



**Margaret Henty**  
URLs Group (ACT)

**How did you get started working in libraries?**

It was probably the need to be close to books which prompted it. As for many librarians, this was a second career. I had worked in social science research after leaving university, then went overseas with my husband and came home some years later with small children and a need to update. It was a good choice.

**Why do you volunteer for ALIA?**

I've been a volunteer now for over twenty years, working as the Associate Editor of AARL and in various capacities with what was initially known as the University, College and Research

Libraries Section of ALIA, now URLs. There have been lots of rewards, but mainly getting to know people from other libraries whom I would not have met in the normal course of my work.

**What are 3 things you'd like us to know about you?**

I've been able to use my library training as the basis for jumping off into related fields. I'm now working with the Australian Partnership for Sustainable Repositories (APSR) which is now being absorbed into the Australian National Data Service (ANDS). Both of these are about managing data in its broadest sense but have strong links to library work. Other than that, anyone who knows me will tell you that I'm a voracious reader and that I love making jams and pickles. There's something very rewarding about warm jars of jam or pickle on the bench and the enticing aromas permeating the kitchen.

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

A helpful husband is a wonderful asset, although now that the children have left home, he has been called on less frequently. Any volunteer work has

blended readily with my work so I've never felt any conflict there.

**What are you currently reading?**

*Austerity Britain*, by David Kynaston, is a detailed and fascinating account of life in Britain in the years after World War 2. It is history as-it should be, both informative and highly entertaining. It's full of quotations, such as this gem from Frances Partidge about the middle classes: "Two elderly ladies got into our carriage in the train and drew back their lips from their yellowing teeth with identical snarls of concentration as they pecked about in their handbags".

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