

Giving new graduates a head start

This month's *Vantage Point* focuses on a recent graduate who is making a name for herself in the library profession. Elizabeth Walkley was recently appointed as a trainee librarian at the Flinders University Library under a new scheme for recent graduates without experience, but with potential.

As one of the first trainee librarians to be employed by the library Elizabeth feels that she has been given a great opportunity. In a competitive job market, with little room for those with minimal experience the hardest part of career building is getting that first foot in the door. By deliberately making room for recent graduates, the Flinders University Library has offered Elizabeth, as a new librarian, a valuable start to her career. The trainee scheme acknowledges her lack of 'hands on' experience and aims to rectify it by exposing her to the many facets of academic librarianship over a three year period.

Elizabeth began her traineeship as a cataloguer in June 1994. Cataloguing, for good reason, has long been the starting point for many new librarians. Elizabeth is gaining a solid understanding of Dewey, Moys and LCSH as well as the idiosyncrasies of cataloguing at Flinders. 'I believe the skills I'm learning now will hold me in good stead for my career in librarianship' said Elizabeth.

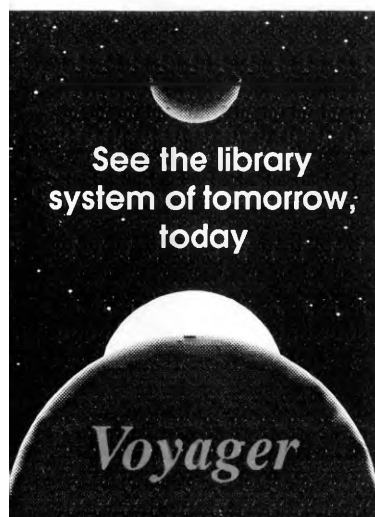
From a trainees perspective, the program has not only given her a job but a chance to formulate better ideas about where she wants to head professionally.

As a trainee, Elizabeth is still learning every day, but with the added satisfaction of knowing that she contributes to the functioning of the Flinders University Library. Elizabeth sums it up by saying, 'It's exciting to be doing something useful, especially if it's cataloguing that



first book or actually answering a reference query without help.' ■

If you know any young achievers that you believe should be profiled in inCite, please contact Carolyn Cherrett at the National Office, telephone (06) 285 1877, or fax (06) 282 2249.



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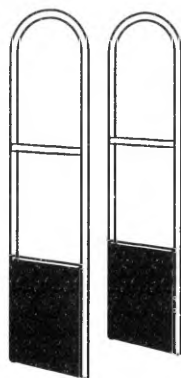
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