintaining the union list of periodicals and membership directory, which have proved invaluable to members. Her commitment, energy and enthusiasm are the main reasons why this diverse group is thriving, with a current membership of around fifty.

'Louise has helped break down the barriers of isolation by adopting a gatekeeper role and providing information to others about job vacancies, library systems, duplicate lists, availability of locums, and much more. She has always been approachable and supportive, especially to newer members of our profession. Her management and development of a comprehensive information system at the Australian Finance Conference is recognised and deeply appreciated by her Executive Director, Peter Long, and all the members, staff, academics, students, people of other industry associations and members of the public who constantly use this service.

'The award is presented to Louise in recognition of her outstanding contribution to special librarianship, especially during these times of financial uncertainty.'



## REMINDER

### CALL FOR NOMINATIONS 1990 DIVISION ELECTIONS

Nominations for the positions on the Association's Divisional Committees for 1990 should be sent to:

**The Executive Director, Australian Library and Information Association, PO Box E441, Queen Victoria Terrace, ACT 2600** (or other returning officer as listed in the insert InCite 24 July 1989), no later than Thursday 1 September 1989.