



The executive comprises President (Melissa Jackson), Vice President (Kathy Frankland), Secretary (Judy Martin), Treasurer (Ronald Briggs) and Public Officer (Pat Brady). There are also State and Territory representatives. We have a wide range of membership options including Individual, Associate, Organisational and Student. While membership is open to everyone, the Executive must be Indigenous.

We are very fortunate to have the unwavering support of the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies. One of the ways that they show their support is in the administration of the ATSILIRN website <http://www1.aiatsis.gov.au/atsilirn/home/index.html>

Recently Suzi Russell from State Library of South Australia has taken over from Tania Schaefer of State Library of Queensland as editor of our newsletter. Produced quarterly, it is full of contributions from the membership highlighting services and initiatives they provide for the Indigenous people of their community.

From 1994 until 2008, we have had 10 conferences in places such as Sydney, Canberra, Adelaide and Darwin. Delegates and speakers have come from all around the globe including USA, UK, New Zealand and the Federated States of Micronesia. We will be gathering on 15th and 16th April 2009 at the University of Notre Dame, Broome Campus for our next conference. Be sure to check out the ATSILIRN website closer to that date for our full program of speakers and events.

Unfortunately when conferences are held in a state or town other than your own, it is almost impossible to attend and finding the money can be a big factor behind that. The Loris Williams Grant of \$1000 was established in honour of our esteemed former President to assist an Indigenous ATSILIRN member to attend an ATSILIRN conference in a state or territory other than the one they live in.

ATSILIRN is very proud to have been heavily involved in the production of two publications - The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Protocols for Libraries, Archives and Information Services and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Thesaurus.

The Protocols, compiled by Alex Byrne, Heather Moorcroft, Alana Garwood-Houng and Alan Barnes are intended to guide libraries, archives and information services in ways to interact with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, and to handle material with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander content. Martin Nakata of Jumbunna Indigenous House of Learning UTS, has recently investigated the effectiveness of the Protocols 10 years after they were first published finding the need for only one change. As per Martin's recommendation we have included a section that deals with Digitisation and the Internet. The Protocols are available from the ATSILIRN webpage.

One of the first resolutions of the fledgling ATSILIRN was the development of an Indigenous thesaurus because it was thought the Library of Congress Subject Headings were inappropriate and often offensive. Delegates at both the first

and second conference workshopped various aspects of the Thesaurus before it was published by the National Library of Australia in 1997. It was compiled by Heather Moorcroft and Alana Garwood-Houng.

We are affiliated with similar networks from other countries including the Maori Library Workers Network, the American Indian Library Workers Network and the Pacific Islands Archives, Libraries and Museums Network. We are a founding member of the International Indigenous Librarians Forum co-hosting the Forum with State Library of Queensland in Brisbane 2007.

ATSILIRN is the only Indigenous special interest group within the library profession in Australia for workers to join. After a few lean years with regards to membership, it is reassuring that at our last conference we had representation from all states and territories of Australia with much interest shown from overseas library professionals.

**Melissa Jackson**  
President, ATSILIRN  
[mjackson@sl.nsw.gov.au](mailto:mjackson@sl.nsw.gov.au)

## JCU Libraries support for Indigenous students

James Cook University Libraries are committed to supporting Indigenous students. Several years ago the position of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Library Liaison Officer was established to support indigenous students and to ensure that they felt welcome in the Library. The Officer also works with the Faculty Librarian for Arts, Education and Social Sciences to provide information literacy training and support for indigenous students participating in the Remote Area Teacher Education Program (RATEP). In 2007, funding was provided to develop an online interactive information literacy module to assist students to find information on Indigenous topics. Online Information Skills for Indigenous Studies aims to help rural, remote and off campus students gain a better understanding of resource discovery tools such as the catalogue, Reserve Online and database searching techniques. The University has also established the Indigenous Health Careers Access Program (IHCAP), a tailored, preparation program to help Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students further develop their academic skills before they enter their program of study. The Faculty Librarian for Medicine, Health and Molecular Sciences Librarian provides tours and information literacy training as part of the IHCAP.

JCU Libraries: <http://www.jcu.edu.au/libcomp/>

Eddie Koiki Mabo Library Building: <http://www.library.jcu.edu.au/About/building.shtml>

RATEP: <http://www.ratep.jcu.edu.au/>

Online Information Skills for Indigenous Studies: <http://www.library.jcu.edu.au/OIS/>

Special Collections: <http://www.library.jcu.edu.au/Specials/>

**Claire Swift**  
Information Librarian  
[claire.swift@jcu.edu.au](mailto:claire.swift@jcu.edu.au)