

Making news around Australia

Selected reprints from newspapers and magazines in recent months



• **11/8 WA UCRLS and WA Special Libraries sections.** Joint function: *Electronic Serials*. Alexander Library Building, 4th floor, Perth Cultural Centre, 5:30pm. Cost \$12 ALIA members, \$15 non-members. Contact: Gillen Lulich, ph 9478 1199, Gillen_Lulich@placerdome.com RSVP by 4/8.

• **17/8-19/10 WA Library Technicians section meeting.** Venue: tba. Meeting dates: 17/8; 15/9*; 19/10. Contact: Wendy Monaghan, ph 08 9427 3267, wmonaghan@mail.liswa.wa.gov.au (*date subject to change due to Library Technician conference 8-10/9.)

• **27/8 WA Public Libraries section.** Nominations are called for the 1999 Jean Ryding Award. An award for excellence for WA public librarians. Selection criteria and details from Duncan Furphy, ph 08 9411 3494, fx 08 9434 2577, duncan@cockburn.wa.gov.au Nominations close 27/8.

10/11 Clare Burton Memorial Lecture: *The beauty therapist, the mechanic, the geoscientist and the librarian: addressing undervaluation of women's work.* Curtin University, 5pm. Contact National Office ATN WEXDEV, PO Box 123, Broadway 2007, ph 02 9514 2909, fx 02 9514 2930, jane.clifford@uts.edu.au, URL <http://www.uts.edu.au/oth/wexdev>

• **16/11 WA Library Technicians section.** Monthly meeting and Annual General Meeting, dinner to follow. Venue: LISWA, 5:30pm. Contact: Wendy Monaghan, ph 08 9427 3267, wmonaghan@mail.liswa.wa.gov.au

Conferences

• **22-26/8 8th Asian Pacific Special Health and Law Librarians conference.** *Strait to the future.* Wreast Point Hotel Casino, Hobart. Contact: Mures Convention Management, Victoria Dock, Hobart 7000, ph 03 6234 1424, 03 6234 4464, conventions@mures.com.au <http://www.alia.org.au/conferences/strait/>

• **6-8/9 Reference and Information Service section conference.** *1999 and Beyond — Partnerships and Paradigms.* Venue: Hilton Hotel, Sydney. Contact: ACMS Conventions & Exhibitions Pty Ltd, PO Box 468, Paddington 2021, ph 02 9332 4622, fx 02 9332 4066, raiss99@acms.com.au <http://www.csu.edu.au/special/raiss99/>

• **8-10/9 10th ALIA National Library Technicians section conference.** *Projections reflections.* The Esplanade Hotel, Fremantle, Western Australia. Contact: Anne Nicolay, Keynote Conferences, PO Box 1126, West Leederville 6001, ph 08 9382 3799, fx 08 9380 4006, keynote@ca.com.au

• **13-15/10 13th National Cataloguing conference.** Theme: *Charting the Informa-*

Design impedes web liberation

The Age, 8 June, by Jenny Sinclair

The HTML language and recently-released World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) style sheets are designed to allow users to define how a web page appears — or is read — to them. Jason White, a Melbourne University student who helped draft the style sheets said that good sites can understand that content and style are two different things — something that visually-minded designers find hard to follow.

The W3C Web content accessibility guidelines 1.0 were released in May. They are now developing authoring tools as a way of getting accessibility 'built-in' to the internet.

High-bandwidth internet linkage reaches library

The Queanbeyan Age, 31 May

On 20 May, the mayor of Goulburn officially launched a new high-bandwidth internet connection at the Goulburn Library. NSW.net, an initiative of the state government, aims to provide rural and remote areas in particular with secure, high-performance access to the internet. The NSW.net project is managed by the State Library of New South Wales on behalf of the Metropolitan and Country Public Library Associations.

To provide a guide relevant to the local, state and national content on the internet, regional library staff have put together a website <http://www.strl.goulburn.nsw.gov.au>. It is expected that an e-mail reference service will be introduced in the library in the next six months.

Council defends \$1m library extension

The Manly Daily, 20 May

Pittwater Council has defended its decision to spend nearly \$1 million on extensions to Mona Vale Library. There have been criticisms as the public library statistics for 1997-1998 show that Pittwater ranked very low for the number of items acquired by libraries per head of population.

Library services manager, Lindsay Godfrey, said that the council planned to acquire 8000 items, including books, CD-ROMs, and cassettes in the next five years, and that the building extensions were critical.

Online libraries cast a wide net

The Port Phillip Leader, 31 May

Port Phillip mayor Dick Gross says it is easy to get caught up in the 'net. Cyberspace has come to the South Melbourne Library with the launch of the Web on the Hill. This latest initiative means that all Port Phillip libraries are now online.

Councillor Gross said that a recent survey

had revealed that sixty-one per cent of residents and sixty-five per cent of businesses access the internet, either at home, work or through the city's libraries or internet cafés.

Striving for better literacy

The Mildura Midweek, 25 May

School groups across Victoria will visit their town libraries during Education Week for a series of workshops. The library activities support the work of teachers in the Department of Education's 'Early years literacy program', a focus on improving the literacy skills of young students.

Net closes on jobs in the library

The Sun Herald, 13 June, by Jim O'Rourke

The Municipal Employees Union (MEU) is worried that hundreds of jobs in libraries are at risk because so many people have access to the internet. MEU Sydney metropolitan manager Sonja Terpstra said that a growing amount of material which can be found in the local library is making its way onto the web.

Ms Terpstra said that while the MEU was realistic about the introduction of new technology to help council administration, management needed to be reminded that it had obligations to the community.

Community facility a first

The Advertiser, 21 June, by Mel Hein

A new multi-purpose library and community facility, due for completion in August, will include a joint community and school library as well as an Onkaparinga Council service centre and space for other community facilities.

The library area will increased by more than one-third and there will be improved access to information technology. The extension is being jointly-funded through the council, the government, a community library trust, and community fund-raising.

Libraries fight for survival in digital world

The Canberra Times, 21 June, by Katherine Roth

Representatives gathered from more than thirty-five libraries at a virtual libraries summit at the New York Public Library recently to discuss how their institutions can survive in the digital world. One concern is that very few libraries have comprehensive archival plans for digital material. It is still unclear what software will be compatible with computers in the future.

Cutbacks close books on blind

The Sun Herald, 20 June, by Jim O'Rourke

Budgetary pressure has forced the Royal Blind Society to axe five positions. The cutbacks,

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which saw audio producers and an audio engineer lose their jobs, could mean a cut in the number of titles produced by the Society — from more than one hundred per year to fifty.

Librarians honoured for service

The Townsville Bulletin, 12 June, by Tony Raggatt

Joycelyn Brent, a long-serving Townsville librarian, has won a prestigious Queensland Library Board Award in recognition for her contribution to developing the partnership between state and local government in public library services in Queensland. Mrs Brent recently retired from the position of manager of the Townsville City Council's library service.

\$10m library merge plan would be state's biggest

The Sherbrooke Free Press, 9 June

A possible merger between the Eastern Regional and Whitehorse Manningham library corporations is being investigated. The merged organisation would have a projected budget of more than \$10 million a year and would be Victoria's largest library service.

A report suggests that library users would benefit if the two corporations developed co-operative and resource-sharing opportunities including: shared information technology and computer infrastructure, staff training and exchange programs, joint purchasing schemes, materials processing and joint research.

Library bans boy

The Guardian Express, 8 June

Stirling City Council has banned a teenager from its libraries for abusing the use of library computers. The 15-year-old had three previous suspensions for internet use at Dianella and Inglewood public libraries.

The boy had managed to access a terminal to change settings, display rude messages to the public, and change borrower details.

Capturing a web of ages

The Age, 22 June, by Zenon Pasieczny

Librarian Lloyd Sokvitne is the driving force behind the 'Our digital island' project — a project set up by the State Library of Tasmania to capture the look and feel of the web as it relates to Tasmania. So far 140 sites have been catalogued covering topics including politics, business, education and human interests.

Sokvitne sees the task as an extension of the library's role to preserve the documentary history of Tasmania.

Libraries 'mistake'

The Macedon Ranges Regional, 15 June, by Glenn Fisher

Two years ago the Macedon Ranges Council made a decision to remain a member of the Bendigo-based North Central Goldfields Regional Library Corporation. Mayor Noel Harvey, who is disappointed with the performance of the corporation, has said that it was a mistake to remain with the corporation.

Library goes hi-tech

The Herald Sun, 8 July, by Scott Thompson

A \$200 million, five-year redevelopment is set to make the State Library of Victoria Australia's most hi-tech library. The library will expand to fill an entire library block, and the domed reading room will be refurbished. More good news for library users is that the library will remain open during the upgrade and all services will be operational.

Chapter closed

The Gold Coast Bulletin, 24 June, by Johanna Leggat

The Library Board of Queensland recently commended Martha Sirovs for her years of service to the libraries on the Gold Coast. Ms Sirovs is credited with starting a number of services including children's story-telling and the friends of the library group. ■



tion Universe. Carlton Crest Hotel, Brisbane. Contact: Intermedia Convention and Event Management, ph 07 3369 0477, fx 07 3369 1512, cat99@im.com.au <http://www.alia.org.au/sections/cat/conferences/>

• **12-13/11 2nd Local Studies conference.** *Post haste the millennium: opportunities and challenges in local studies.* Contact: Jenni Woodroffe, convenor, ph/fx 08 9367 4759, jenni@omen.net.au

• **14-17/11 Public Libraries conference.** *How far have we come... how far can we go?* Organised by ALIA WA Public Libraries section. Sheraton Perth Hotel, Perth. Contact: Promaco Pty Ltd, ph 08 9332 2900, fx 08 9332 2911, promaco@promaco.com.au <http://www.promaco.com.au/conference/1999/alia>

• **3-4/12 ALIA Information Literacy SIG and the University of SA Library joint conference.** *Concept, challenge, conundrum: from library skills to information literacy.* Keynote speaker: Professor Ken Haycock. University of South Australia City West Campus. Contact Irene Doskatsch, ph 08 8302 4447, fx 08 8302 4754, irene.doskatsch@unisa.edu.au

Call for nominations

The Rural and Isolated Libraries Special Interest Group

The Rural and Isolated Libraries Special Interest Group is calling for nominations for the following office bearer positions in 2000 and 2001:

- president
- secretary
- treasurer
- and six committee members.

Nominations should be forwarded to the returning officer, ALIA National Office, PO Box E441, Kingston 2604, phone 02 6285 1877, fax 02 6282 2249.

All inCite Events are limited to 40 words maximum and must include: date, name of Division, title of event, theme and key speaker (if relevant), venue, time, costs, and a contact name with phone and fax numbers.

ALIA divisions should mail, e-mail or fax details of forthcoming events to the address shown below, or use our website electronic form on ALIANet.

Non-ALIA entries: Send (at a cost of \$40 for 40 words) with your complete billing details to **inCite Events**, ALIA, PO Box E441, Kingston, ACT 2604; fax 02 6282 2249, or e-mail events@alia.org.au. An invoice will be sent to the address indicated with your entry. For a small additional cost, your event may be listed on our website. Call for details.

• **bullets indicate activities organised by ALIA Divisions**