



The F A Sharr Award is presented to a WA librarian, teacher librarian or library technician, within their first three years following graduation, who exhibits the most potential to make a significant contribution to the profession.

Claire Murphy, Librarian at Curtin University in Perth, was the F A Sharr Award recipient for 2017. Claire received the award at the annual 'Celebrating Excellence' event at the State Library of Western Australia on 24 May 2018.

The F A Sharr Award honours Francis Aubie (Ali) Sharr, State Librarian from 1953 to 1976, in recognition of his contribution to libraries and librarianship in Western Australia. The award is maintained by the ALIAWest Group, with support from WA Library Technicians Group.

As part of the selection process, Claire presented to the award selection panel on an important issue facing the sector. Claire's thought-provoking presentation focused on the need for LIS professionals to be agile and adaptable to meet the evolving demands of the sector. Key to succeeding in this new landscape is a commitment to ongoing professional development; it's no longer assumed that a person becomes 'qualified' when they graduate and remains so until they leave the profession. Claire's presentation highlighted the importance of schemes like the ALIA PD Scheme as an integral platform on which to build a more robust and formal commitment to lifelong learning. ✱

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2017 F A Sharr Award recipient
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PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT — WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME?

When CLARE THORPE was offered the opportunity to talk to the leadership team at her library about professional development, she used it as a professional development opportunity for herself.

Recently I was asked to lead a discussion on professional development (PD) for my library's leadership team. As this is something I am passionate about, I seized the opportunity to remind our executives, managers and supervisors about our commitment as a learning organisation.

In my library career, I have often found myself in roles where I have been able to create learning moments in my teams, to mentor staff, and to pursue my own PD interests. This has led to a diverse and varied career path, one I would not have had if I was not personally committed to keeping myself up to date and ready for the next big thing.

PD is primarily a personal responsibility, albeit one that benefits from the support of your workplace leaders. I have been fortunate to have worked for some amazing bosses and with peers who have given me space to try new skills and ways of working, even when those attempts have failed. The ALIA PD Scheme has been a key tool for me in helping me keep a record of my learning activities and inspiring me to aim for the post-nominal goals.

During our management team discussion, I was encouraged by the different ways in which leaders in my workplace are making a conscious effort to develop a learning culture across the library. A whole range of different approaches to workplace learning were shared around the table, many of which cost nothing but a bit of time, an important aspect in this era of limited budgets. The proliferation of online webinars, courses and sharing via social media has made it easier for staff at our regionally based university to engage in PD without having to travel.

As a leader in my library, I am committed to modelling and developing a culture that creates time and space for learning, knowing that this will make us more resilient, more agile and ready for whatever the future it may bring. You can view my discussion prompts from my talk on Slideshare (bit.ly/2KZzZRZ). ✱

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