



VIEWPOINTS

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feel confronting. The whole experience was somewhat overwhelming, but it was rewarding too, and I'm glad I did it.

Alice: I think my biggest impact came from an article about the Aboriginal music on the Voyager golden records - only a few thousand people read it, but the research I presented has now been incorporated into the Australian Government's Indigenous music web page, and numerous online sources about the records. It's far more immediate and accessible than journal publication - which can be a double-edged sword sometimes, as your experience shows. I think every academic should try it at least once!

Bronwyn: That article you wrote about the Aboriginal music featured on the Voyager record is so important and it's great that it's open access via *The Conversation*. Also, you should know that the article you mentioned earlier, in

which you looked at poetry to consider cultural perceptions of the Moon, is the reason I moved interstate to study here at Flinders with you as my supervisor. One thing prospective contributors should be aware of is that *The Conversation* doesn't pay. That surprised me, and I think it's disappointing to be honest. It's a pity the publication doesn't receive funding to pay writers. Because that could be a great thing for struggling PhD students.

Alice: *The Conversation* is more like the academic journal economy in that respect - people put huge numbers of hours and hard intellectual work into writing, revising, reviewing, and editing, all unpaid, for the big publishing houses to profit from. We have no choice about participating in that economy because our performance is measured by it. By contrast, *The Conversation* is not-for-profit and assists us by providing metrics about our impact that we can use in grant applications and

applying for promotion. That's fine for fully waged academics, but it might be worth proposing payment for struggling PhD students - it can make a difference.

Bronwyn: I enjoyed our trip to Special Collections to see the Allan Bray Science Fiction Collection.

Alice: Wasn't it a blast? Have to go back!

The Allan Bray Science Fiction Collection, is held in the Flinders University Central Library's Special Collections.

The collection was donated to the library by Mrs Lesley Bray in June 2000. The collection had belonged to her husband, Allan Bray (1937-1998). Mr Bray had been a keen science fiction collector, as well as an amateur theatre director. It consists of approximately 330 feet of books and 93 feet of periodicals dating from the 1930s to the 1990s. Parts of the collection, including all the periodicals, have been catalogued and can be found by searching for Allan Bray Science Fiction Collection in FindIt@Flinders.

Photos: Elizabeth Weeks



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