

A special case for collaboration

Lesle Symes Memorial Lecture

Elizabeth Swan delivered the inaugural Lesle Symes Memorial Lecture at the first Asia Pacific Special and Law Librarian's conference in 1985. These lectures honour Lesle Symes and focus on groundbreaking areas and issues affecting the profession. Lesle was a 'special' special librarian before her time — not only in her work ethic but also her character. Lesle left a lasting impression on those she met, and it is for her contribution and work for the profession and library industry that her memory is honoured in this memorial lecture.

Lesle had a passion for the profession and worked tirelessly on a number of (then) Library Association of Australia committees, serving as president of the Special Libraries National Section, on General Council and numerous other committees and conference groups. A groundbreaker and campaigner for the profession, we honour the memory of Lesle Symes, MBE 1925–1982.

The purpose of the Lesle Symes Memorial Lecture is to commemorate outstanding special librarianship in Australia. To this end a prominent Australian

special librarian is invited to deliver this lecture and to share their thoughts on an issue of current importance to the profession. *A special case for collaboration* was delivered by Heather Layton at the 10th Asia Pacific Special, Health and Law Librarian's Conference. Heather has a wide-ranging background in special libraries, having worked in medical, law and research libraries in the state and commonwealth government sectors. Since 1997 she has been national manager, Library and Information Services at the Defence Science and Technology Organisation.

Having held office in the Australian Law Librarians Group, the Australian Institute of Judicial Administration and the ALIA Special Libraries Section, Heather has been involved in professional committee work at a local, state and national level. In 1995 she took a leadership role in the development of a set of Australian court library standards for commonwealth and state governments.

In her paper, Heather outlined the benefits of collaboration:

- to enable us to make a value-added

contribution to the business of our organisations.

- to expand services to our clients, particularly access to information.
- to increase efficiency by reducing duplication of staff effort, facilities and systems and by sharing collections.
- to maximise purchasing power.
- to raise our profile and improve our likelihood of survival, even prosperity. ■



Jennefer Nicholson, ALIA executive director, with Heather Layton

Robert D Williamson Award

Nominations are now invited for the 2004 Robert D Williamson Award. This award, made biennially, is presented for outstanding contribution to the development of information technology usage in Australian libraries and for demonstrated potential to positively and significantly influence development in information technology usage within libraries.

Guidelines and nomination forms can be obtained from:

The Secretary
VALA
PO Box 282
CROYDON VIC 3136
or from our website at
<http://www.vala.org.au>

Nominations close
31 October 2003

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