

KERRY SMITH RETIRES



In late 2012, Associate Professor Kerry Smith retired from her role as educator at Curtin University. Kerry first joined the Department of Information Studies at Curtin University of Technology as a lecturer in February 1991, after 10 years as a special librarian in the minerals and petroleum industries in Perth, Western Australia. She started her librarianship career in the geoscientific information environment, and maintained interest in that area throughout her career.

At Curtin, Kerry taught in a number of areas, including management of information services, knowledge management, and the use of information in organisations, special and one person librarianship, and information policy. She developed early interest in the open access facility of the internet, and took on two significant roles: editor-in-chief of the electronic journal LIBRES, and management of RIC: a virtual commons for those with an interest in Researching the Information Commons.

Professionally, Kerry took on many roles: President of the Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA), Convenor of its Research Committee, member and Secretary of the IFLA Section on Education and Training (SET) Standing Committee, and Convenor of the 2007 Research Applications in Information & Library Studies (RAILS) seminar, among many others.

Kerry is best remembered as a passionate and generous colleague. She has interacted with members of the LIS profession throughout her career, and many have chosen to share their thoughts here:

Kerry Smith has made massive contributions to the LIS profession with her research, practice, and leadership. Her passion for research was clearly demonstrated by chairing the ALIA Research Committee for many years and, in doing so, inspiring both academics and practitioners to

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undertake research in diverse areas. Kerry was the key person behind establishing the journal rankings in the field of Library and Information Studies for the Australian Research Council's Excellence in Research for Australia framework. This was a massive task. Practising what she preached, Kerry also published on the journal ranking processes and thus turned practice into research. – Peter Macauley, Associate Professor, School of Business IT and Logistics, RMIT

My experience is as a student of Kerry's and later colleague – at the

University and the ALIA Research Committee. A standout feature is her inclusiveness. Kerry makes people feel welcome with her outgoing no-nonsense approach and her sense of fun. She has a strong fair-play ethic and a generous heart. When the going gets tough, Kerry is always willing to go into battle for what she believes is right, and usually is. In my opinion, many new to the LIS field have benefited from Kerry's mentoring and warmth. Her contribution to ALIA is enormous, as it has been to the field more generally. – Dr Gaby Haddow, Department of Information Studies, Curtin University

None would question the commitment of Kerry Smith to the practice and profession of librarianship. For many years, she has given above and beyond the call of duty through participation in the Australian Library and Information Association both as President and member of its various committees, particularly the Research Committee; the Australian Geoscience Information Association which represented the service area closest to her heart; and on the international stage through the International Federation of Library

Association. Her points were always presented in a robust and succinct fashion and her cheerful nature endeared her to many. She raised the profile of research within the profession; provided a role model to many librarians; and inspired and coached budding librarians and students. Her commitment and creativity remain

her legacy. – Janine Schmidt, Director, Mukurta Advisory, Trenholme Director of Libraries Emerita, McGill University

If retirement means life in the slow lane, it is hard to imagine Kerry retired. I met Kerry when she was the Chair of the Research Committee and I joined my first teleconference as a new, confused Committee member. Luckily, no one could stay confused too long in Kerry's presence. Her warm welcoming manner, gentle but firm guidance, efficiency, and abundant energy gave me a sense of place and direction. Over the years, I had a chance to enjoy her company

and appreciate all the tireless work she was doing for ALIA and the profession. Since she stepped down, the Research Committee is missing a hard working member with a wealth of experience and a wonderful colleague. At the same time, I feel that Kerry had left her mark. For me, the Research Committee will always have something of the tone set by Kerry's warmth, humour, and, above all, passion for research and our profession. – Suzana Sukovic, Head of Learning Resource Centre, St.Vincent's College, Research Associate, Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences, The University of Sydney

Kerry has been an exemplary contributor to her profession, the discipline of information studies, and to Curtin University. Important to her achievements is that she genuinely realised the importance of the connections between the three and worked tirelessly to ensure they were maintained. Kerry has also been a significant contributor to LIS internationally through her involvement with IFLA. Needless to say she will be missed greatly by those of us in the Department of Information Studies at Curtin University, but also by many others. Her sphere of interest and influence was wide! Very few of us are truly irreplaceable, but as so many can attest there was certainly something unique about Kerry's many contributions. – Paul Genoni, Head, Department of Information Studies, Curtin University

Kerry's been a force of nature within the profession and amongst educators and I really regret never having got around to working with her on information politics, one of her many strong fields of research! – Dr Stuart Ferguson, Assistant Professor, Knowledge & Information Studies, Course Convener, Master of Information Studies, University of Canberra

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Original research and issues papers are welcomed from authors working across the full range of information professions. If you would like more information, please contact aarl@alia.org.au and alj@alia.org.au.

INDUSTRY MOVEMENTS

Paula Kelly is moving into the role of Library Services Manager – City of Melbourne. Paula has recently received formal confirmation of her PhD, entitled Early Literacy and Disadvantage, and holds a Masters of Education (Teacher Librarianship). Previously, Paula held the position of Reader Development and Onsite Learning Programs Manager, which encompassed the Centre for Youth Literature at the State Library of Victoria, and has long been a vocal and passionate advocate for reading. She begins her new position 4 February 2013.

Vicki McDonald has been appointed to the position of Director, Library Services at the State Library of New South Wales. Vicki will take up her new role on 27 February 2013. Previously, Vicki has worked as the Associate Director, Client Services and Learning Support, at the Queensland University of Technology and has held roles in academic, public, and state libraries.

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