



NATIONAL LIBRARY TECHNICIANS' DAY 2017

At Victoria University, Melbourne, the library staff and guests celebrated National Library Technicians' Day on 23 May with the presentation of awards and practical advice for students on how to leverage their job-seeking efforts. IAN ROGERS reports.

To celebrate and promote our special day, the Library and Cultural Studies division of Victoria University (VU) enlisted the help of Genevieve Pergl and Kassi Hays of State Library Victoria. Eileen Loudon from ALIA presented the ALIA award for VU's best student, and Margie Anderson engineered a livestream feed with her iPad and trusty music stand to our Library Studies Facebook page. This allowed flexible delivery and enabled on-campus students who were not there to connect with the festivities. Gerrit Bos and Janet Murray, teachers in Library Studies, also helped out with the festivities and advice to students.

I welcomed the guests and staff to the celebration, which was organised by the Library Studies Team. It was important, I noted, to promote and extend our profession to our stakeholders and to improve our services to them and to promote them both within and outside our organisations. My talk also focused on the importance of selling yourself, being persistent, networking and celebrating achievements.

Eileen Loudon, the ALIA VIC State Manager, was introduced to present the Victoria University ALIA Student of the Year award. Eileen congratulated Paris Clipperton-Richens on her achievement. Paris said she was excited and delighted to receive the award and thanked ALIA and all the staff at VU for their support.

Eileen noted ALIA's role in promoting and supporting students with lifelong learning and the value of the PD Scheme throughout their careers in the GLAMR sector. She noted that the ALIA SNGG website is being redeveloped to assist members with jobseeking. She encouraged students to subscribe to the weekly ALIA RecruitLIS email, ALIA Weekly (you don't need to be a member to receive it) and social media. Eileen urged students to join ALIA and said students needed to develop strong networks, such as through the email lists and the opportunities to network that ALIA provides.

Margie Anderson, Victoria University (VU) and Eileen Loudon in the front along with Genevieve Pergl and Kassi Hays from the State Library of Victoria and the awardee of ALIA VU prize for best student Paris Clipperton-Richens.

Genevieve Pergl is a former VU student who has worked at State Library Victoria since 1993. She said that the State Library's collection would stretch for 100 kilometres if every book were placed end on end, and it's growing at a rate of two kilometres each year. There is now a further 45 kilometres of storage space at a Ballarat storage facility. Genevieve noted that they had just commissioned more storage at Ballarat that would provide another 30 kilometres of shelf space. She noted that two kilometres of shelf space were saved by changing the orientation of newspapers from sideways to lengthways on the shelves!

Kassi Hays, relatively new to the State Library, currently works in the picture collection, but she has worked in the retrieval team, borrowing collection and closed storage. Kassi has also worked in public orders for those people who request materials found on the website, checking copyright clearance, and she said that you never stop learning about copyright. She has been rostered on the desk, cited newspapers for interlibrary loans – ensuring that the materials were used safely – and has worked with donations and accessioning.

Kassi's journey started in 2013 as a collection shelve. In 2015 she became a full-time library officer in newspaper delivery, completing online registrations and mailing cards to new patrons.

Kassi said to students that they needed to keep applying for jobs and that Seek and Indeed were not the only places they should search. Local councils and the Victorian Department of Education and Training site are other places that don't necessarily advertise online. She suggested that students cite specific examples of skills they had acquired and used, even if they weren't acquired in a library context. She advised the students to join ALIA, make friends, network in the field and keep learning. *

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