

## What a diverse bunch we are!

### ALIA booth at the 2009 Perth Careers Expo

The diversity of the library and information industry careers was highlighted at the recent Perth Careers, Education and Employment Expo held at The Perth Convention Exhibition Centre from May 15 – 17, 2009. The inaugural ALIA booth, sponsored by the State Library of Western Australia, with funds raised by the many libraries of Western Australia through the @your library marketing campaign, attracted much interest from visitors curious to learn about the various career options.

During the course of the three days, over 13 000 people came through the Expo and we recorded genuine requests for information from over 300 visitors. Along with the curious came the comments: "I can't be a librarian because I can't stop talking" and "you have to do a degree to be a librarian?!" The Expo was hailed a success in dispelling these myths and promoting the diverse careers.

Although coordinated by the ALIAWest Committee and the State Library of Western Australia (SLWA), there were endless offers of support during the organisation of the booth. As well as ALIA, library schools that donated course information and handouts were: Queensland University of Technology, Curtin University of Technology, Charles Sturt University, Edith Cowan University, and the Central TAFE.

We also gave away stickers and transfer tattoos from Summer Reading Club 2009, SLWA bookmarks, and wrapped lollies, and a raffle for a guided tour of the back areas of SLWA and four \$25 vouchers for the SLWA Bookshop. Five winners were chosen to attend the tour, which covered hidden areas of the State Library including the acquisitions and distribution, stack, and preservation areas.

Organisers of the ALIA booth also gained enormous satisfaction from the event, developing pride in our profession. The ALIAWest Committee would like to acknowledge State Library of Western Australia in particular for making the 2009 Expo a brilliant success, and thank all the other libraries and institutions for supporting the expo.



A heartfelt thanks also goes to the Careers Expo ALIAWest subcommittee who put in much time and effort in organising the event. Planning is already under way for the ALIA booth in 2010!

**Daisy Tyson (on behalf of 2009 ALIAWest Committee)**  
**ALIAWest Convenor**  
**d.tyson@curtin.edu.au**

## The journey to the one8nine UnConference

The genesis for the one8nine UnConference came before our neXt 2005: ALIA National Library and Information Technicians Conference. I had been reading up on narrative storytelling and came across this snippet on Shawn Callahan's "Anecdote" website: "As I reflect on the ActKM (ACT Knowledge Management Forum) conference I realise the reason I enjoyed it so much was the great conversations we had ... in the coffee break area. ... why not convert the entire conference into an organised coffee break?" ([http://www.anecdote.com.au/archives/2005/10/actkm\\_should\\_ab.html](http://www.anecdote.com.au/archives/2005/10/actkm_should_ab.html)) There was a link to BloggerCon's Unconference and the idea was planted.

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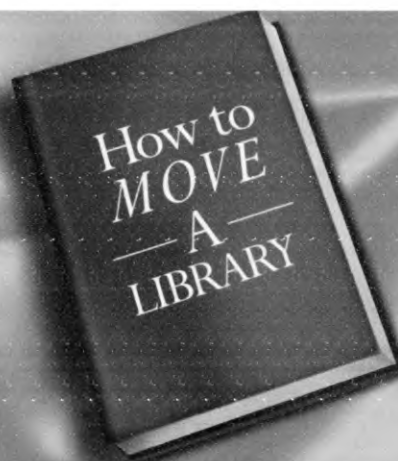
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