



sexiest library in Victoria, with its lounge room ambiance and chilled out staff. So it went without saying that Jill would make a perfect inaugural Page Three Librarian. She's also the Vic Specials Committee Convenor. Jill's hobbies include music and Bollywood dancing. Her library highlight: 'collecting fresh retired librarians who offer to volunteer in the library'.

**Mr June: Josh Earls, honorary Special Librarian**

I found Josh performing stand up at Trades Hall during the Melbourne Comedy Festival. The night I attended the show there were two full rows of librarians in addition to a packed room of general punters. It was kind of weird being a librarian groupie...but it was probably weirder for poor Josh being grouped on by a bunch of librarians. Josh is actually a school librarian in inner city Melbourne, but he entertained us enough to warrant honorary Special Librarian status. Josh on bringing sexy back to the library: 'I've heard that some people think librarians can't be sexy. It's not true; we just do it quietly, and in order.'

**Mr September: Lawrence Hogan, KPMG Research and Library Service**

I knew Lawrence from my KPMG days, where I knew that I could wander into the library and research centre of this 'big 4' corporate services firm and get some sort of cerebral entertainment. As Mr September Lawrence penned some Haiku (a Japanese poetic form) and told us how he gets excited about Excel spreadsheets, which is probably considered sexy in accounting language. Lawrence on his strangest research request: 'What's the economic value of a penguin to the Victorian Economy?'

**Ms December: Alison Morin, Ebook Library**

Finally, the lovely Alison. Being from the US, Alison admitted she had never heard of the page three concept. However she was brave enough to submit to any questions that a Page Three Librarian might be asked. Alison is the Accounts & Technical Services Manager for Ebook Library - an ebook purchasing and lending platform. Ebook Library is

headquartered in Perth so she works from her home office in Melbourne. Alison on the Australian vernacular: 'I have two that I quickly adopted and love: dodgy and 'no worries'.

And there it all was - twelve months and four excellent Page Three Special Librarians later. Bring on 2008, and with it much more Page Three action!

To read the full 'Page Three' librarian interviews go to the Vic Specials Newsletter page of the ALIA website: <http://www.alia.org.au/groups/specialvic/vicspecials/>

**Donna Leung  
Acting Coordinator-  
Library Development Yarra Libraries  
LeungD@yarracity.vic.gov.au**

## Working for a non-government special library

I don't often tell people I work for the Alcohol and other Drugs Council of Australia because for some reason they feel compelled to explain why they are indulging in a second glass of wine!

The Alcohol and other Drugs Council of Australia (ADCA) is the peak, national, non-government organisation representing the interests of the Australian alcohol and other drugs sector, providing a national voice for people working to reduce the harm caused by alcohol and other drugs. ADCA is contracted and funded through the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing to provide a National Resource Centre (NRC) to Australian alcohol and other drug (AOD) workers.

ADCA is a small organisation of about 12 staff with half of them working on the NRC project providing a library service to AOD workers around Australia. NRC staff are a mix of full and part timers and include: librarians; library technicians and experienced library staff. The NRC is probably best known for providing the Drug database to libraries across Australia.

Working for a small non-government organisation comes with challenges and benefits. The challenges are

mainly limited resources; the lack of a larger organisation's infrastructure and managing an organisation with a small staff.

Limited resources are a common difficulty faced by many libraries, and NGO libraries are no exception. The inability to match government salary scales is often the greatest handicap however, so far the NRC has been fortunate in retaining longstanding, dedicated employees.

A small organisation without the benefit of a larger organisation's infrastructure means that at times some tasks are outside our combined expertise and alternative, expensive outside assistance has to be sought. This occasionally is the case when IT problems occur.

A special library meets the needs of a specialised group or population and the NRC certainly does that, but whilst the NRC provides a library service for its client group and organisation, it is also very much part of its parent organisation as a whole, meaning that there can be some blurring of responsibilities and lines of duties. While give and take is essential in these circumstances, NRC staff are also very proud of their library identity and are aware of the need to maintain, and be acknowledged as having, specialist skills.

There are also benefits to working for our NGO. A small NGO can provide flexibility and increased autonomy, making you feel truly part of an organisation.

Perhaps the biggest benefit of working for this NGO, and the reason staff retention is high, is that you truly belong to a special sector. The NRC is assisting people from all over Australia who are working in varying capacities to help those with alcohol and other drug problems. Many are not well paid and are themselves working for a non-government agency but are passionate about their work and grateful to library staff who help them with research and information gathering.

**Jane Shelling  
Manager National Resource Centre  
Alcohol and other Drugs Council of  
Australia  
jane.shelling@adca.org.au**