

ALIA TEAM – OUT AND ABOUT

National Film and Sound Archive



On Tuesday 12 March 2013 a delegation from ALIA went to visit the National Film and Sound Archive Library: Robyn Bartlett, Agnes Lekawski, and Laura Power.

We met Jan Thurling who showed us the library in the heritage listed building. It was previously the Institute of Anatomy and the library is in the original Institute of Anatomy Library with the same fittings, so they have restrictions on what can be changed. The building is also one of the most haunted in Canberra and has a regular visitor in the library.

The aim of the library is to provide a collection of books, periodicals, newspaper clippings, and audio and visual recordings covering the areas of moving images, recorded sound, and broadcasting industries both international and, in particular, Australian. This is available for research for academics, researchers, staff, and the general public.

There are three staff in the library and they service between 200–300 requests for research each year, ranging from

finding out details on a building once used as a studio, to verifying a police badge used in a 1970s Australian movie is authentic.

The collection has about 11 000 books and 600 Journal titles and increases by approximately 3000 items

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each year. New items are purchased, but many items are also donated. They are happy to accept donations if they fall into their collection core areas.

The material can be accessed in the library, but not borrowed. There is a small space for working there and workstations for access to electronic resources.

The NFSA has an exhibition space next to the library with about eight screens showing selected clips from films and television and sound recordings, and associated objects and posters. At present there is an interactive installation by Wally De Backer of Gotye, with his song *Somebody That I Used to Know*. There is also a café decorated with film and TV memorabilia and a courtyard where they show films under the stars in summer. The ARC cinema has special screenings on a regular basis. The shop also has lots of older Australian and Hollywood movies available.



Photographer - Robyn Bartlett