

Health Library Staff Member Spotlight

Kathryn Ritchie
Health Librarian | Central Queensland Hospital and Health Service
Kathryn.Ritchie@health.qld.gov.au

When did you first start working in a health library?

In 2017 at Western Health library in Victoria.

How/Why did you join health librarianship?

I was working for Western Health at the time, and I had heard that the Grade 1 Librarian position was becoming available. I was in my final year of my degree so went for it and the rest is history as they say.

What was your previous employment background, prior to health libraries?

In my previous life prior to health libraries, I worked in physiotherapy for over 25 years.

How do you describe your current position?

Changing and evolving each day, and not without its challenges.....in a good way!

What do you find most interesting or enjoyable about your current position?

I honestly love working in the health sector. It was a big step changing my career path, but I still wanted to be involved in supporting clinical research and working with clinical staff. My job allows me to that. As Dolly Parton said, "Find what you love doing, and do that!". I have definitely found what I love doing and have had some amazing opportunities to collaborate with clinicians who have been undertaking incredible research.

What has been your biggest professional challenge?

Changing careers and slowing down. The pace of working in the clinical environment is obviously very different to working in a health library and I have found that change to be challenging even to this day. I need to remind myself at times to slow down and enjoy the journey.

What do you consider the main issues affecting health librarianship today?

The lack of awareness and knowledge on how we can support health professionals in providing evidence-based services to our communities and support their ongoing professional development.

What would you do if you weren't a health librarian?

An Astronaut of course.....but now that we have 2 stuck up in space, I might have to rethink that!.....lol

What is your favourite non-work activity?

Gosh!.....why do the simple questions have to be so hard.....lol Recently I have enjoyed grabbing a cuppa and sitting on my patio. Just sitting and listening to the world around me. Sometimes it's quiet and other times it's traffic noise, kids in the neighbourhood, or kookaburras having a good old laugh, but I am really enjoying just taking a moment to stop. Yep, that would be my favourite thing to do these days.

Anything else you would like to share about yourself?

Now living in Queensland, I miss the change of seasons and snow. Gosh, I miss snow!

