

Scheme helps libraries, students and the community

Eileen Craig, Ursula Domin, Nicci Page, QLPC student volunteer co-ordinators, Queensland Library Promotion Council's Student Volunteer Scheme 1998

In May of this year, fourteen library science students participated in the Queensland Library Promotion Council's Student Volunteer Scheme. This scheme consists of students volunteering in libraries to assist with promotional activities for Australian Library Week. The scheme is a successful program that benefits libraries, library science students, and promotes libraries to the community.

The scheme is an important part of the council's annual activities. The objectives of the scheme are to:

- 1 assist students in gaining experience in a library environment;
- 2 provide libraries with assistance with promotional activities; and
- 3 facilitate communication between library staff and students.

Many students wish to gain experience


and meet professionals, but experience difficulties as they do not have a network of contacts. Library promotion is an important activity for library staff — but time and staff constraints can hamper these activities. Participation in the Student Volunteer Scheme can solve both problems. Students get to meet library staff, and volunteer in a library environment, and libraries get a helping hand with those much-needed promotional activities.

In 1998 the participating libraries were public and special libraries in the Brisbane, Ipswich and Logan areas. The students were involved in various activities ranging from assistance at public functions, helping with internet classes, preparing library displays, and promotion of QLPC's new mascot, the Reading Bug. The type of activities undertaken determined the

amount of time students spent in the participating libraries.

After completion of the activities, feedback was sought from all participants. Feedback from the students included: 'an opportunity to meet library staff and see what happens behind the scenes'; 'I had a great time and was allowed to do many activities that I really enjoyed'; and 'I think the scheme is an excellent idea as it allows students to experience working in a library'.

The libraries were also positive. Their comments included: 'It was great to have volunteer assistance in preparing displays... an extra pair of hands was much appreciated'; 'Our student volunteer was willing and eager to participate'; and 'We would be more than happy to participate in the scheme in the future.' ■



athena

**Advanced
Affordable
& Proven.**

Windows *Internet*

**The Athena Generation
of Library Management
from Nichols Advanced
Technology Inc.**

SKAHA Pty Ltd
ACN 071 518 422

Tel 02 9262 6663
Fax 02 9221 7570
Skaha@s054.aone.net.au.

**Libraries
Alive!**

The practitioners' consortium - an independent Australian consulting company creating library services for the 21st century. Verve and zest in information management?

For details please contact
Ian McCallum
on (02) 6247 4089 or email at
ian.mccallum@alianet.alia.org.au

Produce a Windows-based
CD-ROM library catalogue

**WINCAT
software**

Features include:

- ◆ flexibility for multi sites including the ability to limit the search to the holdings of a single site
- ◆ keyword and boolean searching
- ◆ the ability to flag items for printing and exporting
- ◆ support for authority records
- ◆ limiting by material type, publication date etc

For more information on the WINCAT software and other UNILINC products see

www.unilinc.edu.au

Serving libraries for 20 years.