

## AARL (Australian Academic and Research Libraries)

AARL has been published quarterly by ALIA since 1971, aiming to provide a platform to promote and disseminate research in the library and information field. It is a highly respected journal within the profession and is indexed by Scopus and ISI/Thomson. All articles are double blind refereed and the editorial board comprises some of the leading figures within the industry.

While its emphasis is on research libraries and tertiary education libraries of all types, the policy of AARL has been to provide a range of articles that may be of interest to those working in such institutions, not just material dealing with specific issues faced by those libraries. The focus is on applied research but again, literature reviews and case studies are regularly included. Taking September 2009 as a typical issue, it comprised two research pieces (on the nature and extent of bad behaviour by clients in university libraries and perceptions of information literacy in first year science undergraduates); an evaluation piece on the Learning 2.0 program; a literature review on best practice online reference; and a case study on the use of amateur film as a tool for researchers. Each edition also contains around half a dozen book reviews of titles expected to be of interest to AARL readership.

AARL encourage contributions from both practitioners – those working in the field – and academics teaching in the area. Indeed, some of the best articles arise from collaborative efforts of academics and practitioners working together to undertake relevant, high-quality research, then publicising the results. Those new to the profession are encouraged to think about developing ideas and discussing them with the editor. AARL is very supportive of early researchers or those new to publishing generally.

We recognise it can be a daunting process to put yourself out there, go through the refereeing process, and have to deal with negative comments or a number of iterations before finalising a paper. But it happens to everyone! And no one should be put off by this. The end result is always a better paper of which the author(s) can be proud – your first publication is a very fulfilling moment and looks great on the CV.

AARL aims to help build and develop the profession – which can only be done by research informing practice which in turn identifies areas for research – and so it goes on. The two are inextricably linked and AARL aims to emphasise that and encourage contributions that support this approach. We are only as good as the contributors make us – so do please think about tackling some of those issues that regularly challenge you and contact us about writing up and publishing the results!

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