



Ancient buildings, old books and a beautiful heroine who's lost her way... it's not too hard to imagine libraries as the perfect backdrop to spooky movies and chilling tales. But zombies?

Believe it or not, there is a definite trend in the library world to associate zombies with everything from budget cuts to information literacy. Just search the web for "zombies and libraries" and you'll see what we mean. Perhaps its word association: 'libraries' leads to 'books' leads to 'brains' - and quite naturally on to the living dead.

Last year, enthused by this concept, the South Australian Library and Information Network (SALIN) delved further into the other world and chose to

celebrate the diverse and changing library profession through production of a calendar titled *Zombies in the Library* (www.redbubble.com/people/salin/calendars/6062484-zombies-in-the-library).

The calendar is always up to date because when you order it online you are able to specify the starting month of your choice. This year we have also added a selection of postcards and posters to our zombie offering, with all proceeds going to charity.

The original idea sprung from SALIN executive committee discussions in December 2009 about coordinating a calendar of Adelaide libraries. A flurry of ideas for a possible theme followed, but when one committee member stated "I do rather like the idea of zombies salivating as they peer through the returns chute", the direction was obvious to all. Zombies and libraries. Who wouldn't want to have that calendar?

We formed a working party and set about using our networks to secure the services of a photographer and makeup artist. Volunteers from the library community were also sought to be in front of the camera, undergoing transformations into zombies or playing the part of the terrified library patrons and professionals.

The crew spent two days shooting in the Tea Tree Gully Library and Flinders University Library (outside of opening times to avoid really scaring somebody) producing some spectacular shots covering such vital topics as the role of the zombie in reference, the frustrations faced when the undead hog the photocopier and, especially for cataloguers, the eternal question: 299.675 or 398.21?

Our calendar was launched onto the unsuspecting public just in time for Halloween last year, promoted through the SALIN website and e-list, and a *Zombies in the Library* Facebook page. It is hosted on the RedBubble website and, just like the undead, it 'lives' on, and on. And on.

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WHAT'S THAT IN THE SHADOWS?

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