

# LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor

I refer to Kathryn Leong's opinion piece in the April 2013 issue (volume 34, issue 4) of INCITE.

My job title is currently Library Technician and I believe it very accurately describes what I do. I take care of all the operational and technical duties in my library, such as cataloguing resources, managing overdue, circulation issues, working with technology, helping/teaching patrons how to use things like the photocopier/printer, opac, etc., and many, many other related duties.

I agree that many library techs work as library assistants; in fact this is the first job I have had as a library tech in my 12 year career. Consequently many actually do the job of a library technician, yet are classified as (and paid as) library assistants. There are also many other job titles, yet the person in

that role is a qualified library technician.

That does not mean our job title/qualification should be changed. For me, it indicates what I have attained in my career.

Many people outside the library profession do not see the distinction between a librarian and a library technician. Of course they don't – they have no knowledge of who does what within the library sector. I have no idea of the distinction between job titles in other professions. Why should we let laypeople dictate what our job titles are? It may not mean anything to people who do not work in libraries, and I often get sick of explaining it as well. But that does not mean I give up explaining it. I once had someone say to me that they had this mental image of me running around the library with a screwdriver, which made me laugh. But then I went on to say what I really did. It has always been part of

my personal mission to educate people about what libraries and library staff can do, because I love libraries.

I also agree with the feeling of invisibility. Because we take on the day-to-day, functionality type of role, it only gets noticed when it doesn't happen. Unfortunately, that is the nature of the beast. I don't see changing our job title to be a solution to that. Rather, we need to be loud and proud of what we do. Make ourselves heard.

I am proud to be a Library Technician and I love what I do. I have never thought of what we do as "the real stuff". On the contrary, I think we work in tandem with librarians, and we are both necessary. If people assume I am a librarian, I always say "no, I am a library technician". Because it is what I do.

Thank you,

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## INDUSTRY MOVEMENTS

The University of Melbourne welcomes Shane Carmody to the position of Senior Development Manager, University Library. Shane comes to the library with significant experience at National Archives of Australia and the last 11 years at the State Library of Victoria where he held the post of Director, Collections and Access and most recently as Director, Development. Shane will be located within the Advancement office, but will be focused on the University Library where he will spend significant time. He commences on 12 June 2013.

### Queen's Birthday Honours

Congratulations to Sharan Harvey, manager of the Brisbane City Council Library Service, who received a Public Service Medal in the Honours List; to Sarah Fraser, of Mount Gravatt, Queensland, who was awarded an OAM for service to librarianship and school information services; and to author and National Year of Reading ambassador Hazel Edwards, also OAM, for service to literature.

## ALIA MOVEMENTS

ALIA is delighted to welcome Samantha Sheridan to the South Australia State Manager position. Samantha has diverse experience in both the private and public sector including time with public libraries in South Australia and, along with her studies in library and information science, she will bring a well rounded set of skills and expertise to the team. South Australian members can reach Samantha on [samantha.sheridan@alia.org.au](mailto:samantha.sheridan@alia.org.au)

Judy Brooker has moved into the position of Assistant Director (Professional Development), effective 6 May. This title reflects the very significant

value that Judy brings to the Association, as a senior library and information professional with strong corporate knowledge. Judy will be working closely with Diana, as the new Director of Operations, on the review of our by-laws and other fundamental aspects of our governance and information management.

Emily Peters has taken over the role of Groups Coordinator. With a background in communications and marketing, she is excited to take on the role. Erin York is continuing at ALIA as the Media Coordinator. She will be working on ALIA's communication channels and project managing ALIA's upcoming

special projects.

Originally from Perth, Jedd Casella is excited to experience the cold weather of Canberra. Previously, Jedd worked in the commercial IT sector. He is enjoying the change of pace at ALIA and is happy in his role as the ICT Systems & Support Officer.

Julia Garnett joined ALIA 3 June as NSW State Manager. She graduated with an MLIS from QUT and worked at QUT Library. Julia has been busy travelling to libraries across Australia, including work placements at Logan City Council and the State Library of WA. She looks forward to hearing from NSW members at [julia.garnett@alia.org.au](mailto:julia.garnett@alia.org.au) or @ALIAsmNSW.