

LIBRARY TECHNICIANS



set up SALT in the first place, various past Presidents/Convenors, Secretaries, Treasurers, members of committees, and Conference Committees. It was wonderful to see our honorary member, Matthew Griffiths (from NSW), who has regularly attended SALT workshops and dinners.



Attendees at the SALT dinner

In lieu of an after-dinner speaker, all guests were encouraged to share their experiences (especially the funny ones), people who had influenced them, and their own 'pearl of wisdom'. Recurring themes were the Murder Mystery dinners held at some of the weekend workshops, singing and dancing at various conference dinners, and some 'accidents' in lectures and workshops at TAFE. Robyn Matthews and her fellow lecturers and tutors were mentioned many times.

We also recognised 15 years of devoted service by our Treasurer, Amanda Colbert, with a speech and a gift. There were lucky chair prizes and a door prize. It all added up to a very memorable evening.

SALT is now going into 'suspended animation', to be archived until a time when it is needed and can be retrieved and reactivated. Thank you to everyone who has been a part of SALT over the past 30 years.

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Victoria University celebrates its library technicians

To celebrate, promote, and advertise our National Day, Library and Cultural Studies enlisted the help of Gail Schmidt, Genevieve Pergl, and Helena Lozanovski, from the State Library of Victoria, Margie Anderson, the ALIA Local Liaison Officer – Victoria, and Jenny Barron and Lynette Lewis from One Umbrella, an LIS employment agency.

Margie spoke about ALIA's role in the profession, its core group of staff, the conferences it organises, its advocacy role for workers, online e-lists, and training sessions for keeping members up-to-date in their professional development. Margie encouraged everyone to join ALIA and maintain professional networks in a dynamic industry in times of change and progress.

Margie awarded the ALIA Top Student at VU to Kylie James who is working two part-time jobs – a school library and a public library. Kylie said she felt honoured and thanked ALIA for donating the award, and the staff at VU for selecting her. Kylie said that doing the technician course had been a challenge, and that she was now doing what she had dreamed about and was very happy.

Hellana Lozanovski spoke about her work as a Collection Development Officer and current position, Map Cataloguing, at the State Library. Hellana described for the students how she prepared for a job interview, what background work she had done, and the mock interview questions she developed and answered. Hellana also offered details and props from her current project.

Genevieve Pergl completed the course at VU and has been working at the State Library in different roles since 1994. Genevieve noted that her job started as a six-month contract. She is working on the digitisation project at the State Library and brought in a Video Disk from an early project to give a demonstration of how people could search for and order thousands of images from the State Library now over the internet.

Gail Schmidt gave a bit of a history, speaking about how, when she started the course, there had been no internet, electronic journals had not been invented, and all research was done manually. The VU course has changed many times to keep pace with technology and industry trends and Gail feels it will hold students in good stead for the future. She noted that ALIA, as the professional body, is a good source of information for career advice, ways of addressing professional development needs, lifestyle benefits and services, and the industrial relations arena. Gail encouraged all students to attend the Victorian ALIA Library Technicians Group activities, several of which are held each year.



Library technicians celebrate at Victoria University

One Umbrella's Jenny Barron and Lynette Lewis, then spoke to the students. Jenny handed out materials on how to prepare resumes. Annette went on to talk about how things change, including necessary web 2.0 skills. Jenny noted that it had been a very tight market and spoke about salaries and what students could expect in different roles. They recommended that students should go to ALIA and VALA, and engage in social networks and professional groups.

A great celebration was had by all. Thanks to the Library Studies Team: Mary Carroll, Tim Dolby, Ian Rogers, Margie Anderson, Janet Murray, Paula Jones, and Leonie McCormack.

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Working nationally as a library technician

Have you ever wondered what it was like to work with colleagues and not see them? At the Australian Catholic University this happens every day. The university has campuses in Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, and ACT. Library technicians are employed on every campus on different levels and in different positions. This is a great opportunity for staff as they can apply to transfer from campus to campus if the opportunity arises.

There are approximately 30 library technicians spread out over the six campuses. They can be employed as senior library technicians