

Professional development

Secondments: a chance to exchange, learn, share and network

Ever wondered what it would be like to step into the shoes of an academic for a year? Two librarians, Jenny Hall and Julianne Neal, have taken up secondment opportunities at Queensland University of Technology (QUT) to do just that!

Having explored teaching in the Library and Information Science (LIS) component of the Masters of Information Management (MIM) program at QUT in 2008, both were eager to take up the suggestion to temporarily transfer from their substantive positions, Julianne from within the QUT Library, and Jenny from the University of Queensland Library (UQL).

These secondment opportunities have the potential for participants to fully taste the 'real world' of academia, to learn new skills, to further develop teaching capabilities, to experience working in different teams, to share information between institutions, to develop stronger and more collegial networks, and to ultimately take these qualities back to the 'home' organisation or department.

I personally envisage that the experience at QUT will contribute to my personal and professional development and enhance my career path on return to UQL. In addition, the experience is likely to enhance cross-institutional awareness, cross-fertilisation of ideas, a sharing of best practices and expand my understanding of the student experience –

valuable for a librarian in an academic library environment. Thus, working within the student domain as a lecturer will enable a combination of perspectives, that of an educator and librarian, which will further inform practice upon return to UQL.

The benefits of the secondment to the host organisation or department are many with the most important, in my view, being the transference of the practitioner's knowledge and skills to students by being able to draw on recent and deep library experience and bringing that 'real world' approach to the world of academia. So a win-win situation is likely, one where the secondee develops personally and professionally, taking new skills and practices back to the home institution or department, with the host organisation benefiting as current industry know how is transferred in this case to their students. It is evident that both QUT and UQL are walking the talk of staff development and see the value of secondments to all stakeholders.

An exciting year awaits with many new initiatives planned. QUT will enter its second year of offering its library degree in both face to face and online delivery, with new degrees such as Digital Environments and Executive Information Practice. In addition, QUT's IT Academy will launch a professional development program tailored to the needs of the Australian library industry.

This is my first week on the job and I must admit to a little nervous excitement, but I look forward to the opportunities to exchange, learn, share, and network.

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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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Professional Development gets a monthly 'posting'

Members swamped us with great feedback and requests for more issues following the launch of ALIA's PD ideas email service in August last year. In 2009 we are pleased to announce that ALIA members will receive *PD Postings* monthly.

PD Postings provides quick and easy access to a range of online and face-to-face resources to build your professional knowledge. PD can be expensive and time consuming. Members want access to training they can undertake anywhere, any time, and on a tight budget. *PD Postings* gives ALIA members access to a wide variety of activities recognised under the ALIA PD scheme, saving them time, money and worry. Personal members can join the PD Scheme for free at <http://www.alia.org.au/education/pd/scheme/>.

If you didn't receive the last 3 issues we may not have your current email address. Send your membership number and contact details to membership@alia.org.au so you don't miss future issues.

Look out for your next issue of *PD Postings* soon and please contact authors claudia.davies@alia.org.au or margie.anderson@alia.org.au with your feedback and suggestions.