

# L IS FOR...

Part time teacher Marian Calvert, demonstrating covering to Cert III students in Sydney TAFE's simulated library. This dedicated facility contains a small collection and is used to teach course units such as shelving, circulation and customer service.



**L**earning in all its forms – formal, informal, on the job, workshops, seminars and conferences – is key to being part of the dynamic, innovative and evolving library and information sector. Julie Barkman describes the approach taken by Sydney TAFE's Library and Information Services (LIS) team to new developments in LIS education, including introducing the new national training package, partnering with ALIA Training to offer an additional range of flexible learning opportunities and tailoring training for specific library services.

2013 heralded the introduction of the CUL11 Training Package. With it came the need for decisions about which qualifications would be offered, and for each, what combinations of electives would be chosen. An important part of the process of introducing the new training package for the Library and Information Studies (LIS) Sydney TAFE was consulting with the industry.

Discussions were held with our Course Advisory Committee, comprising a group of librarians and library technicians from different types of libraries across Sydney, to ensure the units we were offering were relevant to the changing needs of the library industry. The feedback from the members of this committee, along with staff from libraries that host students for work placement and the Ultimo TAFE library, is used to ensure the ongoing relevance of content taught in the various units.

Here, the 'L' is for liaising with libraries to ensure quality and relevance in student learning.

Three qualifications are offered at Sydney TAFE's Ultimo campus. These are Certificates III and IV and the Diploma, which enables us to offer a choice of pathways for students. While face-to-face learning is the preferred

option for the majority of our students, many are enjoying the flexibility that online learning offers and are blending online and classroom attendance, while a growing number of students, many from regional areas, are now studying in the virtual space. With the uncertainties that surround the future directions of TAFE, the numbers of students enrolled for this semester are encouraging.

In addition to the formal qualifications we offer, in 2010 LIS Sydney TAFE began a partnership with ALIA Training to offer a range of courses. To date, the courses offered have been units from the National Training Package, presented over six weeks duration, with participants receiving a certificate of completion and a TAFE NSW transcript.

The ALIA Training courses we offer provide learning opportunities for library staff (and others) to update skills and knowledge in areas of interest and relevance to the workplace.

One of the most popular courses has been Promote Literature and Reading, with over 250 participating in past years. This course is being offered for the fourth time in May 2014, under the title Reading Makes the World Go 'Round. For the first time, a short three week course called Once Upon a Story: Storytelling Made Easy has also been offered this year.

Other library-focused courses delivered include collection management, digital repositories, web 2.0, web Dewey, budgeting, reference and information literacy, and library promotion. Sydney TAFE also offers RDA training, including training tailored to suit the requirements of specific library services. In 2013 we ran a number of face-to-face RDA training courses for a total of over 200 participants.

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