

LIBRARY TECHNICIANS

Sharon Beccaria

Column Coordinator

Deacons Lawyers, Perth

Ph: (08) 9426 3254 Fax: (08) 9324 1334

Email: sharon.beccaria@deacons.com.au

PERSONAL PROFILE

The personal profile for this issue is from Alison Streatfield who works at the University of Notre Dame Australia Law Library in Fremantle.

(astreatfield@nd.edu.au)

After being employed at the University of Notre Dame Australia Law Library for a few years as a Library Assistant, I decided that I wanted to further my education in the library field. Due to the fact that I already worked in a library, I knew that I definitely wanted my career to involve libraries and, more specifically, that I wanted to be a Library Technician.

I therefore applied for the Associate Degree of Science (Library Technology) at Edith Cowan University and I was accepted mainly due to my work experience. Edith Cowan allows students to study externally which has really

helped me because I can still work full-time and study part-time at home.

Being employed as well as studying has shown me that experience gained in my job can relate to my study and also the other way around. Ideas that have been applied in my work can be put to use as the foundations of assignments or examination topics. This way I have tried and true examples of work to use in all aspects of my study.

Concepts taught in the course also help me in my work as I can then modify the ideas and apply them to my job or, generally, to the library. My study can show me new or better ways of completing tasks that I would otherwise not know about.

Overall, studying whilst being employed has given me a whole new perspective of a career in libraries. I have gained more confidence in putting forward ideas in my employment and my study that I would otherwise have kept to myself or not have had to begin with.