

Report on the Certificate II library training course, Dili, East Timor

The first certificate based library training course has been completed in Dili, East Timor. Fifteen students from several districts including Baucau, Lolotoe, Auturo Island, and Dili started classes at the Dili Institute of Technology (DIT) Bairo Pite campus in February 2006.

Half of the training was completed when, in April 2006, teaching was interrupted by the civil unrest in Dili. Gratifyingly, thirteen of the original fifteen students who began the course completed it in December 2006. Their commitment to finishing the course was astounding, as they endured ongoing civil unrest in Dili, daily power cuts, and the resulting stifling humidity in the classroom!

As well as technical library subjects, the students studied Tetun, (the local lingua franca) English, and computer subjects. 'Block' style teaching (one week of full time training per month for six months) was adopted, allowing students from more remote districts to attend the course. They enthusiastically embraced their time in Dili (prior to the deterioration of the situation anyhow!) for networking.

The most popular aspect of the course has been the onsite visits to other libraries. Student visits included the library of the National University, The Xanana Gusmao Reading Room, and the Library and Archive of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (CAVR). These onsite visits were invaluable for students. They gained a sense of the number and types of libraries and the different services they provide for their clientele. The enthusiasm of the students during these visits in terms of interest level and input was certainly unlike anything I had witnessed on similar library tours in Australia!

One of the most telling comments was expressed in a final report prepared by the students:

We hope that an opportunity like this will be realised for other young Timorese to improve their knowledge and to develop Timor-Leste to be a big nation in the future and to stop the violence.

DIT plans to offer Certificate III and IV level courses in the future.

Karen Myers (karenmyers1@hotmail.com)



Linking people with ideas...



Australian
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ALIA's research awards

Nominations are now being called for the following research awards of the Australian Library and Information Association

DUNN & WILSON SCHOLARSHIP

The Dunn & Wilson Scholarship provides the recipient/s with an opportunity to undertake a particular project of relevance to the role of library technicians in the broad library and information profession. The scholarship proposal can be made by an individual financial library technician member or a group of financial library technician members.

The Scholarship is a biennial award of up to \$5,000 and is open to all financial Library Technician members of ALIA.

The Scholarship will be presented at the National Library & Information Technicians Conference in October 2007.

RAY CHOATE SCHOLARSHIP

The Ray Choate Scholarship is a biennial award up to \$4000 which will enable the recipient to investigate a particular aspect of reference or information services that will lead to improved practice in the area. The research topic should relate to the Objects of the Association.

Applicants are required to be financial personal members of ALIA with an understanding of and experience in provision of reference services.

Nomination forms and further information:

<http://alia.org.au/awards>

awards@alia.org.au

02 6215 8222

Nominations close 1 June 2007