

2019 F A SHARR AWARD WINNER

Kristin Stephenson, Librarian at the Mary Davies Library and Community Centre in Rockingham, Perth, has been awarded the 2018 F A Sharr Award. Kristin was presented the award at the annual 'Celebrating Excellence' event at the State Library of Western Australia on 23 May 2019.

The F A Sharr Award honours Francis Aubie (Ali) Sharr, State Librarian of Western Australia from 1953–1976, in recognition of his contribution to libraries and librarianship in the state. The award is presented to a Western Australian librarian, teacher librarian or library technician, within their first three years following graduation, who exhibits the most potential to make a significant contribution to the profession. The award is maintained by the ALIAWest Group, with support from ALIA WA Library Technicians Group (WALT).

As part of the selection process, Kristin delivered a passionate and thought-provoking presentation about the importance of advocacy, rooted in her lifelong connection to libraries and a firm belief in their value for communities. In facing the challenge of increasing public awareness of



ALIAWest Deputy Convenor Sophie Farrar (left) and F A Sharr Award winner Kristin Stephenson

libraries, Kristin highlighted the need for strong advocacy within and beyond our personal and professional circles, as well as exploring creative partnerships with organisations and businesses local to the library as a way of reaching out to community members and bringing the library to them. ✨

SOPHIE FARRAR AALIA

ALIAWest Deputy Convenor
alainwa@gmail.com
@alainwa

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