

Conferences

ALIA National Library and Information Technicians Conference 2009

Conference earlybird registration extended!

Get in quick and don't miss out on this strictly limited offer!

In these times of economic uncertainty, it's more important than ever that each of us maintain our competitive edge. This can be achieved through pursuing ongoing professional development, current awareness initiatives, and networking opportunities.

For conference information and online registration:

<http://conferences.alia.org.au/libtec2009/>



Celebrating 30 years of library technicians

It has been 30 years since the Technician category for ALIA membership was introduced, and 1979 was the same year the South Australian Library Technicians group was formed. This group was responsible for organising the 1st National Library Conference held in Adelaide, 10–13th July, 1980.

It is therefore appropriate that the 2009 ALIA National Library & Information Technicians Conference is again being held in Adelaide from 15–18 September. The theme for this year's conference dinner will celebrate this anniversary by encouraging those attending to wear an outfit reminiscent of the fashion from sometime in the past 30 years. A prize will be awarded for the best outfit.

Papers from previous conferences have explored who library technicians are, along with how and why they have become a part of the LIS profession. We can look back now with some amusement when it is suggested that library work was just a way to re-enter the paid workforce, but let me hasten to add that nowadays this is a view long gone. Since formal education was established, it has become evident how this helped define the employment status of the sector. Library technicians are currently allied with the development and future of the LIS industry.

Continuous review has afforded library technicians the opportunity to reflect on role changes within the workplace and incorporate new skills and knowledge where necessary to assist with this transformation. Conferences are one means of facilitating this exchange.

Attending conferences is exciting and helps instill a sense of pride in the profession especially when awards are given out for Library Technician of the Year. The ALIA Library Technician Research Award (previously the Dunn & Wilson Scholarship) is also significant as it provides financial assistance to the recipient as they undertake worthwhile research for our sector.

Committee members from the 1st National Library Conference, held in Adelaide 1980, attended the reunion dinner on the 26th May to help celebrate 30 years of Library Techs. From right to left Vikki Hopwood, Elizabeth Collins, & Jenni Jeremy.



Anyone wanting to pursue the vision for the profession of the future might be interested in attending the pre-conference ALIA Library Technicians National Advisory Congress.

Historically conferences have been planned to provide inspiration, information, education, and a forum to debate the future of the profession. In conjunction with this is the opportunity to explore the latest products and tools of the profession within an environment to renew old acquaintances and meet new friends.

The Adelaide conference will be no different; the current committee is working hard to present a program that will tick all these boxes.

Look forward to meeting up with as many of you as possible in September.

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Library and Information Managers.

Applications are now open for the postgraduate programs in Library and Information Management or Business Information Management offered by UniSA.

These programs are blurring the boundaries and will enable librarians, records managers, archivists and business information management professionals to reinvent their careers, to keep in touch with the latest digital approaches and work in a wider skilled environment.

The programs offer you the opportunity to study at your own pace: either part-time or full-time, externally online, or face to face in Adelaide.

For further details and information please email moira.lawler@unisa.edu.au or visit unisa.edu.au/bim



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