

WHY YOUR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT IS SO IMPORTANT



Five LIS professionals outline how they are growing their careers with Professional Development (PD).

PD is valuable to you as an autonomous professional who wants to keep current within their industry. It can drive your career into new directions and demonstrates your employability.

The ALIA PD Scheme provides an endorsed and structured framework for LIS and allied field professionals to organise, record and reflect upon their PD and, in doing so, attain ALIA Certified Professional membership, which is recognised by the postnominals AALIA(CP), AALIA (DCP) and ALIATec(CP).

All personal members, including students, can use the ALIA MyPD tracking tool, available through the Member portal, to record and reflect on their PD activities. The PD Scheme Specialisations of Health, Schools, Public Library, Government, and Academic/Research provide extra support for those wanting to base their learning on a set of competencies and resources, such as audit checklists and the monthly newsletter *PD Postings*. The reflection tips also support your learning.

Romany, Craig, Lauren, Nikki and James share their PD journeys and how they make the most of ALIA's PD Scheme and resources.



Romany Manuell AALIA(CP), Victoria

I am the Subject Librarian at Monash University and I recently began my PhD through Charles Sturt University. I have volunteered for ALIA for seven years – first as Secretary for the Students and

New Graduates Group, and for the past three years, as a member of the New Generation Advisory Committee. I was a Brownie Guide in the '80s, so I've always loved collecting points! The PD Scheme prompts me to stop and



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think about the workshops I attend and provides structure to my reflections. At first I just took notes but, over time I've become a more analytical and critical PD participant. I try to re-read my entries and apply what I learn to my role. It's also encouraged me to venture out of my comfort zone and into research – to become a knowledge creator as well as a consumer.



Craig Milne AALIA (DCP), Queensland

I am the Manager, Scholarly Resource Services, at Griffith University and in my 11 years in the library profession I have worked in the public, government and academic library sectors in a broad range of roles.

Continuous PD is important for everyone, whether you are happy in your current position or are looking to progress your career. The ALIA PD Scheme is a great way to keep track of your learning. It's good to have a record so you can reflect on whether you have actually applied the new skills and knowledge over time and so you can identify any gaps you need to fill to get to the next level. Being part of the ALIA PD Scheme and maintaining certification also helps demonstrate to prospective employers your commitment to self-directed professional development.



Lauren Stratton, South Australia

I love learning and engaging with the GLAMR sector and I use the ALIA PD Scheme to demonstrate this commitment and as a tool for recording and reflection.

History is a passion of mine, so, after completing the Diploma of Library and Information

Services, I began a Bachelor of Arts with a history major. Working at Adelaide City Libraries gives me the opportunity to use my skills and knowledge to best support our vibrant community, and I begin the Graduate Diploma in Information Management in 2017 to further my LIS qualifications.

An invaluable part of my PD journey is networking and learning from others. This is why I am actively involved with the ALIA SA Group and volunteer at ALIA events, including the National Conference.

PD is essential to my career and I aim to have my PD formally acknowledged when I become an ALIA Certified Professional.



Nikki May AALIA (CP) Health, South Australia

I'm the Liaison Librarian for Health Sciences at Flinders University. I've been in this role for two years and with Flinders for just over five.

I signed up for the ALIA PD Scheme immediately on finishing my master's degree and

switched to the Health Specialisation in 2014. The scheme encourages me to keep my industry knowledge up to date,

and the reflective component challenges me to brainstorm how I can apply this knowledge in my own practice.

The PD Scheme has created awesome opportunities for me, both inside and outside my organisation. I referenced it in the interview for my current position, it helped me to foster valuable network connections, and it was prominent in my application earlier this year when I was part of the team that won the ALIA HLA Anne Harrison Award.



James Nicholson, Queensland

I am currently studying two LIS courses: Diploma of Library and Information Services, TAFE Queensland East Coast, and Master of Information Management, RMIT University.

As I embarked on a career change it was crucial that my new endeavours paid off, and this is why I am actively involved with ALIA. At the ALIA National 2016 Conference, a panel of employers explained that there is no golden highway to the perfect job. They can help, but ultimately we must be proactive in forging our own careers.

Using the ALIA MyPD tracking tool allows me to keep track of my LIS studies and also my key involvements: ALIA SNGG Secretary, attending the National Conference and engaging in local and national events and discussions.

I know that when I become a qualified LIS professional I have put myself in the best possible position by forging my own career path. 🌱

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