

# Professional development

## Showing promise with FOLIOz

I recently completed the FOLIOz ProMISe online course offered by ALIA and the University of Sheffield (U.K.). Congratulations to ALIA for facilitating this type of online learning.

The course cost was modest when compared with some workshops and seminars on marketing and promotion. For those outside the metropolitan areas, it is an opportunity to develop or refresh skills that are directly applicable to library services of varying sizes and sectors. The short duration of the course is another attractive feature for those who are unable or unwilling to commit themselves to months of study.

Over a six week period, coursework arrived via email with copious links to other resources, readings, websites, and clips. The almost daily receipt of messages and units from the FOLIOz Team encouraged me to keep on track with assignments instead of being distracted by work and home commitments. Working in a buddy group with a couple of other participants reduced the isolation of individual study.

Some of the exercises turned out to be challenging, thought-provoking, and very relevant to the real work environment. There was scope to delve further into areas that were most interesting to me or to just cover the basic requirements of the unit. As the course was designed in the UK, there was an added dimension: issues important to overseas library services were raised and participants could glean an insight into international practice.

I was also pleased to be able to use my ALIA membership to gain access to more articles in library journals that I could work into the ProMISe assignments. Access to this information and an entitlement to significant discounts with the FOLIOz courses certainly add value to my membership. Both these initiatives make it easier to undertake further study which is so vital to each individual's continuing professional development.

I can certainly recommend that other ALIA members look at what is on offer from FOLIOz and consider signing up for the continuing professional development scheme.

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## ALIA Award winners at Charles Sturt University



(Pictured left to right): Lisa Jackson, winner of the ALIA Student Award – Master of Education (Teacher Librarianship), Damian Lodge, Naomi Rickersey, winner of the ALIA Student Award – Bachelor of Arts (Library and Information Science), and Elizabeth Antoniak, winner of the ALIA Student Award – Master of Applied Science (Teacher Librarianship). Absent: Elisha Bignell, winner of the ALIA Student Award – Graduate Diploma of Applied Science (Library and Information Management)

# Volunteer in the spotlight



Patricia Whalan is currently Secretary of the ALIA Top End Group, and was presented with a silver pin at the end of last year. She served as President of the NT Library Technicians Section 1999–2000 and as the Convenor, Library Assistants and Technicians of the Top End Group, 2001–2000. Pat works as Manager, Serials, at the Northern Territory Library.

### Why do you enjoy volunteering for the library profession?

Keeps me in touch with other professionals who work in different libraries. I enjoy the

contact and some of the responsibility that goes with volunteering. I try to do as much as I can, but other commitments can sometimes get in the way. I like finding out what is happening in other libraries and what projects are in the pipeline.

### What are three things you'd like us to know about you?

I enjoy my job, I like to be involved, and I enjoy travel.

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

A balance needs to be maintained although work will often take precedence due to the responsibilities that I have. I need to ensure that there is a balance for my other activities such as yoga, visiting the chiropractor, and having massages on a regular basis. As I do not have young children, and my husband helps a great deal, this is not a problem. I also need to spend time with my husband and daughter and, of course, the family dog.

### What gives you a sense of purpose and accomplishment?

A job well done and completed.

### If you could have your ideal role in the world, what would it be?

Not sure that there is such a role that would suit me – I love being a technician and a librarian. If money was no object then I would love to travel more – maybe as a roving ambassador for something.

### Which kinds of libraries have you worked in?

School, Special, and State.

### What are you currently reading?

I generally have a couple of books going at the same time. At the moment: *The different forms of flowers on plants of the same species* by Charles Darwin and *Introduction to type: a guide to understanding your results on the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator* by Isabel Briggs Myers.

### What do you feel are your greatest achievements and successes?

Having my children, studying, and qualifying as a librarian while they were still in school.

### What do you currently do for a crust?

Jack of all trades within the library – seriously Serials Manager/original cataloguer/procurement.

**Interviewed by Jayshree Mamtara**  
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