

## **2016 LAS PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AWARD**

### **WONG KAH WEI**

Wong Kah Wei has been working as a librarian since 1985 and started teaching information literacy in the late 1990s. She has demonstrated much dedication in imparting lifelong learning information seeking skills to all levels of students, including librarians.

She was appointed as the Head of Learning Services, NUS Libraries in 2006. As the Head, she introduced many innovative methods and initiatives in teaching and coaching students and librarians. Breaking through the traditional concept of librarians teaching information literacy on its own, Kah Wei sought buy-in from faculty members to integrate information literacy closely into the curriculum. Her rationale is to contextualize learning information literacy in academic learning so that students experience the relevance of information literacy skills in their everyday learning. She also ensured that librarians play an integral role in managing and lecturing in doctoral level courses in research methods.

By building bridges to increase collaboration with faculty, she created a gem of an initiative. In 2016, Kah Wei became the first embedded librarian at NUS. She took on the role of an Academic Advisor at Ridge View Residential College. She coached a class for the module on environmental sustainability. She also planned and implemented the instructional design for information literacy in the module's syllabus. She adopted innovative pedagogies to support inductive and peer learning by applying flipped classroom and a framework from which students progressively learnt. She introduced the PESTLE framework which was adopted in all the tutorials for the modules. Her information literacy learning objectives were applied by all Academic Advisors of the module.

Kah Wei is the key trainer of information literacy at NUS Libraries. In training librarians, she not only shares her experiences but also uses these sharing and training workshops as test beds to apply new methods she discovers. In her training of librarians, Kah Wei takes a meta-approach to encourage librarians to bridge gaps and to transform minds and the way we do things.

Kah Wei contributed to the profession at LAS events like the inaugural Executive Library Management Program (ELMP) organized by LAS in 2014. She spoke at the seminar on information literacy in 2015 and at various runs of "A Day in the Life of....." programme. Through unique insights and continual innovation, she has made remarkable strides and demonstrated exceptional leadership in the field of information literacy in a career that has spanned more than three decades in Singapore.

For her persistence, dedication, and creativity in helping to significantly improve the role of the library and librarians in higher education in Singapore and promoting the importance of lifelong learning, LAS is delighted to honour Wong Kah Wei with the 2016 LAS Professional Service Award.