



## AUSTRALIAN LEADERS HELP SET THE COURSE FOR MYANMAR LIBRARY EDUCATION



**A** partnership between two Australian universities aims to help transform library and information science education in Myanmar.

The Australian National University (ANU), together with Charles Sturt University (CSU), are working on a project to assist Professor Ni Win Zaw, Head of the Department of Library and Information Science at the University of Yangon to transform library and information science education at the University of Yangon.

The project aims to develop a new set of graduate outcomes, focused on the digital capabilities required in modern libraries. These outcomes will create graduates able to harness the power of the digital world and develop knowledge for future research through education and libraries.

Mary Carroll, CSU Course Director, and Roxanne Missingham, University Librarian at the ANU, visited Myanmar in June 2018 to run workshops facilitating curriculum review at the University of Yangon. In complex circumstances a series of workshops were delivered that identified the best curriculum and pedagogy for incorporating 'digital' into courses. Roxanne Missingham told *INCITE*, 'The lecturers and tutors were inspiring, and very keen to develop their knowledge and explore partnerships to expand courses and review unit content. Rubrics were a topic of great debate and we will no doubt see further development.'

A significant aspect of the program was that it supports gender equality. It is the only program delivered through the ANU with Government Partnerships for Development funding with a majority female cohort: the library leaders consulted were women, the program was delivered by Australian women and 95.5% of the participants in the workshops were women.

Now that the framework has been set to assist curriculum development for librarians, work is required to establish a digital hub for long term support and explore new courses developing capabilities for school librarians and archivists.

Roxanne Missingham explained, 'this project is remarkable in many ways. Deep discussions on the structure of courses and content have teased out many complex issues. It is a collaboration of a practitioner and educator to work in partnership with the University of Yangon to genuinely transform library and information science education for national progress. It is a project which meets the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and will provide a model for other projects around the globe. A framework for consultation has been developed including leading practitioners and educators from both Myanmar and Australia, providing a basis for future engagement and development of a proposal for infrastructure to support teaching that will integrate with industry needs.' 