



Strait Islander people as archivists as they are uniquely qualified to determine how records about Indigenous people should be created, kept and made accessible.

Named in memory of Loris Williams, the first Indigenous Queenslander and only the second Australian Indigenous person to qualify as an archivist, the scholarship aims at supporting Indigenous people to undertake study in Archives/Recordkeeping by providing financial assistance and mentoring.

Two scholarships have been awarded for 2008, one to Monica Hardie to study a Certificate III in Recordkeeping at TAFE South Australia and one to Lee Lazarevic to study a Graduate Diploma of Science (Information Services) specializing in Archives and Records at Edith Cowan University. Lee gained a Diploma of Library and Information Studies while working as a library technician and last year graduated with First Class Honours from the Wollotuka School of Aboriginal Studies at the University of Newcastle. Monica has been working in recordkeeping roles in government and private organizations for a number of years.

Details about applications for next year's scholarship will be available on the ASA website in September. <http://www.archivists.org.au/scholarships-available-aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-people-train-archivists>

Another initiative of the IISIG is the Loris Williams lecture, which is given at the annual ASA conference. The lecture aims to stimulate discussion and debate and inform the archives and records community about Indigenous issues that affect the profession. At the 2007 conference in Alice Springs, Alana Garwood-Houng, a librarian with the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, presented a lecture on the ATSIILRN Protocols. The Loris Williams Annual Lecture will be held this year in Perth, Western Australia.

Many IISIG members have also been ATSIILRN members and IISIG is always keen to build links with allied professionals.

**Caroline Homer**  
Indigenous Issues Special Interest Group  
Australian Society of Archivists  
[jchomer@activ8.net.au](mailto:jchomer@activ8.net.au)

## A 'both-ways' library and information service in the Top End

Batchelor Institute is Australia's only Indigenous dual sector tertiary education provider and fulfils a vital role in the education of Indigenous people across Australia.

As with other dual sector tertiary providers, the Institute's VET program is funded by the NT Government and the Higher Education program is funded by the Australian Government. Courses range from vocational skills training to Higher Education programs including a Masters, and from 2008 a PhD program in Indigenous Knowledge.

The Institute is based in the Northern Territory (NT) and although students come from both urban, regional and remote centres Australia-wide there is a special focus on remote NT communities. The main residential campus is at Batchelor, 100km south of Darwin, and there is a second residential campus in Alice Springs. From 2008 the Alice Springs campus is relocating into an exciting new facility currently under construction on the southern outskirts of Alice Springs. The new Desert People's Centre – the outcome of a partnership between the institute and the Centre for Appropriate Technology (CAT) – will provide a world class facility for Indigenous learning and knowledge.

Batchelor Institute also has annexes in Darwin, Tennant Creek, Katherine and Nhulunbuy, and purpose-built study centres in seven remote NT communities.

The Institute's 'both-ways' learning philosophy is based on respect and brings together traditional Indigenous knowledge systems with western academic disciplines to provide students with pathways to a successful learning journey. Courses are delivered in a mixed mode of short intensive residential workshops, workplace training and home based study with the support of dedicated tutors and visiting lecturers.

The Institute's Library and Information Service is an integral support facility for the teaching and learning programs and maintains collections at the Batchelor and Central Australian Campus along with small collections in the Institute Annexes and Study Centres. An ever-expanding range of range of online databases assists in information delivery to remote locations. One of the collection strengths is in Australian Aboriginal languages and linguistics and a special collection of 'own language' works (Centre for Australian Languages & Linguistics, or CALL Collection) includes original work by students in Australian languages and linguistics courses. Items in this collection are gradually being catalogued, digitised and added to an online database.

The Library runs information literacy programs at the request of teaching staff and sessions are tailored to the specific needs and abilities of the student group.

There are a total of eleven staff in the two library locations. Margaret Agnew is one of three Indigenous staff employed in the Institute Library and she works on the Batchelor campus.

Batchelor Institute is a site of national significance in Indigenous education – strengthening identity, achieving success and transforming lives.

**Jayshree Mamtora**  
ALIA NT Local Liaison Officer  
[jayshree.mamtora@alia.org.au](mailto:jayshree.mamtora@alia.org.au)