

ALIA grant recipient describes 'amazing' PD

NATALIE MUDD, who received a grant to attend the ALIA Asia-Pacific Library and Information Conference 2018, shares her experiences.

After a career spanning nine years of passion in public libraries, I recently made the leap into the world of university libraries and have worked as a librarian and Campus Library Coordinator with University of the Sunshine Coast (USC) at the Fraser Coast Campus since July 2017.

It is often difficult to attend professional development events when working regionally and, as the Fraser Coast Campus Library only has four employees, it is also difficult to develop a professional network. I quickly realised that I had to develop my knowledge of academic research and expand my skill set to ensure I delivered the best experiences for our students, academic staff and the library team. When I first read the conference program for ALIA's Asia-Pacific Library and Information Conference 2018 (APLIC), I knew that I could gain invaluable knowledge about the world of academic libraries by attending. The prospect of keeping up with the current trends and issues in public libraries was also exciting, as I am still passionate about the role of public libraries in contributing to healthy, sustainable and safer communities. I applied for an ALIA grant to attend APLIC, generously made possible by Margaret Allen (State librarian of Western Australia). When I learnt that I was successful I was very excited about the opportunity to attend APLIC and began planning my conference experience immediately.

Once I arrived at the Gold Coast for the conference, I switched into learning mode immediately and I attended the ALIA PD workshop on the opening day. Although I am an active participant of the [ALIA PD Scheme](#), the session gave me a new insight into the program and demonstrated how I could be achieving more from the scheme as an ALIA Member.

With such an amazing program, filled with inspiring speakers and stories, it is difficult to narrow down the stand outs, however, Opeta Alefaio's story of connecting the Fiji Archives with the communities was incredible and inspired me to keep going and achieve goals, no matter how difficult the journey may be. APLIC attendees were fortunate enough to hear presentations from LIANZA (Library and information association of New Zealand Aotearoa) and LAS (Library Association of Singapore), which were insightful into the trends, events, and operational efficiencies of libraries in other countries. The sessions delivered by the academic librarians were vital to my professional development, hearing their stories

and experiences developed my understanding of the roles and influences of librarians working in universities.

Overall, the conference experience was amazing. The inclusion of poster presentations and opportunities to discuss with sponsors and organisations in the exhibition hall was very useful in learning about new products and the green grass seating area was an easy way to meet delegates and develop networks. My experiences gained from attending APLIC will be instrumental in shaping myself as a librarian within a university. The opportunities that this grant has given me are countless. Already I have given a presentation at the APLIC wrap-up event and also written this article for *INCITE* so that I can also share that learning with others. I would like to thank ALIA, USC and Margaret Allen for providing me with this opportunity, and I hope that reading this article encourages you to apply for a grant or an opportunity to grow. 🌱

Editors Note: You can view the APLIC keynote addresses on [ALIA's YouTube channel](#).

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