In 2007 I was selected to participate in an international Rotary sponsored Group Study Exchange (GSE) trip to Southern California. As part of the professional aspect of GSE I visited a range of libraries investigating the themes of staff development in libraries and the use of Web 2.0 technologies in library service delivery. The trip also offered numerous cultural learning opportunities and was a significant personal journey. This poster will reflect on the professional and personal learnings of GSE and outline the benefits of seeking professional development outside of the library industry.

Librarians can greatly benefit by seeking development opportunities outside of the Library sector

on vocation

Web 2.0

- Similar questions raised relating to the implementation of Web 2.0 in library services:  - do we host these on our server or don’t we?  how useful will these tools be?  will libraries/clients engage with these tools?  - Experimenting with My Space / Facebook - do users really want us in these spaces?  - RSS, Instant Messaging, SMS a common way of communicating with library clients  - Examples of blogs used to communicate with specific communities (e.g. Engineering students)

Cultural Pursuits

In addition to a range of personal benefits it’s an excellent opportunity to promote what we do

the experience

Cultural and Vocational Experiences have enabled
- The application of new perspectives and ideas  - Leadership development - team dynamics, managing conflict  - Confidence building - through physical, mental and emotional challenges  - Improved presentation skills through public speaking  - Successful networking skills  - A high level of cultural awareness and increased sensitivity to diversity issues

About Jill

Jill Benn is the Manager of the Humanities & Social Sciences Library at the University of Western Australia. Previous positions include Associate Law Librarian (UWA) and Reference Librarian at the Curtin University of Technology.
Jill holds a Graduate Diploma in Library and Information Studies (2001) and a Bachelor of Communications (Honours). Jill's professional interests include library staff development, particularly leadership development, and the use of new technologies in library services.

More Information

About Group Study Exchange http://www.rotary.org/foundation/educational/gse/
Contact me jbenn@library.uwa.edu.au