

# **Survival skills: Industry engagement and collaboration in the NT**

**ALIA Education, Skills and  
Employability Summit  
18 September 2014**

**Kathryn White and Bernadette Royal  
Charles Darwin University, NT**

# NT Photos



# Charles Darwin University Library- Casuarina Campus, Darwin N.T.



# Palmerston Campus Library



View from Learning Precinct

# Palmerston Campus Library



Learning Precinct –after  
hours access

Library interior-practice Library  
and classroom upstairs

# Practice Library-eLibrary

**“We really believe in the power of information in Education”**



# Alice Springs Campus Library



Joint CDU and Centralian College campus. Students study from Year 10 to postgraduate courses

## Library Studies in the NT

- **Timeline**
- **Staffing**
- **Collaboration**
- **Flexibility**
- **Placements**
- **Industry engagement**





## VET Services Industries

- **Library Studies and Information Technology taught within team**
- **Students encouraged to undertake Certificate I in Information Technology before commencing Library Studies**
- **Good grounding and skills**
- **Essential in the workplace**



<http://bit.ly/1zozj8M>

**“The most efficient way to produce anything is to bring together under one management as many as possible of the activities needed to turn out the product.” – Peter Drucker**

- Many industry groups have contributed
- Territory wide organisations
- School, academic, special, public libraries, archives and museums
- Trainee program
- IBSA (Innovative and Business Skills Australia)



## **Indigenous Apprenticeship Scheme**

- **2010-CDU Library asked to participate**
- **Matthew Grant employed to undertake Certificate III Library and Information Studies**
- **One of only two students to complete the program in the NT that year.**
- **Worked across library teams.**
- **Assessments done in the workplace**
- **Recipient of 2013 University Medal in VET**

## Library student recognised for excellence

“Matthew has flourished since joining us four years ago under the Indigenous Apprenticeship program and is now a permanent and highly regarded member of the team.”

Ruth Quinn  
CDU Director of Library  
Services



Matthew Grant with University Medal

# **ALIA Engagement and Professional Development**

- **‘Take off your Career’-PD opportunity**
- **Student attendance at symposium/forums**
- **ALIA Outstanding Student Award**
- **Promotion and invitation to social events, library visits, workshops, author presentations and book launches**

## ALIA“ Take off your career”



CDU Palmerston Library-Training Room

# Library student activities



## And Awards...



CDU students and staff at VET end of year awards



## **City of Darwin-provision of traineeships**



- **Trainee opportunities across 4 branches**
- **Positive student outcomes and feedback**
- **Reinforcement of theory into practice**
- **Successful students have obtained permanent positions with Council**
- **Obtain experience in a busy public Library**

**Manager-Nightcliff Public Library**

## **Northern Territory Library**



**The Northern Territory Library and CDU have worked closely over a number of years, to introduce students to a range of resources used at the Library.**

**Workshops delivered at NTL include:**

- **Reference interview techniques**
- **Using RefTracker and referencing tools**
- **Database and research tools**
- **Assessment components completed in the workplace**

**Reference Librarian, NTL**

## **Student Feedback**

- **Kathy White welcomed me to the CDU Library Studies cohort and I was encouraged to attend visits she arranged to libraries here in Darwin. I felt part of the NT Library Community right from the start of studying with CDU.**
- **At each visit we were met by staff only too happy to share their knowledge and experiences working within our industry. We were also privileged to guided tours of each establishment.**

**Library Studies Student , 2012**

## Work Placements

**“I strongly feel that work experience/placements should be integral in any field of study particularly in Client Service based industries such as libraries. It greatly assists students by providing an opportunity to be in the ‘real’ workplace and experience what it is like in the industry. It provides reinforcement of learning and builds upon skills and knowledge from lectures. It also provides an excellent way of finding out about the industry and making important contacts within the local industry”**

**Library Studies student, 2010**

## Student Comments

- **Industry representatives and library staff visited us on campus. Jayshree Mamtora on behalf of ALIA NT Branch introduced us to ALIA.**
- **Bernadette Royal from CDU provided workshops relating to EndNote and a representative from the NT Open Education Centre Library assisted with mock employment interviews.**

**Library student, 2013**

## External Student

- **Being an external student has good and bad points. It can be very frustrating with feelings of isolation when others are undertaking group activities.**
- **Positive aspects include the time saved in travelling and accommodation. The support provided by lecturers who are only an email or phone call away has eased the frustration.**
- **Assessments were designed to meet industry expectations within a small country public library. Supervisors, lecturers and students discussed outcomes, assessment strategies and employability skills to be sure all elements were covered. My success was only possible because of the support and commitment of Kathryn.**

**Student living in Katherine**

## On a final note ..

- **Thank you for the invitation to highlight the continued support and encouragement the course has experienced from the Northern Territory library and information sector.**
- **Thank you to the managers, supervisors, industry and students. Engaging with industry groups through work placements and Library in-house training sessions all help to define and develop the information professional.**
- **Bernie and I have appreciated the opportunity to share these Survival strategies!!**

## References

**Charles Darwin University-25 years of education in NT**

<http://www.cdu.edu.au/25th-anniversary>

**Functional Solutions**

<http://www.librarysolutions.com.au/about.html>

**Information Technology and Library Studies (Top End)**

<http://www.cdu.edu.au/cdu-vet/business-service/it-library-studies>

**Innovative and Business Skills Australia**

<https://www.ibsa.org.au/>

**Quote from Peter Drucker**

<http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/quotes/p/peterdruck173392.html>