

THIS IS ME

Our new EEL Coordinator, Anna Walker, wants to hear from you!

My name is Anna and I am a wannabe librarian.

When I'm not busy juggling family life and distance education, you can find me at work in our lovely little library in Paynesville, Victoria. Part of the East Gippsland Shire, we are a small proactive team, striving to do more and bring more to the community we serve.

Australian libraries have an exciting evolutionary future. I envisage a social learning space, where mentoring and lifelong learning are not merely buzzwords and corporate speak, but active library services. A place where library programming steps outside its dusty cage of pigeonholing and parroting, to become something more organic, all-encompassing, multidisciplinary and cross-pollinating. Where children and youth programs focus on building values, valuing contributions, harnessing creativity, and incorporating science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) perspectives. I would ultimately love to see libraries as places where sustainability, seed saving, vertical gardening and urban agriculture are no longer dirty words, but are celebrated and encouraged within a vibrant learning and cooperative environment.

I am motivated professionally by the transformation of the public library from the traditional book lending service model into a community hub of learning, collaboration and personal growth.

Personal involvement with regional arts groups and social enterprise has helped me appreciate the importance of community initiatives. I am currently involved with (f)route (google it!) – a local social enterprise group combining art with food while promoting the ideas of localism, foraging, sustainability and generosity. An inspiring project uniting seemingly divergent disciplines to work together harmoniously, (f)route has encouraged me to find the harmony in all spaces – particularly libraries.

My journey into information services was spurred by a passion we perhaps all have in common: a love of the written word. My personal book collection is ever-growing, however with widespread digitisation I am becoming more selective about my acquisitions. I cannot resist adopting art and photography monographs, children's picture books, Australian fiction, Scandinavian textile and design tomes and books with movie adaptations. The occasional op shop oddity finds its way onto my shelves, and I am partial to old atlases, encyclopaedias and street directories.

As a librarian on my L-plates, with a little spare time, a glut of enthusiasm and an appetite for disruption (in a good way), I have signed up as EEL coordinator of this great column for *INCITE* magazine.

I am eager to share your ideas and hopes about how, as library professionals, those of us who are just getting started in the profession can do more for our patrons and communities, and share with our colleagues across the sectors our thoughts and ideas.

I've had my say so now I hope my fellow new graduates are ready too, to contribute to *INCITE*. I am looking forward to hearing about your thoughts, imaginings and activities and what you are doing to energise, enthuse and inspire those around you.

ANNA WALKER
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Anna likes: order and organisation, alphabetising and categorisation, spelling and punctuation, prioritisation and coordination, letters and numbers, names and faces, people and places, busy-ness, creating, treasure hunting, gleaning, arranging and rearranging, covering and discovering, stacking and sorting and shelving...