



JOIN THE ASSOCIATION

(From left) Anastasia Kuusk, Megan Skapin, Jenni Jeremy and Kylie Percival

Joining your local ALIA group not only shows commitment and interest but is also great for networking, building rapport and creating opportunities. EMILY WILSON and LAUREN STRATTON tell us about a good-news story from Adelaide.

In April 2015, an email with the subject 'Kickstart our ALIA SA Group' was sent to our usual library mailing lists. From there, a rookie group began. It has since been meeting monthly and is organising a range of events for 2016.

'All who attended this event left with more knowledge and confidence to build their library career ...'

The most successful event of 2015 was held on 4 November in the Barr Smith Library at the University of Adelaide. 'Ask an Expert: Skills and Careers in Libraries and Archives' was promoted as 'skills, tips and advice on how to land your dream job'. The panel Q&A and networking session was for everyone wanting to succeed in the information management sector. TAFE students were given the opportunity to submit questions beforehand, which gave the panel time to prepare talking points.

Sue Dowling, a member of the group was MC. The others on the panel were:

- Kylie Percival, Archivist and Librarian at the University of Adelaide and President of the Australian Society of Archivists
- Jenni Jeremy, Librarian and Knowledge Officer at Lipman Karas, a global law firm based in Adelaide
- Megan Skapin, Information and Records Management Team Leader at Santos
- Anastasia Kuusk, lecturer in Project Management at Torrens University in Adelaide.

The panel discussed their information management careers and how librarianship evolved from last century's

methods to present-day approaches. A very manual job has become one that can be done with our fingertips on a keyboard. It is therefore vital that we learn the language of IT, challenge ourselves, develop our skills for the 21st century and have a passion for information.

Employment in the library and information management field will not always have the job title of 'Librarian'. It is therefore necessary to keep an open mind, stay relevant, reinterpret skills and knowledge, and increase the breadth of knowledge through lifelong learning. We also need to be open to feedback from other library professionals and know our strengths and weaknesses. Get out of your comfort zone and grab new opportunities!

A good resume is essential and the experts passed on some key tips: spell check (bad spelling and grammar immediately send a resume to the reject pile); keep it concise; make sure your relevant abilities are immediately obvious; learn the terminology of the sector, as the same skills are often called something different.

All who attended this event left with more knowledge and confidence to build their library career – not to mention having enjoyed gourmet cheeses, pastries and a drink. More events will be held by the ALIA SA Group in 2016 and we hope to see you there.

The ALIA SA Group welcomes new members from across the LIS sector. Meetings are held monthly in varying locations around the Adelaide CBD. For further information contact ALIA State Manager Lauren Gobbett, lauren.gobbett@alia.org.au 

EMILY WILSON

State Library of South Australia
letters_for_emily@hotmail.com

LAUREN STRATTON

Adelaide City Library
lauren.stratton@internode.on.net

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