

Looking to the future

Virginia Dickson and Fiona Doyle

Get out your dancing shoes and be prepared for a great time at the New Librarian's Symposium 1.5 on 5 December 2003. The Bright 'n' Funky New Librarians Symposium (NLS 1), hosted at the Carlton Crest Hotel in Brisbane in early December 2002, was so successful that it is happening again. The symposium is an opportunity for delegates to develop both personal and professional qualities. NLS 1 illuminated the fact that the terms 'librarian' and 'bright and funky' are not mutually exclusive, in fact, these two concepts complement each other. Experience this for yourself by attending NLS 1.5.

Topics to be covered at NLS1.5 include career planning, success stories, future jobs, job-seeking skills and issues relating to new graduates. Discussing career planning is an opportunity to identify short- and long-term goals and develop a plan to achieve these goals. Listening to others recount their personal and professional journeys is inspiring and will help you to develop your own goals. As professionals it is important that we constantly challenge ourselves and push the boundaries of our own

achievements. Similarly, while aligning our personal values and goals with the organisation's goals, it is imperative that we create a balance between our personal and professional lives.

It is always exciting to hear of success stories within a profession and to see what can be achieved with goals and determination. As an example, a year ago Fiona was completing her studies: she has since been employed as a reference librarian at the Queensland University of Technology (QUT). She finds her position at QUT challenging and rewarding. Since the conference, Virginia has become involved with information literacy as unit co-ordinator for Health Communications at The University of Notre Dame Australia, while continuing as the College of Health liaison librarian.

Identifying current trends and issues with those of your profession, provides an opportunity for open discourse and discussion. Last year's debate '2020: where is the library?' sent us away with bright ideas about the future of libraries. It also gave us food for thought in terms of localisation, promoting our

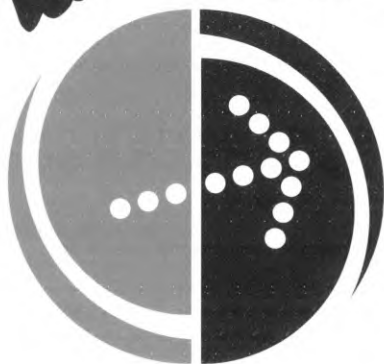
libraries services, strategic partnerships and collaboration.

Sponsors for NLS 1.5 have not yet been named. However, sponsorship provides an excellent opportunity for members of the profession to develop and build relationships with colleagues and the business organisations involved with libraries. Without the valuable and much-appreciated sponsorship as offered by Thomson Gale in 2002, events such as the NLS 1.5 would not be possible for some. Such events need to be supported for the advancement of both the members and the profession. NLS 1.5 will provide new librarians with the opportunity to gain insight into a number of professional and personal areas. Having dreams and aspirations is the first step, but after that you have to get out there and be involved. Those fortunate enough to be attending NLS 1.5 will leave the symposium motivated and energised.

In conclusion, some words from a famous song: 'Climb every mountain, ford every stream, follow every rainbow, until you find your dream...' (Reference withheld for conference competitions!) ■

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