library lovers' day

14 February 2017

February 14 is not only Valentine's Day, it is also Library Lovers' Day. As HEATHER WELLARD reports, it's a day to love your library, librarian, bookworm and the library lovers in your life.

In the library world, February 14 is not just for romance, dates, chocolates and flowers. Library Lovers' Day is an opportunity to spread the #librarylove and celebrate the relationship that libraries have with their communities.

How loved are libraries? Well, the numbers show the ways Australians show their love:

- By joining – there are 8.6 million members of Australian public libraries;
- By visiting – there were more than 112 million customer visits annually or more than nine million per month; and
- By borrowing – there were more than 171 million items lent.

Designing Learning Spaces

Creating teaching and learning spaces that support collaborative learning can be a daunting task.

At Abax Kingfisher we work with you to design and create teaching spaces that offer group-friendly seating, clever visual communication solutions and flexible work environments.

This will allow your students to study comfortably and effectively. We help you to create, classrooms, libraries and learning commons that change the emphasis from teacher centred to student-centred learning environments.

Contact us to discover how we can help you design and create a learning space that really can work!

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There are a lot of fun ideas on the ALIA website (bit.ly/1TOCRem) that libraries can implement to celebrate the day and these are just a few:

- Encourage your patrons to spread the #librarylove by having a competition for the best social media post using the hashtag with your library's Twitter handle
- Change your library's Facebook or Twitter avatar and banner to the Library Lovers' Day avatars and banners
- Print out and put up the Library Lovers' Day poster. Cut out paper hearts in complementary colours and get your library patrons to write what they love about the library on the hearts. Put the hearts up on the wall around the poster and show off the love for your library.
- Tempt your users by handing out bookmarks and little chocolate hearts to library customers who borrow items through the week. Visit the resources section to check out the free bookmark download.
- Entice users to have a 'blind date' with a book and venture outside their comfort zone! Wrap it in brown paper (tied up with string) and encourage them to take one home as an 'extra'.
- Create a Library Lovers' Day display with romantic books. Decorate the display with red balloons, flowers and streamers. It's amazing what a trip to the local discount store and a creative mind can achieve.
- Become a matchmaker! Pop a sign on the circulation desk: 'We'll help you find the book of your dreams' or perhaps 'If you've got the question we would love to answer it' or even 'The book matchmaker is in.'
- Create a 'book crush' display, where users post their favourite book at the moment.
- Use your research skills to create a pamphlet of romantic things to do on Valentine's Day. Personalise it for your community by including details of local places to go and things to see. Perhaps there's a shady nook in a nearby park or a place by the river. Consult with your colleagues; you'll have a list before you know it. Don't forget to include items from your library such as books of poetry to read out loud, romantic DVDs, romantic fiction, a cookbook to make dinner from or romantic CDs.

Get planning to celebrate the #librarylove!

ALIA 80 YEARS STRONG