

2018 LAS LIBRARY SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP WANG JIAWEN CARMEN ONGGO

Carmen Wang joined National Library Board (NLB) in 2016 as an Associate Librarian and is with the Children and Teens department promoting the love and joy of reading to 7-17 year olds in schools and the public libraries in Singapore. She is now completing her MSc in Information Studies at the Wee Kim Wee School of Communication and Information in NTU.

Being very customer centric, Carmen is able to actively engage children in schools through her storytelling and book buzz sessions. She was once invited by a school to be a special guest to their school library opening in view of her contributions to improve the school's reading culture.

Carmen is also an integral part of the project team that conceptualised NLB's loveable mascots, a quartet of monsters, to promote reading to children. These monsters also promote awareness of the different genres in children's literature and library etiquette to NLB's young patrons. Carmen has curated and designed the content and book recommendations for children in an attempt to encourage them to read more and to read widely. She also conceptualised the idea of the Monster Scavenger Hunt game for children for the National Reading Day. These initiatives have greatly motivated children to read and have also helped to promote the libraries as a fun place for the children.

The "Information Sessions for Schools" is an annual event that showcases the suite of NLB's services to schools. As the Project Manager for the 2017 event, Carmen brought in new sharing segments from the Reading Excellence Award winners and the Junior and Teen Reading Ambassadors which led to an increase in the number of participants. Teachers were highly appreciative of the event and her contributions.

Carmen is also actively involved in the training of the Junior Reading Ambassadors from primary schools. These children are trained in creating book displays, conducting book talks and putting up performances in their school and public libraries. These ambassadors also promote reading to their peers in schools. By mentoring these ambassadors, Carmen has helped them spark an interest in reading and have also helped them become confident public speakers.

Besides reaching out to patrons through the libraries, she also extended the department's reach through the online portal, *discoverReads*, the NLB blog targeted at parents, children and teachers. Carmen came up with novel ideas to make reading more attractive and relevant to the tech savvy youth. She has curated reading recommendations in the form of blog articles and created digital banners for the site, and sourced and put up pertinent videos. These have resulted in an increase in the visitorship to the blog and has also increased participation at the various events at public libraries.

Carmen has also been instrumental in many of the key projects and initiatives and has been able to engage the young children, teachers and other key stakeholders.

In recognition of her accomplishments and in view of her potential for making further contributions to librarianship in the years ahead, LAS is delighted to award Carmen Wang with the LAS Library School Scholarship.



Samantha Ang
President, Library Association of Singapore
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