



Diversity Scholarships sponsored by  
**EBSCO**

VALA 2018

What a wonderful week at VALA2018!

What was VALA2018 to me? My first reason for applying for the scholarship was to connect to my peers and professionals in person, to trade ideas and to see the latest in library technology. The conference presented many opportunities to do this, from my fellow scholarship winners, Lisa and Donna, to conference presenters, attendees and trade show exhibitors.

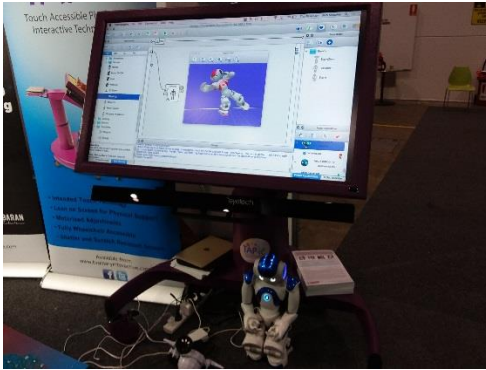
VALA2018 was opened by a robot! From that moment on the conference provided a full program of interesting and challenging ideas for my focus on public libraries:

- Crowd sourcing projects to improve access to heritage collections and harnessing volunteers with particular passions to transcribe collections
- The history and the object should go together
- Technology and Community building, the right to online access – Deadly Digital Communities developing library programs for mobile only users
- Looking at a 21<sup>st</sup> century library service – understanding trends in libraries and communities and putting customers at the centre of what you do
- Understanding trends in libraries and communities
- Progressive libraries are changing their connection with library users by doing away with desks and having roaming staff.
- Diversifying into seed libraries, cake pan libraries, developing Instagram accounts and many communities based programs.
- Re-storying of place – disruptive technologies
- Call to action – what do you want your customer to do next

I was particularly interested in David Lee King's address, The C Equation: Content + Connection + Community = Contented Customers. David spoke of how these themes direct libraries to meet the changing needs of customers. From diversifying content, building connections using programs and social media, to responding to your community by increasing partnerships and spreading your programs outside the library building – these are the responses that will increase membership and satisfy the wider community.

As we are about to move into our [new library in Karratha](#) the VALA2018 exhibition presented me with the following opportunities;

- Discuss leading technology with trade show exhibitors



- View products that have been purchased for the new library
- Secure new collection stock
- Meet our book and eResource suppliers in person.

Thank you to VALA2018 and EBSCO for the opportunity to attend the conference. This is a valuable sponsorship and it gave me the means to measure what we are doing in our libraries in the region, adjust the focus of some of our programs and to build valuable connections with peers and associated professionals in all states. I have already presented a brief summary to my council directorate and will share my knowledge and promote the VALA scholarship at our Regional Meeting in June.

The most radical idea if heard: If asked to maintain old software, accidently delete the .exe file!

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