

ENGAGING WITH YOUR COMMUNITY

Getting in contact with our communities is a core aspect of the delivery of our library and information services. Whether our community is an office of less than ten workers, remote access clients, educators, or the general public, we are always aware that we need to engage with our communities in various guises and with flexible service delivery styles.

Take this fun quiz to see how you have fared:

HAVE YOU EVER:	YES	NO
Had to fend off zombie invasions while using your collection to protect yourself?		
Had a high-resolution scanning party *cough * training session in the archives?		
Tweeted reference answers with emoticons to tweep queries through a variety of social media ;) \o/ >:o[#fb?		
Helped negotiate whether the bookgroup member who only read the wikipedia entry is allowed to choose the next title?		
Had to find a second copy of <i>Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus</i> because the preschooler who has cried through every story time is completely mesmerised and refuses to return the book?		
Had to choose the layout of an event between a) panellists behind a desk or b) in conversation on couches?		
Entered discussions with a publisher for monthly book launches while negotiating with a local bookseller to support the book signing while deciding whether the audience will come to a night-time presentation requiring fancy dress?		
Filled out a risk assessment form because there will be fire and liquid nitrogen involved in the next presentation?		
Developed a find the cheese, wine, and cases soiree?		
Had scones, friands, morning tea, and information induction?		
Created a playlist with Dewey Decimals for the silent disco?		
Had gin and cake at the end of the day?		

If your library has less than 3 staff, add two bonus points. For 4–9 staff, add one bonus point

If you scored 11–15 points, your library service is engaging strongly with its community, providing a variety of programs for its users.

If you scored 6–10 points, your library service is developing a fine suite of programs for its users.

If you scored 2–5 points, your library acknowledges that food is always key to enticing your community to take part in a library program.

If you scored 1 point, we can understand, for we all like gin and cake.

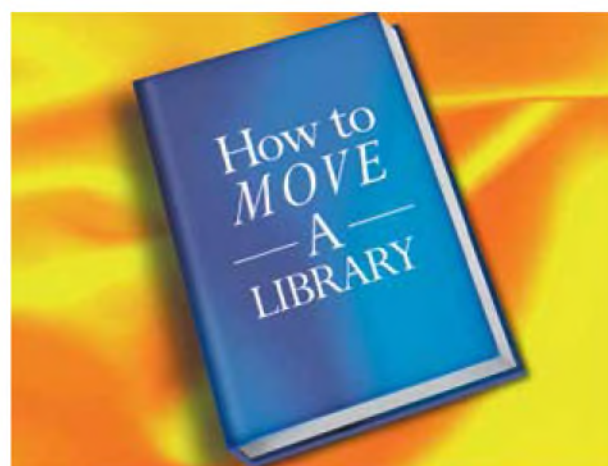
Vassiliki Veros
NSW State Manager
vassiliki.veros@alla.org.au



University of Technology, Sydney Library lumber into a new university year.

International communities

Having trouble connecting with your community? Take a page out of the book our colleagues in the US are currently writing. National Library Week (the equivalent to our Library and Information Week) is celebrated 14–20 April this year, with a focus on Community. The theme is Communities Matter @ Your Library, and the American Library Association will celebrate a number of 'days' during the week, including National Library Workers Day and Celebrate Teen Literature Day. More information can be found on their website, www.ala.org



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