

Consultant, librarian, indexer, teacher...

This month's Vantage point profiles a member who is more than just a librarian.

Glenda Browne works as a TAFE teacher of library practice, as a book



Glenda Browne

and database indexer, and occasionally as a librarian. She says that since childhood she wanted to be a librarian, but took a while getting around to it, as she wanted to do many other things as well. She thinks it is in the nature of librarians to have wide-ranging interests.

After working as a research scientist tied to a lab bench for a number of years, Glenda decided that she wanted a job she could do part-time, anywhere. She entered the library diploma course at the University of NSW in 1988.

Her subsequent experience as a one-person librarian at Blacktown Hospital gave her a broad skill base, as

she had to do everything from long-term planning to shelving books.

Health libraries staff are a very supportive group, and staff at Westmead Hospital library and members of the ALIA Health Libraries section nurtured her through the early days. She still keeps in touch, and is fortunate to get occasional casual work through these friends and colleagues. She feels it is important to keep her library skills current.

One of Glenda's jobs now is as an indexer of books, and of journal articles for the CSIRO Index. She feels that indexing suits her perfectly, yet a few years ago she didn't even know that the job existed. Indexing is fascinating, but the work is erratic. When a book arrives for indexing it requires every free moment for up to a month, and turns the household upside down.

There is little personal contact in indexing (although there is a small, but lively and supportive, group of indexers in Sydney) so it meshes well with Glenda's other major jobs: teaching two days a week at Mt Druitt TAFE, and looking after her five-year-old son (twenty-four hours a day!). Teaching is a great way of keeping in touch with the library field. Glenda also enjoys visiting libraries and talking to recent graduates.

The main advantages of non-traditional library work for Glenda are the ability to work on intellectually stimulating projects part-time, and often from home. Juggling three or more jobs requires a large commitment of time and energy, but the variety and flexibility make it worthwhile. ■

ACSPRI

In conjunction with its 1996 Summer Program

presents

A five-day Special Workshop on:

Access to Social Science Data Resources and Provision of Data Services

For University and government librarians involved in the provision of data services, including electronic information products.

Australian National University, Canberra
21- 25 January, 1995

Conducted by:

Diane Geraci

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Based on their internationally recognised workshop, held annually at the University of Michigan, the Special Workshop is aimed at individuals who have some responsibility for providing (or facilitating) access to social science statistical data files to users of these resources.

Its objectives are to introduce 'information management, data control, and data librarian procedures and techniques', taking into account Australian library circumstances and the availability of Australian data products including those available on the Internet.

In addition to covering basic statistical data management skills, the workshop will discuss reference services for machine-readable data, address issues relevant to the development of on-line data collections, and suggest ways of dealing with problems that librarians may encounter in providing data services at their institutions.

For full Workshop details, consult the 1996 ACSPRI Summer Program Course Booklet. Available from ACSPRI-SP96, Social Science Data Archives, the Australian National University, Canberra ACT 0200, Tel (06) 249 4400; Fax (06) 249 4722; e-mail: ssda@anu.edu.au

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