

Volunteer in the spotlight

Kylie Jarrett has been the Convenor of the Academic Research and Collection Management (National) Group (ARCoM) for around 18 months and was also involved in the South Australian Library and Information Network (SALIN) group here in South Australia.

Why do you enjoy volunteering for the library profession?

I enjoy it for a couple of reasons: first, the professional development opportunities that this role provides, and second, an opportunity to be involved in the networking/socialising aspect in the library community here in South Australia.

How do you ensure balance between your work, volunteering, and home commitments?

I think it is important to acknowledge the work culture here at Flinders University, where I work as a Metadata Librarian. The management here understand and are very supportive of staff being involved with ALIA and allow staff to do a bit of committee work during work time such as preparing agendas, email adverts, etc.

I am also a methodical person and like to create lists so that helps to keep the work/life balance. Being a methodical person tends to happen when your niche is cataloguing! I am involved in bushwalking and rock climbing on the weekends and that helps to counter the fact that I work in an office environment during the week. I also do yoga and meditation which feels good and helps me to manage stress.

What gives you a sense of purpose and accomplishment?

To be able to contribute to public life for a good cause, through my ALIA PD activities and also my involvement with Amnesty International. Our Amnesty group runs a regular stall in the Central markets and does letter writing actions, addressing violation of human rights issues and helping prisoners of conscience. My outdoorsy activities are also very satisfying as they can be quite a challenge and in a beautiful natural setting. Spending time with my friends and family also is very important to me.

What do you feel are your greatest achievements and successes?

Probably my greatest professional achievement has been the ability to successfully change careers after initially working in the travel and tourism industries before deciding to return to university to complete my Grad Dip in Information Studies. Now as a librarian – I feel that I have 'arrived'. On a personal level, I am also planning a trekking trip to Nepal next year, so trips like these are a big deal for me.

What do you currently do in your 'real job'?

I am a Metadata Librarian at Flinders University. This involves both copy and original cataloguing for the university's collections as well as providing a cataloguing service for the Adelaide Theological Library, which supports the Adelaide College of Divinity, plus the Australian Science and Maths School, based at the Sturt campus.

I am also on the library's OPAC committee and provide training for new staff to our department.

What are you currently reading?

I have been reading Nepal trekking guidebooks in preparation for next year's trip but have also started to read Tim Flannery's *Now or never – a sustainable future for Australia?* found in *Quarterly Essay*, Issue 31.

I also read each issue of *inCite* almost cover to cover!

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- Maintaining the quality of their library and information services, with a view to achieving service excellence.

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