

Twila Ann Janssen Herr

9.12.1946 – 10.01.2007

BEd, GradDipLib, MEd, CALIS, FALIA

On Wednesday 10 January, Twila Herr passed away peacefully after a long battle with multiple sclerosis. She made a significant and distinguished contribution to both the theory and practice of librarianship as a cataloguer, a teacher, and as a researcher. Her particular contributions were to children's literature; information needs and service provision for the disabled, particularly the aged; and in the area of cataloguing and classification through her work on the Australian Committee on Cataloguing (ACOC).

Twila had formal qualifications in librarianship and education to post-masters and Masters level respectively. She initially worked in cataloguing in university libraries in the USA, where she met her husband Richard. Her first library position in Australia was as serials cataloguer in the Menzies Library at the Australian National University. In 1973, Twila moved to Tasmania, becoming serials cataloguer at the Tasmanian College of Advance Education at Mount Nelson. From 1974 to 1976 she was readers' adviser at the TCAE, and at the same time the part-time librarian at Jane Franklin Hall, a residential college at the University of Tasmania.

In 1976, Twila was appointed as a lecturer in the School of Librarianship at the Tasmanian College of Advanced Education, beginning her career as a gifted and popular teacher. Her love of learning was infectious and she was keenly aware how important it was to make learning fun – something her students all appreciated. Twila was able to engage her students through her various research interests, including providing library services to meet the needs of the aged and of the disabled elderly.

She published extensively on services for children, online searching, children's literature and computers in school library administration, print-handicapped users, users with special needs and the aged. While her research interests were broad, the underlying theme is improving library services to the disadvantaged. This social concern and awareness was always an important part of her professionalism.

Twila worked untiringly for the profession at the state and national levels of the Association. Over the years she was secretary, treasurer, vice-president, president and Branch Councillor of the Tasmanian



Branch. At national level, she served on the executive of the University and College Library Section and as the Tasmanian General Councillor. The LAA Nominating Committee and the Board of Education also benefited from her experience. She became a Life Member of the Association in 1989.

In addition to her involvement with ALIA and her work as a teacher and researcher, she held a number of positions on the Australian Advisory committee on Bibliographic Services (AACOBS) and its successor the Australian Council of Libraries and Information Services (ACLIS). This sustained professional commitment and service was recognised in 1992 when ALIA awarded Twila a Fellowship.

Twila Herr made a long and distinguished contribution to Australian librarianship and to the Association. She was committed to achieving quality results in co-operation with professional colleagues. Her vitality, warmth and passion for her profession will be sorely missed.

*Angela Bridgland PhD
Deputy Principal, Information Services
University of Melbourne*

In memory of Lyn McIntosh

Lyn McIntosh, former Palmerston City Librarian, passed away in November 2005. Lyn was a respected member of the ALIA Top End group. She gave enthusiastic presentations at the ALIA Top End Symposiums in 2003 and 2004 and many members were associated with Lyn during her time working with library services in the Northern Territory at Jabiru Public Library, Northern Territory Library and Palmerston City Library.

Members of the ALIA Top End group expressed an interest and committed to coordinating a commemorative project in memory of Lyn. Ideas were brainstormed as to what an appropriate project might be and the group decided to offer an artwork to the Palmerston City Council in memory of Lyn's contribution to the Northern Territory library community. The Palmerston City Council accepted the offer of the donation to be installed in the new Palmerston Public Library.

Ms Andrea McKey (local craftsperson, librarian and friend of Lyn's) was consulted. Andrea designed and then crafted a sculpture of kiln-fired glass in hot colours in a patchwork design. Neil Collett (Lyn's partner) contributed the Brazilian cedar frame and assisted in erecting the 150 x 40 cm sculpture.

A soiree was held in November 2006 to unveil the sculpture at the Palmerston Public Library. The event was attended by 30 guests, who shared their stories about Lyn and revelled in the beauty of the artwork.

The artwork honours Lyn's memory from all Northern Territory libraries, staff and clients.

*Linda Marchesani
2006 Convenor, ALIA Top End group*



Andrea McKey and Neil Collett with the memorial sculpture at Palmerston Library