



Practical advice...

Academic Research and Collection Management
[<http://groups.alia.org.au/arcom/>]

Academic Research and Collection Management have been involved with three events since July 2001. The first was a visit to the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC) offices in Adelaide. The evening was well attended by approximately thirty-five ARCoM members who were provided with an insightful demonstration of the resources available to ASIC staff, including explanations about why particular collections are maintained. Indications about why one database might be used in preference to another when acquiring details for an information search were explained, as was the acquisitions policy.

Attendees were discouraged from investing in get rich quick schemes and advised not part with money unless absolutely sure where it was going. More information on ASIC and its role can be found at <http://www.asic.gov.au>.

The second event was a jointly managed all-day seminar called *PROJECTing the future: project management in libraries and information services*. It was run by ARCoM, Information Science Group (SA), SA Public Libraries and the LEARN Network (TAFE) and included consultants and practitioners from a variety of sectors who outlined project management practices and principles, and how they were used within organisations. All participants enjoyed the day.

In December a local Adelaide celebrity was been invited to discuss his use of libraries and information. The evening will include a short convenor's report that provided attendees with information about what ARCoM has planned for 2002.

*Ann Luzecky, convenor,
Academic Research and Collection Management*

A year packed with food and networking

SA Library Technicians [<http://groups.alia.org.au/libtsa/>]

Looking back over the year the South Australian Library Technician's have had a fun year packed with food and networking. It began in January with a social BBQ to encourage networking and give the families of our Library Technicians a chance to meet the people they keep hearing about. In May a breakfast was held to celebrate the second national library Technician Day. Dr Alan Bundy came along and helped us celebrate. At the breakfast we also awarded our SA Library Technician Awards. This year two Library Technician (SA) Merit Awards were awarded to Jennifer Bodey and Sharron Zuodar. The Library Technician (SA) Achievement Award was awarded to Jacque Zagotsis at the first meeting of Rivierina Regional members. The award recognises her efforts in starting a regional group for library staff in the areas around Berri (including Victoria and NSW). Then came the mid-year AGM dinner to thank the old committee and elect a new. To round the year off we had a 'Not the AGM dinner' in November to begin the festive Christmas lunch/dinner season.

In between all this fun and food we also had time for some more serious pursuits such as, for example, our sessions on *How to get the most from your CPD* and *How to apply for conference funding* using examples from a range of libraries including academic, private, and public. This com-

ing year, while not focusing as much on food, promises to be just as fun and even more educational.

Sharron Zuodar, convenor, South Australian Library Technicians

Networking and social interaction

Special Libraries SA [<http://groups.alia.org.au/specialsa/>]

On 5 April, thirty-six ALIA members celebrated International Special Librarians' Day with a visit to the Art Gallery of South Australia. After a very informative and entertaining tour, afternoon tea was provided in the café.

Informal lunches held on 28 February and 3 May were attended by members for the purpose of networking and social interaction.

The Specials AGM was held at a breakfast meeting at the Stamford Plaza Hotel on 27 June where the new committee was announced.

On 5 September, Judith Schaeffer Young from Wills Eye Hospital in Philadelphia spoke to Special Libraries SA on the topics of networking, consortia, electronic subscriptions, and licensing agreements in the United States.

Successful tours of the Botanic Gardens and State Herbarium Library and the Institute of Medical and Veterinary Science (IMVS) Library were held in October.

Members of Special Libraries SA have been actively involved on the organising committee and sub-committees of the 10th Special, Health and Law Librarians' Conference which will be held in Adelaide in 2003. The forthcoming conference was promoted by members at the 9th Special, Health and Law Librarians conference held in Melbourne in August.

Di Thompson, secretary, Special Libraries SA

PROJECTing the future: project management in libraries and information services

ALIA ARCoM, Information Science (SA), SA Public Libraries and the LEARN Network (TAFE) joint seminar, Friday 5 October 2001.

What exactly is a project? There are many definitions but the Australian Institute of Project Management defines a project as being: 'a set of inter-related activities, with a defined start and finish, designed to achieve a unique and common objective.'

Bob Cother, principal consultant of Cother Consulting Pty Ltd set the scene with his presentation *Project management: an overview* which examined the ingredients of an effective project team. Bob outlined the elements of project management, with the four stages of activity: planning, implementation, evaluation and correction. Much more time needs to be put into planning before implementation occurs, and effective evaluation is essential.

Margaret Webster Hypatia and Anita Rigoni gave back-to-back presentations on the topic *A project approach to management*. Margaret, a professional speaker and consultant informed us that in project management for service industries usually only a problem, challenge or opportunity is provided without a blueprint. Margaret distinguished project work (changes the status quo) from process work (maintains the status quo).

From Anita, a human resource and organisational development consultant, we learned that training in how to

change your attitude to manage differently is often not provided when staff are promoted; and project management is all about workload management, so a work breakdown schedule to create manageable units of work is essential. She stressed that the measure of a successful project is not necessarily its completion.

Margaret and Anita reinforced Bob's emphasis on longer pre-planning, evaluation and harvesting the learning. The three major presenters' content and presentation provided a very sound basis of what project management comprises.

Lunch and refreshments were great opportunities for networking, catching up and discussing the materials presented.

In the afternoon three practical project management case studies were presented. Margaret Moxon's paper: 'Moving right along: the Burnside Library Project' focussed on the new Burnside Library of which she is manager, taking us through the nine year history of the project, the appointment and role of the project manager, her own role, the critical success factors, the things that nearly did them in and what they would not do next time. It was a journey with many amusing episodes. Visit Burnside Library website at <http://www.burnside.sa.gov.au/library/>.

Jenny Scott, curator of pictorial collections in the State Library of South Australia, delivered the paper 'Going digital: the State Library's digital experience'. The collection of pictorial material, relating to South Australia, dates from 1912 and comprises more than 60 000 images on a wide range of subjects with major holdings dating from the mid-19th century to the present. With good humour, Jenny outlined the opportunities and constraints that managing projects within a project creates.

Visit the site at <http://www.slsa.sa.gov.au/colldev/intro3.htm> or tour the Mortlock Pictorial Collection Slide show (123 slides) at <http://www.slsa.sa.gov.au/library/collres/pictorial/slideshow/>.

Karen Dankiw, librarian at the Botanic Gardens and State Herbarium Library, spoke to her paper 'Coping with barn life at the Botanic Gardens: one person libraries and juggling multiple projects'. Karen provided an outline of a week in her working life to illustrate her multivariate roles and the multiple concurrent projects she handles. Karen is a great example of showing fortitude in the face of flying, by applying project management strategies to both routine and non-traditional aspects of her job. Visit Karen's library website at <http://www.denr.sa.gov.au/botanicgardens/>.

The topic for the final paper was a pleasant surprise. John Banbury, network librarian at Flinders University Library informed us that 'Working together: the ILMS project for SA Uni' was too dry and uninteresting to end the day, so he had entitled his paper 'What can go wrong with project management!' In everything he does, John consistently demonstrates that humour is essential at the workplace and that maintaining one's sense of humour is paramount in project management. John spoke candidly, with tongue strategically placed, as he delivered a robust and delightfully humorous account of the general strategies for success, how to avoid the pitfalls and the common breakdowns.

The seminar was a resounding success, enjoyed by the sixty or so who participated, and with cramped hand and head abuzz I left the day feeling intellectually fulfilled and very satisfied.

Sherron Hunter, University of South Australia Library

Put your library at the centre of her world.

Wherever she is ... whoever she is or wants to be ... whenever she needs information, no matter where it is or what it's for ... whatever she's looking for in your library or on the Web... however she wants to see it ... there's iBistro™ putting your library at the centre of her world.

Call 03 9249 9565, visit www.sirsi.com, or email sales@sirsi.com.au for more information.

Bistro
No Bricks Required.

SIRSI
THE LEADER IN LIBRARY TECHNOLOGY

SIRSI is a registered trademark and iBistro is a trademark of Sirsi Corporation. Other brands and product names are trademarks of their respective owners. ©2000 Sirsi Corporation, Huntsville, AL, USA