

Library Technician of the Year 2005

Kevin Dudeney has been awarded the 2005 ALIA Library Technician of the Year Award. This award promotes the role of library technicians in library and information science, and the image of the library technician. Administered by the ALIA National Library Technicians Group and sponsored by the School of Computer and Information Science at Edith Cowan University, nominees for the award must be a personal member of a library technician group and hold library technician qualifications recognised by ALIA.

Kevin's contribution to the advancement of library technicians has been outstanding. With a previous career in book retailing, Kevin began working in librarianship as an assistant library technician with the NSW Department of Corrective Services, before moving into his current role of library technician at the NSW Department of Corrective Services.

In awarding Kevin the 2005 Library Technician of the Year, the panel noted Kevin's excellent initiative and negotiation skills in the workplace, his consistently cheerful and positive outlook, his strong personal skills and his ability to maintain excellent relationships with Education officers in corrective service libraries throughout NSW.

Kevin has been actively involved in a number of professional activities and committees over the years.

These include being an ALIA director from 2001 to 2005; a convenor of the ALIA NSW Library Technicians' Group from 1999 to 2005; a member of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions; a part-time teacher at TAFE NSW in Library and Information Studies, a member of the Parramatta City Council Library Advisory Committee from 1991 to 1999 and, most recently, he was treasurer and trade representative for neXt 2005, the ALIA National Library and Information Conference. His contribution to maintaining practical links between the state library technician groups within ALIA has been invaluable. Kevin's work in organising the River of Opportunities series of regional NSW workshops helped to provide a very successful forum for library workers in country areas to access professional development activities.

Kevin is a consistent advocate for library workers in Australia and for ALIA. He is a worthy recipient of the 2005 ALIA Library Technician of the Year Award.

Congratulations, Kevin. ■



Dunn & Wilson Scholarship 2005

Sharon Uthmann is the winner of the 2005 Dunn & Wilson Scholarship. The scholarship is a biennial award of up to \$5000 and provides the recipient with an opportunity to investigate a particular project relating to the practice of library technicians, which will increase the recipient's professional occupational experience. It is open to practising library technicians who are financial members of ALIA. The inaugural scholarship was awarded in 1991.

Sharon's project will investigate and identify secondment programs offered to library technicians nationwide and in all library sectors. This research will be a resource for library technicians seeking secondment opportunities.

The aims of Sharon's study are:

- to investigate the range of secondment opportunities available to library technicians Australia-wide and in all library sectors;
- to spread awareness of the role secondments play in library technicians' personal growth and professional development;

- to highlight secondment programs in different library sectors and provide a resource to which library technicians can refer when seeking out secondment opportunities in their careers;
- to identify 'best practice' secondment arrangements; and
- create a body of work that can be broadly utilised.

Sharon's interest in opportunities for library technicians to participate in secondments stems from her own experience and the research she conducted for her paper, 'Multi-skill me', that some of you would have heard presented in a morning session at the 2005 neXt conference.

Sharon is a qualified library technician with ten years experience in the academic library sector. She started her career at the Bremer Institute of TAFE before moving to the Queensland University of Technology, where she currently works as a reference librarian at Kelvin Grove campus library.

Congratulations to Sharon... ■

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