

## EDITORIAL



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In the previous issue of *Australian Law Librarian* we presented papers that discussed the education and training of law library clients. In this issue we turn the spotlight on ourselves. How does one become a law librarian or law library technician? Young children aspire to be pop singers, actors, teachers, doctors and lawyers. How many aspire to be a law librarian? When did you decide to become a law librarian? Or are you one of the many who by happenstance ended up in a law library?

However you arrived there is little doubt that you will have been involved in some form of professional education. The words of **Carleton W. Kenyon**, Law Librarian of the Library of Congress in 1969 still ring true:

*Personalities and abilities of law librarians have been the most deciding factor and active ingredient in law libraries, perhaps more so than in any other profession. Law libraries progress as law librarians improve ... The dimensions of service of law librarians are directly dependent upon their style of performance. Their role is as effective as their education and experience, but mainly their attitude of service and desire for self-actualization.<sup>1</sup>*

Such an attitude also means that continuing professional development is now the accepted norm, as is the development of courses for aspiring law librarians and legal information specialists.

With education for librarians as a theme, the Editorial Board recognised an opportunity to encourage students of media and information studies to consider law librarianship as a career. By collaborating with course coordinators in the School of Media and

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<sup>1</sup> Kenyon, Carleton W. 1969, 'The dimensions of law librarianship', *Law Library Bulletin*, no. 18

Information at the Curtin University of Technology we took our cue from a practice common in Law Schools. Just as law students can take an option and earn course credits by assisting with the production of their university law review, so we invited students of **Dr Paul Genoni's** 'Legal Reference' class to participate in the production of this issue of *Australian Law Librarian*. Read their Guest Editorial for the outcomes of this initiative.

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