



Energise >> Enthuse >> Inspire!

Getting bright and funky, again...

The one-day ALIA New Librarian's Symposium (NLS) 1.5 was the first major event organised by the ALIA New Graduates Group (NGG). Held on Friday 5 December 2003 an enthusiastic crowd of ninety delegates and sponsor representatives returned to the Carlton Crest Hotel in Brisbane to continue the tradition started a year earlier when the first NLS was held.

The most popular speaker from NLS1, Fiona Emberton opened the day with her Career Day Spa activities and tips for the delegates. Speakers during the day added to this by speaking on topics such as working overseas, how to write and present your first conference paper, and job seeking skills. The delegates were also asked to reminisce about their first job and what it had taught them. The day concluded with NGG committee members, Alison O'Connor and Kate Watson acting out a skit on stage about the many reasons for joining ALIA.

Our sponsor representatives made a short presentation prior to each meal break to give us a background into their company and a small trade show exhibition was mounted in the meals

area where sponsors showcased their wares and mingled with delegates. It was also great to have these representatives give their opinions during the sessions. NGG would like to thank the major sponsors of NLS1.5 – Bolinda Publishing, James Bennett, Southern Scene, Thomson Gale and QUT School of Information Systems.

The day concluded with another memorable cocktail function where strawberry margaritas were served and many delegates retired afterwards to the Carlton Bar to continue networking into the night. Congratulations and thank you to the hardworking NLS1.5 organising committee for making this event a reality.

If you couldn't make it to ALIA NLS1.5 there are two things you can do:

- Make it a priority to register early and attend NLS2 in Adelaide in December 2004 — another NGG event not to be missed
- Take a look at the ALIA NLS1.5 website and check out speakers notes, photos and reports of the day <http://conferences.alia.org.au/newlibrarian2003/>.

Sue Hutley

New Generation Policy
and Advisory Group

Oh, the places you'll go...

New Librarian's Symposium 1.5, 5 December 2003

Somewhere in the midst of the last four weeks of a semester when assessment rains heavy and exams are imminent, stress can cause a student to question what it is all for.

What if the library work isn't there when I graduate? How flexible can I be in my job descriptions? Are there opportunities besides the traditional library environment? Self-doubt set in. Answers had to be sought.

There was only one solution — register for the New Librarian Symposium 1.5 in December.

This year's Symposium was the perfect opportunity for me to keep my goals on track and remind me why a career in libraries is so worthy. With a line-up of appealing presenters and a room full of inspiring peers, self-confidence could be regained.

The Symposium did not disappoint.

Of particular note was a presentation by Natalie Blanchard from SWETS Blackwell in a panel session regarding librarians in non-traditional roles. Natalie graduated from RMIT University with a Bachelor of Business in Information Management and Library Studies. Her career has taken her from archiving information on tropical cyclones with the National Meteorological Library at the Bureau of Meteorology to a library role on the other side of the fence as a library vendor. Natalie has now found herself in a self-confessed 'dream' role as a 'publisher relations and consortia sales manager'. Oh, and she has also managed to travel the world in the process: research work in India, marketing and sales programs in the United States, and most recently delivering a paper at the IFLA conference in Glasgow. Along the way Natalie has remained involved with ALIA, convening the New Generation Policy and Advisory Group

and is also a New Graduates Group member.

Most notable is Natalie's insistence that if she was offered work again in the library she wouldn't hesitate to say yes — at her own liberty of course. Those essential library skills like cataloguing, collection development, archiving and information management have been continually revisited. Throughout her career she has utilised all those library skills she learnt in her studies and practised earlier on and in doing so has added value to the term 'librarian'.

Inspiring, enthusiastic, positive and competent, Natalie reminded me why my study is worth it. Remaining flexible and focused in any career we embark on appears to be the key. As Natalie said, quoting Dr Seuss, 'Oh the places you'll go...'

Tracy Creagh, QUT Student,
Graduate Diploma in Library
and Information Studies

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is the new *inCite* column giving a voice to the new generation of library and information professionals. If you have any suggestions or topics for this column, please contact the column coordinator, Kate Watson, watsonk@rcc.qld.gov.au.