



**ALIA Access 2010 Conference
Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre
Wednesday 1 – Friday 3 September 2010**



THE OLDER EXPERIENCED WORKER: PERFECT FOR THE INDUSTRY

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After two and a half years learning to be Special Collections Librarian at Alice Springs Public Library, my first job in a library, I increasingly use skills I thought I'd left behind in other employment lives. These skills have very little to do with the requirements of my substantive position but they contribute to the viability of the Library. Entering the industry at 47 had its challenges but I deploy skills learned in other industries, notably fundraising and the public service, nearly as often as those acquired during study for a Graduate Diploma of information Management and on the job. I have written a couple of submissions for a new library building. This year Alice Springs Public Library launched the Library Gift Fund and, with my colleagues, I am developing a fundraising strategy to establish a diverse income base for the library. This paper will demonstrate the value an older experienced new starter brings to the industry through applying skills learnt in other industries.