

# SPARKING IDEAS

*was very pleased to spend a day in September at ALIA's National Library and Information Technicians Symposium 2017 at the North Sydney campus of the Australian Catholic University (ACU), along with 180 other knowledge-seekers.*

I hadn't visited the ACU campus before and it was really charming, with its manicured gardens and restful atmosphere. It was a peaceful setting for what was, by contrast, an event packed with energy. The symposium was truly inspiring and a credit to the committee that organised it. Vale co-convenor of the committee Janette Telford, AFALIATec(CP), at whose suggestion ACU North Sydney was chosen.

ALIA President Vicki McDonald set the scene with her opening speech, urging delegates to think about more than skills when they apply for a job and the importance of keeping up to date. Using her own organisation as the example, she said, 'The person that I'm going to select will be able to demonstrate that they can challenge the norm, that they encourage and embrace new ideas, and can work across boundaries.'

Australian National University Librarian Roxanne

Missingham and TAFE Illawarra educator Rob Thomson chaired an informal session, in which we asked delegates what more ALIA could do to support our Library Technician Members and help them maximise their job opportunities.

The main ideas we came away with were to raise awareness of the role of library technician as a career in its own right, and to look at how we can promote more PD opportunities specifically designed for library technicians.

ALIA Director of Learning, Judy Brooker, and Victoria University's Margie Anderson both spoke passionately about the importance of ongoing learning for professionals.

My take-away from this exceptional event was that we need to further highlight the library technician role. We need to talk more about library technicians providing solutions to technological change in the LIS profession and we need to celebrate the substantial contribution that library technicians make to their organisations.

We will be reporting back on our progress at the next library technicians symposium in 2019. 🌱

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