

SLV collections help explain importance of children's literature

Over January and February of this year, Kristy Moody spent most of her time at the State Library of Victoria (SLV) as an AGL Shaw Summer Research Fellow. She was tracing the history of children's literature and, along the way, learning its role in sustaining society.

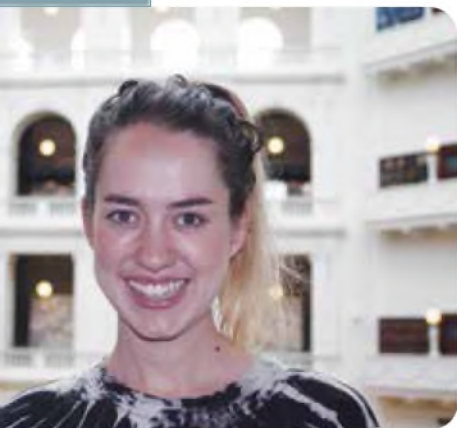
My research focused on using the National Year of Reading as a springboard to explore the ways in which libraries and children's librarians continue to be important in the proliferation of children's literature in Australia.

My investigations led me to the papers of Enid Joske, who was instrumental in establishing the first Children's Free Lending Library in Melbourne in 1918, and to those of Margaret Ingham, who laid the foundations of the SLV's remarkable Children's Literature Collection and worked extensively in the area of libraries and children's literature.

I read about the formation of the Children's Book Council of Australia, which largely came about due to the volunteer efforts of librarians nationally and abroad. I was also very excited to look at some of the rare children's books held in the SLV's Children's Literature Research Collection. There is an array of styles and themes throughout history of popular literature for children and it is reflected in this unique collection.

This research will be used to inform my role as a teacher librarian, one I hope to fulfill when I graduate from the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology's Master of Information Management. Further, this knowledge of important efforts in Australia's history regarding libraries and librarians can contribute to the ongoing advocacy for qualified teacher librarians and the place of libraries in contemporary society. Though the information professional and agency may undergo a transformation, I believe this is a great example of social sustainability.

The launch of the National Year of Reading fell during my Fellowship and I attended the SLV's event to mark the occasion, which was not only timely but also thought-provoking.
Demographer Bernard



A GREAT WAY TO SPEND THE SUMMER: KRISTY IN THE LA TROBE READING ROOM AT THE STATE LIBRARY OF VICTORIA

Salt commented on the merging of volunteer efforts and the vital teaching of literacy skills in rural parts of Victoria. This insight into the way in which Victoria's changing demographics will shape the demands for literacy skills also highlighted examples of social and economic sustainability.

The place of libraries and information services, among the most used public spaces, would seem crucial. Both Ingham and Joske saw the importance of book distribution to people living in remote parts of the state of Victoria and were both involved in meaningful and popular library projects that supported this many decades ago.

I have gratefully and happily used the SLV in various roles in my pursuit of lifelong learning since my undergraduate years. The AGL Shaw Summer Research Fellowship, just one of the Fellowships offered by the SLV, demonstrates how that library is an incredible and enduring learning space that just keeps on giving.

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