



ALIA New Librarians' Symposium 9 committee's, **JAMES WILSON** and **PIXIE STARDUST**, talked to previous NLS convenors to see how they reached out when they ran their symposiums.

Since successfully winning the bid to host the ninth ALIA New Librarians' Symposium (NLS9) in Adelaide in 2019, the committee of dedicated volunteers has been hard at work to put together the best event we can for delegates. What we love about these biennial ALIA symposiums is that they provide a welcoming environment for library and information professionals to come together; not only for people who are presenting or attending for the first time, but for everyone.

The NLS9 themes of COLLABORATE, DEVIATE, iNNOVATE are about reaching out – it is a symposium for librarians who recognise that it is no longer enough to stand behind a desk waiting to serve. The librarian as activist and advocate is essential for creating a library where everyone is welcome. We asked some of the previous NLS convenors what they had to say about how their symposium reached out to their attendees. This is what they told us.

Sue Hutley NLS1 and 1.5 (@suehutley)

The inaugural NLS opening session was entitled 'Moving Beyond Stereotypes' and many of the themes of the first symposium focused on encouraging delegates to be inspired, boosted and supported by each other. We also facilitated new librarians and senior professionals networking

together. Thankfully, the National Library of Australia's Pandora has archived the website for NLS1 (bit.ly/2GBcxmV).

Kate Sinclair NLS2 (@KateSinclair)

One of my memories from NLS2 in Adelaide was buying Jessamyn West a beer – an Adelaide brewed Coopers of course. Jessamyn was the first international speaker at an NLS and her keynote presentation 'Progressive Librarianship and the New Librarians: the Personal (and Professional) is Political' delved into inclusiveness and the assumptions and biases we sometimes have as a profession. I still remember this as an NLS highlight and how powerfully she inspired us as librarians to contribute actively to the social good.

Amy Croft and Jeff Cruz NLS7

(@amyecroft and @jncruz)

NLS has always been an inclusive event – the NLS7 committee worked to enable wide participation, offering volunteer positions and sponsorships for those who could not otherwise afford to attend. The experience increased our appreciation of the value that amazing new librarians with diverse backgrounds bring to our libraries. We both work in academic libraries and ensure our services and spaces are inclusive for our diverse student populations.

Sally Turbitt and Amy Walduck NLS8

(@sallyturbitt and @amywalduck)

The NLS8 committee felt it was important to reach out to the library community and asked for suggestions of keynote speakers and session topics. We offered bursaries and volunteer opportunities. We also held an alcohol free social event – a movie screening of *Desk Set* at the National Sound and Film Archive. This was the main social event of the symposium and we wanted it to be a safe and welcoming event that catered for a broad range of attendees.

The NLS9 committee are looking forward to showing you what we have put together on 4–7 July 2019. To reach out to us, or just keep up to date with information about NLS9, check out (nls9.com.au) or follow us on Twitter (@ALIANls) and Instagram (@ALIANls) and use #NLS9. 📱

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