

Retirement of Earle Gow



Earle Gow

On the 29 August 2008 Earle Gow, University Librarian at La Trobe University, will officially retire after a distinguished career of 47 years of service in academic libraries in Western Australia, Australian Capital Territory, Queensland and Victoria.

Although employed in academic libraries throughout his career, Earle's professional interests and involvement transcended this sector, and he has been a leader and strong advocate in encouraging library co-operation and collaboration across all sectors. His commitment to improving library services by emphasising the importance of rigorous research into operations, and his continued efforts to enhance the standing of the profession, led to active involvement at the executive level in a number of key professional groups including LAA (Library Association of Australia), AACOBS (Australian Advisory Council on Bibliographical Services), ACLIS (Australian Council of Library and Information Services), CAVAL (Cooperative Action by Victorian Academic Libraries), and CAUL (Council of Australian University Librarians). Throughout his career he demonstrated a strong commitment to the development of library staff, encouraging them to expand their knowledge, skills and expertise, both professionally and personally. He also served on librarianship course advisory committees at various institutions including QUT, RMIT, Canberra College of Advanced Education and Monash University. His outstanding contribution to the profession was recognised when he was elected a Fellow of the Australian Library and Information Association in 1992.

Earle was the third and longest serving University Librarian at La Trobe University, taking up his appointment early in 1986. He provided vision and inspiring leadership through a period of astounding growth and development of La Trobe University Library, and significant changes in library and information services, the publishing sector, and higher education. Earle believed in the important role of the

librarian in exercising leadership beyond the library and contributing to the wider organisation, further enhancing the standing of the profession. He credits his mentors - Leonard Jolley, Victor Crittenden and Derek Fielding - with encouraging this outlook, and his time at La Trobe University was characterised by active involvement in its governance. In recognition of his distinguished contribution to the University, the La Trobe University Council resolved to confer upon him the title of Emeritus Professor. This honour was acknowledged at a graduation ceremony of the University in March 2008.

Earle commenced leave on the 17 December 2007 and is already starting to enjoy the pleasures of retirement. We wish him a long and happy one.

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Life after librarianship

My interest in the library profession started in the late 1970s. I had just completed my Asian Studies degree at the ANU, so I decided to return 'home' to Western Australia, where I subsequently completed the post-graduate Diploma in Library Studies at the Curtin University of Technology.

In the following years, I was 'media librarian' at a teachers training college, a reference librarian at LISWA, and head of the resource department at Scotch College in Perth. In early 1989 I was appointed Circulation Librarian at the Hong Kong Polytechnic, now the HK Polytechnic University. After four years there I returned to Perth, where I was briefly the librarian with the Defence Department before becoming head of the library at Central TAFE.

In 1999, after a series of events, I decided to do a Certificate in English Language Training for Adults and after completing the course I started to get some teaching gigs, mainly as a casual or relief teacher. I really enjoyed the work, and I particularly enjoyed the interaction with students from a wide range of countries - Japan, China, Thailand, Indonesia, Korea, Switzerland, France and Brazil, to name but a few.

If you think librarians are good networkers, try ESL teachers! And via

this networking I realised I was able to specialise in what is termed 'Maritime English'.

In 2005/2006 I had a 10-month stint as a 'Ship Manager' for a local maritime training institute that acquired a 79-metre training ship from Japan, and moored it in Fremantle Harbour. The responsibilities of this job also helped in my specialisation in Maritime English.

So in the last few years I have made several visits to Japan, teaching Maritime English at the Tokyo University of Marine Science and Technology, and also late last year I had four weeks teaching Maritime English to some ships' engineers in Qinhuangdao, three hours' drive east of Beijing. Another highlight was joining a 93-metre Japanese training ship in Mauritius, from where we sailed to Cape Town, teaching Maritime English to 32 cadets on the ship, while en route.

Roy Stall
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10th International Congress on Medical Librarianship



The University of Queensland Library and IFLA Section of Biological and Medical Sciences Libraries invite you to participate in the 10th International Congress on Medical Librarianship, to be held in Brisbane, from 31 August to 4 September 2009.

ICML, under the auspices of IFLA, is a global forum held every 4-5 years. ICML 2009 theme *Positioning the Profession* will offer delegates an array of research papers, user studies and innovative solutions from a wide range of local and international presenters. A number of continuing education activities will be offered as well as tours the region.

For all the latest details go to <http://www.icml2009.com/>

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