



libraries. However, I found that the multicultural collections in Australian libraries are much more developed. Libraries in Scandinavia, on the other hand, have more technologically advanced services, with over fifteen years of radio-frequency identification (RFID) experience.

I also volunteered at the Jessie Street National Women's Library. It was my first introduction to Australian libraries and I loved it. Unfortunately, I had to leave that position because, finally, I got my first paid Australian library job at the University of Technology, Sydney (UTS): INSEARCH – my current position. I am also working at Waverley Council Library. So things are looking good!

Choosing to live and work in Australia has been the best decision I have ever made and I highly recommend the experience because it has helped me become a better librarian and a better person. The benefits of working overseas include an exchange

of library knowledge and experiences, learning another language, and it also demonstrates to future employers the ability to be independent, adaptable, and willing to take on challenges.

Moving away is not about having fears, it's about how well you face your fears. I believe that everyone has the patience, the strength, and the passion to achieve their ambitions, their goals, and their dreams. All you need to do is try. So, what are you waiting for?

Maria Morales holds a Bachelor and a Master's degree in Library and Information Science. She has four years' experience as an information professional in Spain and two years in Australia. Her next adventure will be participating in an international library volunteer program and on a library exchange later in life.

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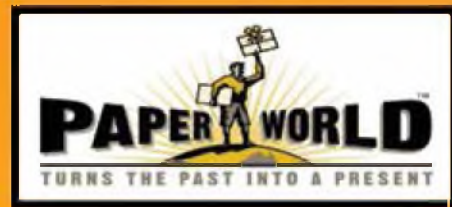
Connecting Up

Connecting Up Inc. is a not-for-profit organisation that works to strengthen the not-for-profit and community sector around Australia. We provide a range of programs including resources, directories, events, and learning opportunities for not-for-profits and charities. Our aim is to help the sector to be more effective in the work that it does to help the Australian community.

One of our programs provides software discounts and donations to eligible not-for-profits, provided by companies that want to be involved in helping the community. This program has saved millions of dollars for the charity sector. In the past, public libraries have not been eligible to participate but, with some recent changes in eligibility rulings, they can now take part. As Connecting Up has worked closely with public libraries for many years, this is a welcome development.

The role of public libraries as a community place and information hub is well recognised. Access to computers and internet for library patrons is one of the great benefits that libraries provide to the community. Our program will help to offset some of the costs of setting up and maintaining public access computers and ensure that these facilities can continue to be available in public libraries around Australia.

Public libraries that would like to be involved can find out more at www.connectingup.org/donortec.



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