

2015 PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AWARD
TAY CHEE HSIEN, AARON

Aaron Tay is an accomplished academic librarian whose understanding of trends and technologies in the library and information science field is widely recognized in Singapore and abroad.

After earning an Accounting degree from Nanyang Technological University (NTU) and working as an Auditor, Aaron switched careers and became a librarian. He received an MSc in Information Studies from NTU in 2007 and worked at the National University of Singapore (NUS) for eight years, rising rapidly to become a Senior Librarian and E-Service Facilitator. At NUS, Aaron worked on improving internal library processes, introducing digital initiatives to enhance the user experience and analyzing large volumes of data to make recommendations on library strategy. In 2015, he joined SMU Libraries as the Library Analytics Manager and Research Librarian, Accountancy.

Aaron is a valued mentor known for being approachable, patient, thoughtful, considerate, collaborative and a true team player. In addition to advising colleagues at NUS and NTU, in 2013-2014 he helped to plan, evaluate, and serve as one of the first participants in the pilot staff development program called 'A Day in the life of.....' with librarians from NTU, NUS and SMU.

Aaron is recognized for thought provoking commentary on library science technology trends which appear in respected international publications such as JASIST and his very popular, award-winning blog for academic librarians. He is frequently invited to speak at conferences and seminars in Singapore and globally. He was a member of the Expert Panel for the NMC Horizon Report – Library Edition 2014 and 2015; which is a report that decision-makers use for planning purposes. In 2013, he was the keynote speaker at the National Workshop on Web-Scale Discovery Services: Transforming Access to Library Resources in India.

As a result of his accomplishments, Aaron has received many important awards including NUS Service Achiever award (2103), NUS Libraries Shining Star (2012), CONSAL's Outstanding Librarian, Silver Award (2012), Salem Press, Best Academic Library Blog (2012), Library Journal Mover & Shaker award (2011), LAS Libraries for Tomorrow Seminar Best Speaker award (2011), and LAS Outstanding Newcomer Award (2011).

We are fortunate to have a librarian like Aaron Tay who in less than ten years has made impactful contributions to librarianship. In recognition of his dedication to the profession and willingness to share his knowledge, ideas and thoughts, Aaron Tay is awarded the 2015 LAS Professional Service Award.