

Volunteers in the Spotlight



Niki Kallenberger, ALIA's Local Liaison Officer in NSW, talked with Liz Baker (left), the new convener of NSW Mentoring. Liz was also part of the New Librarians' Symposium 2006 team

Why do you enjoy volunteering in the library profession?

I have a long history of volunteering but have only recently begun to volunteer in the library profession. My current role as Convenor of NSW Mentoring means I'm involved in something I'm passionate about and it will be rewarding to see people grow and flourish because of our program. Being a volunteer is also a great way to network and meet people with similar motivation.

How has mentoring been of benefit to you?

UNSW Library runs a mentoring program in which I'm currently involved. It's been an excellent opportunity to learn from someone more experienced; it has broadened my perspective and my understanding of the library and given me the chance to ask the questions I couldn't usually ask. This mentoring partnership is the reason I began volunteering in the library profession. I would like to be a mentor one day so I can give back to profession and have a hand in developing those who are on the way up. I believe mentoring is such a valuable thing that I would make aspects of it compulsory if I could!

Tell us about your work at UNSW Library.

I'm a Vendor Officer in the University of New South Wales Library. I liaise with vendors to set up trials and training, assist with the acquisition and renewal of our datasets and packages, collect usage statistics, work on projects and trouble shoot. It's a really interesting and challenging job that provides me with lots of variety and exposure to people and opportunities that not many others get a crack at. I also work in the Veech Library at the Catholic Institute of Sydney

as a casual. I'm so fortunate because I love both my jobs and the people I work with – I couldn't ask for more than that.

How do you ensure balance between your work, volunteering and home commitments?

Sometimes it's a struggle to get motivated, I'm sure most volunteers feel that from time to time. I have a long commute each day and often just want to go home and get into our spa – so I do, but then have to get up extra early the next day!

What are three things you would like us to know about you?

I've won an international gold and a bronze medal in ping pong; I can weld; and I enjoy making bobbin lace (the piece I'm holding in the picture took almost 15 hours to make!).

What are you currently reading?

I always have the current Higher Education Supplement in my bag – because I work in a university and it's really important to keep up to date with what's happening in the sector. And I'm re-reading the Harry Potter series, getting ready for the release of the final book.

Evelyn Woodberry new Chair of lending rights committee

The next Chair of the Public Lending Right (PLR) committee is Evelyn Woodberry, the University Librarian at the University of New England in Armidale and current President of the Council of Australian University Librarians. She will hold the chair for three years. She is the first Chair of the PLR committee who is resident in a regional area of Australia and the first woman to chair the committee.

The PLR scheme is an Australian government initiative that supports the enrichment of Australian culture by encouraging the growth and development of Australian writing and publishing. In 2005/06 it made payments of over \$7 million to eligible Australian authors, illustrators and other creators as well as publishers to compensate for income lost through the free use of their books in public lending libraries.

The PLR committee also advises the Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts on the administration of its sister program – the Educational Lending Right scheme – that deals with school and university libraries.

Senator Brandis acknowledged the outstanding contribution made by Ms Woodberry's predecessor, John Shipp, who has served three terms as Chair of the PLR Committee since 2000.

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