

o celebrate, promote and advertise National Library Technicians' Day on 26 May this year, Library and Cultural Studies enlisted the help of Genevieve Pergl, Sandra Axford, and Camille Heckley from the State Library of Victoria, and Brad King from employment agency Kinetic Recruitment. ALIA's Victorian Manager, Margie Anderson, presented the ALIA award for Victoria University's best student, and VU's Jane Garner photographed the event. IAN ROGERS, VU's Library Studies teacher, gives us a round-up from the event.

As I welcomed the guests and staff, I emphasised the importance of promoting our profession to our stakeholders and improving our services to them. I also focused on the importance of persistence, of networking, and celebrating achievements.

Margie Anderson then introduced Susannah Carr, the VU's ALIA Student of the Year, and congratulated her on her achievement. Susannah said she was honoured to receive the award and thanked ALIA and all the staff at VU for their support, noting that she had gained employment at Stonnington Library a few weeks after finishing the course, after Janet Murray of Library Studies encouraged her to apply for the position. Margie also acted as a referee – a good team effort. Susannah said she loved working with children and the children's services role was great for her; she was looking forward to National Simultaneous Story Time to be held the next day.

Margie noted ALIA's role in promoting lifelong learning and supporting students throughout their careers, from accrediting programs that meet ALIA's guidelines to helping members access other tools and professional development programs. She emphasised that students needed to take advantage of the opportunities to network that ALIA provided. She said that Library Week is a chance to tell the community about the benefits of having qualified staff in libraries.

Camille Henkley works in Acquisitions at the State Library. After getting a Masters degree in Public History, she undertook a diploma in library and information services on the encouragement of her mother. Camille said that her mum was right and that she really enjoyed the course. Camille's original placement at the State Library was for a six-week contract that kept on being renewed, and in 2014 the Acquisition and Cataloguing teams were merged. There are now four teams in Collection Resources: Collection Development and Purchased Publications; Victorian Resources; Continuing Resources; and Collection Description and Quality Control. Camille says her job now involves acquisitions, cataloguing, ordering, processing order requests and prepayments. She said she had to increase her skills in cataloguing with Resource Description and Access (RDA) and that they get copy cataloguing from the National Library and use the Voyager program. Of the 300 State Library staff, 33 are technicians and 69 are librarians. Camille advised students to be open to change as the job was always evolving, and to be creative in their thinking.





Genevieve Pergl, a former VU student, has worked at the State Library since 1993. She surprised everyone when she said that, in that time, she has not touched a book. She works on digitising projects and showed examples of the kind of work she does in the cataloguing, indexing and digitising of images, such as those of the famous gold rush painter ST Gill. She noted that they had a new system for digitisation that included the use of a sensitivity warning message about Indigenous materials. Architectural drawings have been scanned with such detail that they are being heavily used by the architectural community. Photographs that have an intriguing story make the process of digitisation and cataloguing much more meaningful. She said that the State Library's collection would stretch 90km if placed end to end and was growing at a rate of 2km a year. There were now 45km at the Ballarat storage facility.

Sandra Axford said she was a traditional cataloguer but had also done stints in Acquisitions, Serials and Government Publications. She believed that you always had to be willing to try something new. Before joining the State Library, Sandra had worked in a regional library where she learnt to adapt her interests and skills to the customers' needs to provide the best service for them. Initially her position at the State Library was for six months, but it kept being extended before she finally got a permanent position. She encouraged students to learn things quickly and to keep their skills honed. She noted the changes that were happening in libraries and the preference for electronic versions of materials. When she

catalogued something it was live on screen in 20 minutes.

The next speaker was Brad King from Kinetic Recruitment, an employment agency that assists people to find work in many industries including libraries, records and knowledge management. He encouraged students to start looking for work now and to be job ready. While a qualification is a piece of paper, it is what you do with it that is important. There were many potential places to find jobs online: the ALIA website, mycareer.com, CareerOne, LinkedIn, social media such as Twitter and Facebook, and, of course, Kinetic Recruitment and other agencies such as The One Umbrella.

He also reminded students not to put embarrassing images or words online when networking through social media, as many employers now regularly looked up potential employees on these sites, and rash actions on social media could have consequences that reverberate throughout the rest of one's career.

I thanked all the contributors and hoped the students who attended had picked up some good tips for getting work.

The day was organised by the Library Studies Team.

IAN ROGERS

Program Manager, Victoria University lanRogers@vu.edu.au