

Queensland university librarians working together

Rae-Anne Locke, QULOC executive officer

Queensland University Librarians Office of Co-operation (QULOC) recently hosted the second University Librarians' Forum. This annual event provided the attendees with a unique opportunity to hear seven of the thirteen QULOC university librarians speak about their insights and involvement in the Australian library world.

With the QULOC convenors changing this year from the University of Queensland to Griffith University, the program commenced with a joint welcome from the retiring and incoming convenors, Janine Schmidt and Janice Rickards.

Alison Ransome, university librarian from Southern Cross University and mentor of the Lending and Document Delivery Working Party, spoke about the development of the University Library Australia National Borrowing Scheme. As chair of the University Library Australia Working Group, Alison stressed the positives of the scheme including, simplified access to collections, quick and easy registration for borrowers, reduced administrative impact on host libraries and flexibility for local institutions to charge if desired.

As the first QULOC library to undergo the Australian University Quality Assurance (AUQA) audit, the University of Southern Queensland's experiences were shared by university librarian, Madeleine McPherson. In a frank and humorous way, Madeleine highlighted the audit process, criteria and the panel's approach to the audit.

The director of library services at the Queensland University of Technology (QUT), Gaynor Austen, briefed the audience about the role of the International Association of Technological University Libraries (IATUL). As second vice-president, Gaynor noted the benefits to QUT including international contacts and networking, awareness of worldwide library issues, development of new skills, international recognition of web design and maintenance and additional income.

As the newest university librarian in QULOC, Gulcin Cribb, director of library services at Bond University, shared her 'perspectives from the new girl on the block'. Gulcin stressed the importance of networking, gathering information and gaining insight into the

new organisation and support and co-operation between university librarians via such organisations such as QULOC and CAUL.

Nestled in the lush rainforest of the northern hinterland, the picturesque Cairns campus of James Cook University, echoes the exhilarated screams of nearby bungee jumpers. Kate Elder, the Cairns campus manager, spoke to the group about the difficulties faced by staff in remote institutions.

Janine Schmidt, university librarian from the University of Queensland, described the role in, and the breadth of, the Group of Eight, a coalition of eight of Australia's largest universities, including University of Queensland. Janine noted most universities and their libraries belong to more than one consortium, at an international, national or regional level. Current projects of the Group of Eight include an e-print archive, joint purchase of scholarly journals, benchmarking and a virtual reference collection.

The retiring executive officer, Elizabeth Jordan from the University of Queensland, reviewed the history and structure of QULOC. Liz continued by highlighting many of the significant achievements of the six working parties.

Janice Rickards, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Information Services), Griffith University and incoming QULOC convenor, closed the program by focusing on the four main purposes for QULOC which are to:

- provide a framework for shared planning, appropriate partnerships and the promotion of co-operative activities;
- secure an information infrastructure;
- ensure efficient access for clients to information resources; and
- leverage activities of member institutions through sharing knowledge, expertise and leading-edge activities of member institutions.

This very successful forum embodies the enormous benefits and values of QULOC — information sharing, reciprocity, diversity, informality and collegiality. ■

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