

CROWD SOURCING EXCEEDS EXPECTATIONS



for zine creator at ALIA conference

Networking is never easy, nor is reflecting on professional development, so when attending the Asia-Pacific Library and Information Conference 2018 on the Gold Coast, KASSI HAYS looked to zine creation to help with both.

Creating zines is a recent hobby of mine, they are hand-crafted, self-published, underground publications. They're made by folding over pieces of paper like a magazine and can contain drawings, words, or anything you want really. Zines are the perfect outlet for me to unleash my creativity without tying myself to a massive writing commitment. Since I discovered zines, I've been wanting to do a GLAM project, which is how the idea of making a collaborative zine at ALIA's Asia-Pacific Library and Information Conference (APLIC) was born.

Under the moniker of 'Rebel GLAM', I went to APLIC on the Gold Coast with an idea and a stack of paper, not really sure how it was all going to work. I stuck a sign on the back of my clipboard with pink glittery tape advertising my desire for contributions to an APLIC zine. I hoped a few people would be willing to take a page. What unfolded was beyond my wildest expectations.

By the end of the first day of the conference I'd already given out all 28 of the A5 pages I'd limited myself to for the zine. People took my theme 'something to do with your APLIC experience' and just ran with it. My first learning from

the experience was simply that my sign wasn't the best way to advertise. In the end, all of the pages were given out to people I approached rather than people who approached me. I had no idea what I was going to

get back, or even if I'd get any pages back. Another big learning was that I should have kept a list of who I'd given pages to, because trying to remember later has proven quite difficult.

As the conference progressed and people started to hunt me down to return their pages I was amazed by the creativity and ingenuity of the contributors. I hadn't provided any craft supplies (another lesson for next time), so people had taken Post-It notes from vendors, bought their own glue sticks, and even convinced the reception desk to print stuff out. One contributor had used their lipstick. The next time I compile a conference zine I plan to have a little 'zine kit' of supplies I can provide contributors with to help them make their page.

Creating the zine [Thoughts from #APLIC18](#) has allowed me to meet so many amazing people and share my love of zines with them. Contributors included delegates from Australia, New Zealand, and Singapore, as well as keynote speaker Lucy Bloom. The feedback I got was that it was such a great idea, and that it had given them the chance to be more creative. Of the 28 pages I gave out I got 23 back, which was much more successful than I had hoped. The compiled zine is a marvellous summary of an amazing conference experience.

Continuing under the 'Rebel GLAM' name, I hope to make more conference zines, particularly at the National Digital Forum (NDF) in New Zealand later this year. The idea was to inspire people to make more things – whether it be zines or something else – and be comfortable putting their voices out there as I truly believe that we all have something to say. I think that creating and supporting zines is an excellent way to enable more voices to be heard. 🌟

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