

2021 MARGARET JENNINGS AWARD PROFILE

LI LIAN ANG – MONASH UNIVERSITY

Tell us how you first got involved in the archival profession?



I first got involved in the archival profession through the elective units I have enrolled in my postgraduate degree. While I have started out with the goal to study librarianship, I was also eager to learn more about the archiving and recordkeeping profession. I was curious how the two professions compare, and I learnt how different their roles are within the community. Through my studies, my interest in the maintenance and accessibility of records grew.

What has surprised you most about the profession?

Before my university studies in archives and recordkeeping, I did not realise how metadata plays a huge part in maintaining the longevity and readability of records – physical as well as digital records. I was also quite surprised that metadata has long existed before data and digital technology as we know it now.

What would you tell someone who is thinking about studying in the area?

Records can come in many different forms, not just paperwork and other documents. They can be sound recordings, visual media, and miscellaneous objects. At least for me, learning that records can come in so many different forms show how vast the field of archiving and recordkeeping can be.

What do you think will change within the sector over the next five years?

The growth of digital technology in various aspects of our lives is fast-paced and constantly improving, and with that I believe that this sector will have to adapt just as fast to make sure the records we keep remain accessible to the public.