

# NICOLE MARIE GASTON

nicolemgaston@gmail.com

## EDUCATION

**Ph.D. in Information Studies (2014)**

Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand

**Master of Library & Information Science (MLIS) (2008)**

McGill University, Montreal, Canada

**Bachelor of Arts in French (BA) (2003)**

University of Illinois at Chicago, USA

Minor in Education

**Certificate in Designing and Facilitating eLearning (2016)**

Open Polytechnic of New Zealand

**Certificate in Te Reo Māori, Level 1 & 2 (expected 2021)**

Te Wanganga o Aotearoa

## EXPERIENCE

Services to Schools/National Library of New Zealand | Te Puna Mātauranga o Aotearoa (2016-present)

### **Online Professional Content Services & Development**

I support school libraries and librarians nationwide through the development of resources and online services including education resources for schools and school librarians. I administer the directorate's online learning platform and online learning offer, providing professional development for school librarians throughout New Zealand. I coordinate and contribute to publication of regular online content in the areas of school librarianship, reading engagement, digital literacy and cultural heritage. This content has extensive national and international readership.

Nice Assets Pottery et cetera (2016-present)

### **Business owner**

Self-taught craftswoman creating original work in ceramics and textiles underpinned by social justice themes. My functional and decorative work is sold wholesale and retail. I also teach workshops and private lessons in ceramics. I independently grew a hobby into a thriving business including developing and maintaining an ecommerce website at <https://niceassets.co.nz> and social media presence at [@nice.assets](https://www.instagram.com/nice.assets). I have been invited to present work in several group exhibitions and was awarded 'Best first-time exhibitor' at Ceramicus 2018.

Sound and Light Exploration Society (2012-present)

### **Trustee/Front-of-house manager/Volunteer coordinator**

I carry out a number of roles supporting Wellington's only artist-run performance venue, [Pyramid Club](https://www.pyramidclub.co.nz) and advocating for experimental performance arts. I have contributed to strategic leadership, planning, funding continuity, as well as daily operational support for performances for nearly 10 years, ensuring the continued operation of this valued community arts space.

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Ceramics Association of New Zealand (2019-present)

## **Vice President**

I provide strategic leadership alongside operational support for the only clayworkers' association in New Zealand with over 100 members and an international presence. I contribute to funding applications, carry out research, manage a variety of national workshop & education projects, contribute to exhibition planning, and support Wordpress website development & maintenance at [ceramicsnz.org](http://ceramicsnz.org).

Mechanical Tempest Community Bike Workshop (2011-present)

## **Chairperson/Secretary & bicycle mechanic**

I contribute to strategic leadership, reporting, regulatory oversight, stakeholder engagement, management of daily workshop services and hours, facility maintenance, funding opportunities and finances, and maintaining a roster of 15+ volunteers. I contribute to website support at [tempest.nz](http://tempest.nz). I have taught free bicycle repair and maintenance to community members on a rostered fortnightly basis for nearly 10 years, ensuring the continued operation of this valued community space.

Wellington Potters' Association (2017-2020)

## **President & Workshop Coordinator**

I provided strategic leadership and operational support for a community club with over 500 members. My duties also included planning and coordinating monthly workshops and regular professional development opportunities for members with local and visiting artists. I carried out research, applied for grants and sought funding opportunities. I managed projects including annual exhibition planning and delivery, website development & maintenance at [wellingtonpotters.org.nz](http://wellingtonpotters.org.nz), and implemented new membership systems and more efficient administrative practices during a period of rapid growth.

St. Lucia Public Library/Ministry of Education of St. Lucia (2015-2016)

## **Information Services Advisor, St Lucia, Eastern Caribbean**

I supported literacy and education initiatives nationwide through capacity building amongst staff at 17 branches of the Public Library System of St. Lucia. I helped to implement the first integrated library system, developed and delivered staff training, community programming and outreach activities. I contributed to research exploring community needs informing service delivery and operations.

Open Polytechnic of New Zealand | Kuratini Tuwhera (2013– 2015)

## **Academic Staff**

I taught courses in library and information studies undergraduate degree programme including information literacy, research methods, reference and user education. I supervised research students, developed course materials and supported wider programme development in collaboration with other faculty. I researched information behaviour and non-Western culture as a primary investigator.

Victoria University of Wellington (2010– 2013)

## **Researcher/Teaching assistant**

I taught courses in library and information studies postgraduate degree programme including information literacy, research methods, reference and user education. I investigated social and technical trends in digital preservation and e-governance in collaboration with academic staff.

Peace Corps Benin (2003-2005)

## **Community Volunteer, Benin, West Africa**

Working closely with community counterparts, I supported development goals including equity, health education and literacy skills in a small community in rural West Africa.

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## SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- Gaston, N. M. (2017). Contextualising information behaviour: A methodological approach. *Journal of Critical Library and Information Studies* (1)1. Retrieved from <https://journals.litwinbooks.com/index.php/jclis/article/view/12>
- Gaston, N. M., Fields, A., Lilley, S., & Calvert, P. (2016). Raranga te kete aronui: Weaving social & cultural inclusion into New Zealand library & information science education. In K. Kettlich (Ed.), *Advances in librarianship: Perspectives on libraries as institutions of human rights and social justice* (pp. 373-398). Bingley, UK : Emerald. doi:10.1108/S0065-283020160000041031
- Gaston, N. M., Dorner, D. G., & Johnstone, D. (2015). Spirituality and everyday information behaviour in a non-Western context: Sense-making in Buddhist Laos. *Information Research*, 20(2). Retrieved from [http://www.informationr.net/ir/20-2/paper665.html#VX9Qm\\_mqpBc](http://www.informationr.net/ir/20-2/paper665.html#VX9Qm_mqpBc)
- Gaston, N. M. (2015, May). Enhancing cultural understanding in LIS education at the Open Polytechnic of New Zealand. *Library Life: Te Rau Herenga O Aotearoa*, 12–13. Retrieved from <http://www.lianza.org.nz/sites/default/files/Library Life 434 May 2015.pdf>
- Gaston, N. M. (2014). *Contextualising information behaviour: The example of Laos*. Victoria University of Wellington. Retrieved from <http://researcharchive.vuw.ac.nz/handle/10063/3196>