



Stepping up, stepping out.

When we issued the theme for this month's magazine, it was admittedly far from precise, but we knew we wanted to find out about library and information services doing things differently. And we have been swamped with news of innovations from across Australia, in public libraries, academic libraries and special libraries. Staff in these services are justifiably proud of what they have achieved and excited about what might come in the future. So now all that's left is for their colleagues to read on and be just as proud to be sharing in such a dynamic, responsive profession (but you knew it was, didn't you?)

CATCH A NEW IDEA

When senior management at Southern Cross University Library put the idea of a Pitch Club to staff as part of an end of year event, the aim was simple: to elicit new ideas from staff, give them the opportunity to sell their idea and challenge the way things were done. It resulted in some excellent ideas being presented that have since been implemented at the library. Karen Jordan reports.

The inaugural Pitch Club in December 2009 saw 11 staff members come forward to pitch ideas to their colleagues. After being introduced, staff had one minute to sell their idea. The audience of library staff were then given one vote each for the idea they liked best.

The presenters of the two ideas with the most votes were then given another five minutes to further present their idea, before the winner was chosen by a judging panel made up of staff from various library departments. To assist with implementing the winning idea, the finalist was asked to develop a project proposal stating the objectives, outputs, costs and timeframe, which also provided an opportunity to develop project management skills.

Not only have the winning ideas been implemented but a range of creative innovations generated through the Pitch Club have also now been realised. The 2009 winning pitch resulted in the launch of SCU Library TV. Liaison Librarian Tracy Tees wanted to have a central resource where students could be directed for help with common tasks.



Sharon Barnett, 2010 Pitch winner in the university gardens

"The popularity of YouTube showed how keen people are to get information in a visual format so Pitch Club was an opportunity to present an idea that I had been kicking around for a while," said Tracy.

Now, more than 50 library video tutorials are available in one section of the library website (sculibrarytv.info/).

The videos can be easily searched, providing a one-stop learning shop for students. Users can also suggest a topic for a video – which supports different learning styles, and also allows academic staff to suggest a library video which would support their students' needs.

The 2010 winning pitch was Administrative Officer Sharon Barnett's idea to 'green' the library. Following a presentation to the library by the University Sustainability Officer, Sharon began to observe the library's practices more closely and saw that there were things that could be done better in terms of energy use, waste management and procurement.

"I saw an opportunity to enhance our connection to the natural environment by developing sustainable initiatives that could bring staff and students together outside the confines of the building," Sharon said.

"The Pitch Club has encouraged staff to think outside of the box and have their innovations rewarded."

article continued over page



Reward yourself and get recognised!

Turn your experience into a qualification!

Enrol into either the Certificate IV or Diploma of Library/Information Services and apply for RPL.

Funding is available for eligible students and employers so contact LTSA today for more information about gaining recognition.



Library Training Services Australia

1300 17 15 60

www.ltsa.edu.au