

# National Library Technician Group Report 2003–2005

The objectives of the National Library Technician Group are:

- to promote and market the ALIA and Library Technician membership in a national basis (ALIA Object 5)

- to actively represent the interests of library technicians on relevant issues in national forums (ALIA Object 4)
- to ensure the dissemination of information to library technician sections in all State/Territories; provide support and guidance as required to the sections/members (ALIA Object 1)

How have we as a committee achieved these objectives over the last two years?

## Promotion and marketing

This has been achieved in various ways, in particular through National Library Technician Day, held during Library Week each year. In 2004 the national group celebrated 25 years since formation, so a brief history of the group was put together as both a PowerPoint presentation and a Word document that was sent to the list. Other events were suggested which, while they could not be implemented at the time, are still being considered for the future.

The Library Technician of the Year award gives us the opportunity to celebrate and more importantly recognise the achievements of individual library technicians. The award is peer nominated. The calibre of all nominations in 2004–05 was outstanding. In 2004 there were joint winners, Lothar von Retzlaff from Western Australia and Beth Clary from the ACT. In 2005 Kevin Dudeney was our winner. All have been actively involved...

Dunn & Wilson Scholarship allows library technicians to undertake research into an area of interest to the recipient. The 2003 winner was Lothar von Retzlaff whose research topic was e-commerce for library promotion and sustainability: How library technicians can market themselves and their library's services online. The 2005 recipient is Sharon Uthmann who will be researching secondment opportunities offered to library technicians nationally, covering all library sectors. The results of her research will give library technicians a readily available resource for identifying secondment career opportunities. We look forward to hearing from Sharon in 2007 in Melbourne.

Since the start of the year we have initiated a regular column in *inCite*. Articles have covered issues affecting rural and isolated members, ALIA's CPD scheme and profiles of various state groups.

## Representing the interests of library technicians

During my time as convenor I was invited to attend the 2004 National Policy Congress. Some of the issues discussed included celebrating the successes of the various group within ALIA, discussion on group communication, identifying areas of professional practice and enhancing the involvement and engagement of members in ALIA.

The group was also asked to participate in that Consultative Group that reviewed the ALIA Education Statements. The Education Forum offered an opportunity where stakeholders could come together to work through issues relating to the development of new library and information professionals and the career-long professional development for practitioners. Participants in the forum will continue to have input into ALIA's education framework.

## Dissemination of information; provide guidance and support

While I was convenor, I was determined to meet with as many groups and individuals as possible to discuss the issues affecting them. My meeting with members and non-members in Canberra included representatives of the NSW group as well as input from WA. Following this I held a meeting with the members from the

Victorian group as well as catching up with Pat Whalan from the NT while she was on a visit to Hobart.

While I was unable to visit the Queensland and SA groups, individual members replied to me personally. Issues that came to light included the cost of ALIA membership, lack of career path as a library technician member, mentoring. One of the main issues to come to out was the lack of support and opportunities for members in rural and isolated areas. These included the lack of PD activities and cost of attending other ALIA activities when held in capital cities and/or other states. These are areas the new committee will need to continue to look at throughout the next two years, especially if we wish to retain and attract new members.

Finally, I would like to revisit a point I made in my first article for *inCite*: 'our group and ALIA as a whole are only as strong and successful as we the members make it. The old cliché of you only get out of it what you are willing to put in is just as true now as when it was first coined. I would like to challenge you all to think about the next 25 years and what achievements we can accomplish as well as what we achieved over the last 25 years.'

Before closing I would like to take this opportunity to thank the others in the committee, Janette, Katrina and Tony. I would like to especially thank Tania and Matthew, whose support was invaluable, as well as Georgina from the ALIA office. I also wish Kevin and the incoming committee all the best for the next two years. Thank you.

Rebecca Evans, 2004 convenor, National Library Technicians Group



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