



ALIA TOP END PD PROGRAM: ACCESSIBLE AND FUN

The ALIA Top End Group recently ran a series of professional development events in 2014 that were designed to be short, fun and economical to both the participants and hosts.

Taking tours of your local libraries is an easy way to connect with colleagues while also expanding your ideas about the library environment and services. ALIA Top End's tours in 2014 offered participants a great opportunity to talk about issues such as library design, furniture, collection development and client services. These free activities were an economical form of professional development and a great way to share experiences within the library community. The program included library tours and short one hour professional development sessions.

Three separate professional development sessions were presented, these being a Free Legal Resources for Non-Law Librarians workshop, a session on the ALIA PD Scheme and a Linked Open Data and Cultural Institutions seminar.

These sessions gave the presenters an opportunity to talk about their topics while also practicing planning and presentation skills in a supportive environment. For attendees, they presented opportunities to attend local professional development activities and build up their ALIA Professional Development Scheme points.

ALIA Top End is grateful to the library community in the Northern Territory for their assistance with these events. Our colleagues are generous with their time and expertise, donating both to assist in presenting professional development sessions.

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ALIA Top End Convenor 2014
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FORWARD FACING

Before Deborah Mould became a mum, she worked with King Willie Weetie at Uncle Toby's. Now she's gone to the dogs (at Seeing Eye Dogs Australia). Between information-related roles with cereal and dogs – and parenthood – Deborah says she has learned a few things that have helped her deal with a variable job market and the need to eat.

Currently I work for a dictator. Like all small children, my son's quite demanding and expects me to be on call every day and all night. This is not the job I aimed for when completing my library degree, but it's given me a few useful life and career lessons.

I've learned to aim to have a series of mini careers rather than one long epic. Life comes in chapters, and while it is great to have goals, I've become aware that the position I may aim for might not be what I expect – or might not even exist – as the industry constantly changes and redevelops.

I've also learned not to discount all of my non-library experiences. My current role involves aspects of customer service, working under deadlines and research that I'd never encountered before. However, don't want to be like the applicant who supplied multiple examples of photocopies to demonstrate competency with photocopiers! I aim to be relevant and bring to the fore only the experience that strongly pertains to the job.

I've found that it pays to manage my budget too. By doing this, I know that if a fantastic position is only available part-time or as a contract, I can look at applying for it without sacrificing food or living with electricity! Sometimes a short term role or a job swap can be enough reinvigorate you in your current one.

Many people stagnate because they fear moving on to new things or other employers, yet are unhappy where they are. I don't want to just occupy a role. I'm always on the lookout to find new ways to do my job and trying to develop my skills to enable a move into new positions. Becoming nestled in the one spot often leads to complacency and, most disappointingly, an erosion of the work energy that makes us good colleagues to have in the workplace.

Finally, I try to be the employee I would like to manage myself someday.

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