

## Health Library Staff Member Spotlight

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### When did you first start working in a health library?

October 2010

### How did you join health librarianship?

The position for Team Leader, Electronic Services at FSS became vacant while I was working in a similar role in the Queensland Police Service library.

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

After completing my undergrad I was still somewhat at a loss as to what to do (a BA Humanities will do that) so I enrolled in the Diploma course (library technician) at Southbank Institute of TAFE. From my work experience placement, I got a position as a library tech at Education Queensland, which led to Brisbane North TAFE, which led to QPS. While I was at the QPS library I was given the opportunity to work in the systems librarian role (on the proviso that I got my librarian qualification). I was there as the systems librarian for 5 years. When I had almost qualified, I got the job with Queensland Health.

### How do you describe your current position?

I'm the library manager in a special library, with a unique mix of subject areas and some very interesting clientele. As in the clinical setting we are often responding to emergent issues, but our primary focus is supporting scientific and forensic (medicine as well as forensic science) cases. We help find our clients the evidence they need to respond as experts in their field. Everything from finding case reports for forensic pathologists, to articles outlining the effect of second-hand meth smoke on intoxication, to reference standards for water quality. And the ever-continuing COVID updates (our virology lab does the confirmation testing of positive cases and much of the sample testing when testing rates are high). My role has also evolved into the communications manager for the site (lucky it's a small site). I keep the web site updated, write briefs for Minister's visits, update linkedin, funnel content to the Department and generally promote the science, expertise and capability of the laboratories.

### What do you find most interesting about your current position?

We are a special library in a very special, and small, business area within Queensland Health. The range of subjects we encounter, and the staff at FSS make the work the most interesting.

**What has been your biggest professional challenge?**

OOOH, so many. Trying to get a unix server upgraded back in the late 2000s was a particular challenge. The big Qld government changes in 2012 was tough, and my role transitioned during that time. Recent professional challenges include coordinating working from home resourcing and incorporating (or not! we are still debating) a new business area into our service agreement.

**What would you do if you were not a health librarian?**

I'd be a government librarian somewhere.

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

Resourcing.

**What is your greatest achievement?**

Working with a great team that I love to work with. I had nothing much to do with the creation of the team, but finding them was a great bonus for me.

**Do you have a favourite website or blog?**

I love them all equally.

**What is your favourite non-work activity?**

Does doom scrolling count as a non-work activity? Choosing backgrounds for online meetings is another current fav.

**What advice would you give to a new member of HLA or a new graduate information professional?**

Take every opportunity to meet people within your network (and your workplace). Connections are vitally important in our industry - not just for career enhancement, but for personal and professional enrichment. Shortly after she started, a new arrival to my team found out that her boyfriend's mother was my first library boss. (I never thought the library world would be THAT small).

