

Vantage point

If Sandra Horsell had a slogan for her first days as librarian at the Australian Submarine Corporation in Adelaide, it might have been 'take the modem and go!' Coming up for five years later, she now sees the results of her efforts to improve the library profile in increased usage and awareness of her library amongst the staff, and in a solid budget and senior management support.

Sandra made sure the library contributed to the weekly in-house publication *Subconscious*, took part in induction programs and supported staff on the shop floor undertaking study. Along with increased usage, management soon recognised Sandra's efforts with a promotion.

Librarianship is something Sandra fell into and then fell for, when her work as a research officer with Top Australia moved from the laboratory to the library. While managing the library, Sandra

worked part time to achieve her BA in Library and Information Management at the University of SA, completing her studies in 1993.

Sandra has a passion for the worth of library and information professionals. She says she is proud to be a librarian and uses every opportunity she can to promote her profession. She joined ALIA as a student, a move she now recalls as 'natural'.

'Membership of the Association is very valuable in that it keeps you informed of what is happening in the profession', she says, a viewpoint she has actively underlined by holding positions as Treasurer and President (1994) with the SA Branch.

The Submarine Corporation library boasts some of the latest technology and Sandra has achieved much by using facilities such as CD-ROM to replace unfriendly microfiche standards in the eyes of her clientele. They no longer consider

her library to be one that 'sits and waits for people to come to us'.

Her promotion has meant she has access to more senior staff and the library is able to play a key role in Corporation activity. Good budget support means expensive technology and funds for fast track services are available to ensure quality service delivery. But she adds that technology is not an end in itself, nor the end of librarians.

'Our message should be — to find out how to access, exploit, and get the best of what technology has to offer, come to the library.'

Lee Welch



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