

# So you get to read books all day!

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When I am asked 'What do you do for a living', I reply 'I'm a Library Technician'. The usual response to that is 'So you get to read books all day, how great is that!' Unfortunately this is not the case. The only chance I get to read at work is during my lunch break.

Library Technicians have a lot more duties and demands placed on them than most people realise. We have a variety of duties and responsibilities.

As a Library Technician for the Brisbane North Institute of TAFE, Caboolture Campus, I have a wide range of duties. They include the usual ones like issuing and returning loans, the never-ending shelving, interlibrary loans and assisting students with searching the catalogue, teaching them how to make reservations and locate the resources and use different computer programs—the usual Word, Excel, and Access but also database searching.

I plan and run Information Literacy sessions which cover research skills, database training and referencing tutorials.

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But wait, there's more. I also instruct teachers in using different computer applications and work with them to create content for our online

Learning Management System. That is on top of my liaison role with my various teaching teams. Co-ordinating equipment loans—data projectors, video cameras and digital cameras, just to name a few—and showing borrowers how to use them fills up another part of my day.

In addition I am a site co-ordinator for Videolinq, which is a Queensland TAFE-wide videoconferencing network. I manage all the bookings, communications, and setups, troubleshoot any technical problems and complete the monthly report for Caboolture Campus.

Caboolture Campus is unique in the Brisbane North Institute of TAFE in that we are a joint campus with the Queensland University of Technology. We therefore house two different collections, operate two very different circulation systems and two separate student computer networks all in the one library. Providing a seamless service to all clients and keeping abreast of two changing, dynamic and growing educational institutions is quite ... fun!

Not once during my four years of part-time study did I ever think I would get the opportunity to do half the things I do in my job. If you had told me three years ago that I would be collaborating with teachers to create blended and flexible online delivery programs, I would probably have laughed. It never entered my mind.

As with any other occupation there are ups and downs. Some of the ups are when teachers and students come in to say thank you for assistance you've given them (and some even bring you chocolates which is a big bonus). Some of the downs are when the technology breaks down and everyone gets frustrated, but you just have to remember that it's not always like that.

One of the funny instances I remember happened on my third day working for the TAFE: I was at Grovely Campus (we have five campus libraries) and a student came in asking for 'the red book that was on the display last week'. When I responded that I didn't know which book was on the display last week, she replied quite abruptly, "Why not?" My reply? "I only started here three days ago!" She quickly changed her attitude.

Working as a Library Technician in TAFE is challenging, rewarding and I am enjoying every moment of it. I would recommend it to anyone who enjoys working with people, working with books and technology and loves a challenge.

Good luck to you all.



## Queensland Library Technician of the Year

This ALIA Group award, for recent graduates in library and information sciences in Queensland, promotes the role and image of library technicians in the library and information industry and/or in the wider community and encourages library technicians to join and support their professional association, ALIA. It is sponsored by Queensland Library Supplies Pty Ltd and administered by the ALIA Queensland Library Technician Group committee and an appointed representative from the sponsor.

The closing date for nominations is usually in April each year. Further information and nomination forms are available at <http://alia.org.au/awards/merit/qld.ltoty/>

Congratulations to the 2007 winner—page 11