

Volunteer in the Spotlight



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You work full-time, have a family and volunteer — how do you ensure balance in your life?

I am constantly reminding myself that there is no way to 'ensure' balance so I just try and do the best possible in all the areas mentioned. I sometimes feel that I have a series of hats in my car — on my way to work, I pop on the 'work hat', on the way home it is the 'mummy hat' or the 'home hat', and so on.

The good thing about my volunteer work with ALIA's ACT University and Research Libraries group is that the meetings, events, etc. are usually within the working day/week, and very much related to topics of interest to me in my work. I really enjoy the networking aspect of it as well so it is usually lots of fun!

What do you feel are your greatest achievements and successes?

I would have to say that on a personal level, my greatest achievements are my two gorgeous girls. In terms of work, I will never forget the incredible experience of having a key role in the development of

AustLit: the Australian Literature Resource. Working with my local team at UNSW@ADFA, and co-managing the national team of librarians, literary researchers and bibliographers from seven major universities all working together on enhancing access to Australian Literature — it was an amazing time.

What do you currently do for a crust?

I am the Library Manager of the Australian Catholic University's Canberra Campus library. ACU National at Canberra (aka Signadou) offers a range of courses in social work, nursing, theology and education. The Lewins Library provides services and resources to support teaching, learning and research in all of these areas.

Which kinds of libraries have you worked in?

The majority of my librarianship experience has been in the academic library environment (with ACU, UNSW@ADFA and back to ACU). However, during my studies and at the beginning of my library career I did volunteer work and short contracts with a range of Canberra libraries including: the ACT Library Service, a legal library, the National Library and a government library. Each was very different, but valuable for teaching me about different systems, tools, resources and user needs!

If you could have your ideal role in the world, what would it be?

People who know me know that I have a passion for people, for libraries, for learning and for making things happen (must be the Aries in me!). So any role that allows me to recognise and develop these passions is ideal!

Interview by Robyn Ellard

libraries australia



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- set up alerts
- specify which search screen will display at login e.g. advanced
- specify default databases for searching
- choose up to three libraries as 'your library'.

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