

# Getting the most out of ALIA

## ALIA library technician awards and scholarships

**H**ave you ever thought about undertaking a research project or nominating a fellow Library Technician for recognition by their peers? Think of the benefits that could be gained to both you and the profession from a successful nomination — peer recognition, career and personal development to name a few. The awards I am talking about are the Dunn & Wilson Scholarship and the Library Technician of the Year Award.

### Dunn & Wilson Scholarship

The Dunn & Wilson Scholarship is offered every two years to an ALIA Library Technician (or group of technicians) for the purpose of researching a topic, which will result in benefits to the library industry. It is made possible through the generous support of the Dunn & Wilson-owned bookbinding companies of LJ Cullen in Sydney and Apollo-Moon in Melbourne. The managing director is John Westwood who is a very well known and dedicated supporter of Australian library technicians. More details and nomination forms are available at <http://alia.org.au/awards/dunn.wilson/>. The deadline for applications is 1 June 2005. With sponsorship of this kind, library technicians have a terrific opportunity to research a topic of interest to them and then to share it with the rest of the world. I know that our counterparts in the United Kingdom are very envious of the opportunities and encouragement that we receive.

A list of previous recipients of the scholarship can be found at <http://alia.org.au/awards/dunn.wilson/recipients.html>.

#### A winner's perspective

Winning this scholarship in 2001 opened up so many doors to me, both personally and professionally, and I strongly encourage all ALIA library technicians, to spend between now and 1 June preparing your applications for the next award.

Ask your colleagues, fellow students and technicians, managers and ALIALibtec readers for help, you will generally find them very supportive and willing to assist in your project.

I was given a fabulous opportunity to travel, to meet with many people in the library industry and to see how others live and work. Also I was welcomed as a guest speaker at meetings, which initially was a little daunting, but with practice and an encouraging audience I learned more about public speaking. This helped

to prepare for the fantastic experience of making a major presentation at the library technician conference.

#### How to complete the nomination

You need to 'sell' yourself to the selectors by including in the application why you are suitable to receive the scholarship. This is your chance to show your involvement both within ALIA and your workplace, and to prove that you are the best candidate for the award. You will also need to include a current CV. It is very important to clearly demonstrate the anticipated benefits and the outcomes of your project to yourself, your colleagues, your employer, the industry and its technicians and others.

The panel of selectors is chosen from ALIA members throughout the country. They come from diverse backgrounds, but are all looking for clear and concise applications that include the activities involved, proposed costs and a timetable including planning and evaluation strategies. They also want to see how you are planning to monitor your progress. Make sure your proposal is realistic and from personal experience, I recommend you do not take on more than one objective. It is very important to liaise with your three referees, as they must follow the guidelines given to them in order to successfully back up your nomination.

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### Library Technician of the Year Award

This award promotes the role of library technicians in library and information science, as well as the role and image of the library technician. It is administered by a selection panel, made up from the ALIA Library Technician group and an ALIA member appointed by the executive of ALIA National Library Technician Group in consultation with the ALIA Board of Directors. The award is sponsored by the School of Computer and Information Sci-



ACT recipients of ALIA Library Technician of the Year Award (L to R) Ursula Macdermott (1998), Beth Clary (2004), Marion Boyd (2001) with ALIA Board Member Roxanne Missingham

ence at Edith Cowen University.

It is important that the nominee be a member of a library technician group, and hold a library technician qualification that is recognised by ALIA. It is also necessary for the referee to be able to corroborate what is put forward in the nomination. The referee may be the employer or a member of the group that the nominee is active in. It is also essential that the nominee is *not* aware that they are being nominated for the award. Nomination close 1 July 2005.

#### A personal perspective — Beth Clary

I look at my time as a library technician as a time of meeting challenges: I was a member of the ACT ALIA library technicians group, a library technician at Radford College, and a casual teacher at Canberra Institute of Technology. As a new library technician, I first joined an enthusiastic group of people who wanted to revitalise the library technician group which had been in recess for a few years. It was not long before I became actively involved by taking on positions on the committee and actively participating in the planning for the 1997 library technicians conference. I was also given the challenge and the opportunity to teach a unit in the library studies course at the Canberra Institute of Technology. My workplace, Radford College also continues to provide challenges in dealing with a varied teaching staff who always want something yesterday, and to the students who are always willing to learn or to try new things. Without my work colleagues and students, my technician friends and prospective library technicians and CIT staff, I would not have had these challenges. What challenges lie ahead? I am proud to be a library technician. ■