

Providing nuclear information to the world

The Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation's (ANSTO) Library is Australia's most comprehensive centre for nuclear information. A much-valued national resource, the library supports scientific research, commercial and educational activities of ANSTO.

The Library began as a collection in the early 1950s at the headquarters of the Australian Atomic Energy Commission (AAEC – ANSTO's predecessor) Coogee, Sydney. Towards the end of the decade, the collection was transferred to the Lucas Heights research establishment in southern Sydney where Australia's first atomic reactor, HIFAR (High Flux Australian Reactor) had been built, and was reopened on Australia Day 1958. At this time the Library had six staff with 1,500 books and pamphlets, several thousand reports and over 300 periodicals in its first year.

Today, the Library has eight full-time staff and its collection contains 50,000 unique monograph titles, over 6,000 electronic journals, more than 1700 print journals and 219 databases. It also encompasses an extensive classic collection of technical reports dating from the 1950s, as well as a vast range of patents, standards, theses and nuclear literature, available in electronic, hardcopy or microfiche formats.

The Library principally serves the 1,060 staff of the two scientific organisations on site: the ANSTO and the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) while also supporting students and visiting researchers from different universities and research institutions.

In addition to the traditional sciences, the subject areas covered by the collection include: environmental sciences, radiopharmacology, materials sciences, management, counter terrorism, climate change, minerals, nuclear medicine, food sciences and safeguards.

The research undertaken at ANSTO and CSIRO is varied ranging from food to brake pads, research on

anti-terrorism, forensic and nuclear medicine and quaternary studies as well as pipe-stress modelling. Another area of new research for ANSTO is climate change and global warming.

The Library responds to a diverse range of research request. As well as providing standards and statistics, we answer such questions as: what is the yield point of cadmium? We not only investigate sources of radiation in Australia, but also the structure of complex compounds in order to assist with synthesis of new compounds. Other reference queries have included the financial credit ratings of "startup" companies, and at times we have searched for background material on the commercialisation of innovative or new ideas in research (transfer technology).

INIS

The Library also hosts the Australian INIS (International Nuclear Information System) Centre where Australian nuclear science and technology literature is scanned and recorded into the global INIS Database. INIS is the world's leading information system on the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, produced and maintained by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

The Library co-ordinates input of ANSTO authored publications on to ANSTO Publications Online, ANSTO's institutional repository that showcases ANSTO research <http://apo.ansto.gov.au/dspace/>

Innovation Forum

The Library is a member of the ANSTO Innovation Forum for the development of cutting-edge research, inventions and ideas site-wide. We work closely with the Disclosure process and conduct comprehensive prior art searches before the patent-application process begins.

Physical access to the library is restricted to site staff only, however material located on our catalogue is available for interlibrary loan via any local library, academic institution or through Libraries Australia. ANSTO Library is a net ILL lender, supplying many unique journal titles in the nuclear-medicine field.

Denise Quay
Knowledge and Library Manager
dqu@ansto.gov.au

The challenges of a newly-created library position

I took on the role as Library Manager at Australian Transaction Reports and Analysis Centre (AUSTRAC), a newly created position within Australia's anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism regulator, and specialist financial intelligence unit. It was apparent that to support the information requirements of our agency it was imperative that the library service was developed to a professional standard to ensure staff information needs were met.

The corporate library consists of a small collection of books, journals, legislation, government publications, and audio-visual material, categorised with a basic file system on FileMaker Pro. This system is incapable of effectively carrying out essential workflows and procedures needed to manage a collection and serve its client base. The library had previously been managed without any suitable tools, funding, capable systems such as a standard LMS, or designated information professionals.

To all of you thinking of taking on a new position; many challenges await you! It is difficult establishing your role in uncharted territory, as expectations may not be entirely clear – after all, you are the inaugural librarian!

I also discovered that I had to market the information not just the library. But it's not all doom and gloom. Creating something from nothing can be invigorating. Innovate, collaborate and share your ideas with your colleagues and don't be afraid to implement cutting edge services to your clients.

Think big! My mission is to apply a dynamic, client-oriented, and business-focused approach to service delivery, reflecting an increased emphasis on electronic information delivery at the desktop and skilling clients.

You'll need plenty of patience and perseverance but in the end all the effort is worthwhile.

Nora Martin
Library Manager/Information Management
nora.martin@austrac.gov.au