

State Library of NSW, Metcalfe Auditorium, 9-4.30pm. \$50 ALIA members, \$60 non-members, \$35 students. Contact: Pamela McKinnon, ph (02) 9686 3798, fax (02) 9686 2891.

• **19/4 NSW Schools section. Introductory Internet.** Macquarie Uni, Time/Cost: TBA. Contact: Ailsa Holmes-Walker, ph (02) 9871 3541.

1-28/5 Insearch/Knight-Ridder Information seminars. Introductory Dialog (1/5), Pharmaceutical (27/5), Beyond the Basics (28/5). Sydney contact: (02) 9212 2867, krinfo.aus@uts.edu.au.

7/5 Performance indicators for libraries. Uni of NSW, School of Information, Library and Archive Studies. Contact: Maureen Henninger, ph (02) 9385 3589, fax (02) 9385 3430, M.Henninger@unsw.edu.au.

• **14/5 NSW Health Libraries section: new members, night.** Consumer health at the State Library. Venue: State Library of NSW, McDonald Room, Level 8, 5.30pm to 6pm. Contact: Kaye Lee, ph (02) 9736 6936, fax (02) 9736 7630, klee@lib.crg.cs.nsw.gov.au.

14/5 Clients, services and quality. Uni of NSW, School of Information, Library and Archive Studies. Contact: Maureen Henninger, ph (02) 9385 3589, fax (02) 9385 3430, M.Henninger@unsw.edu.au.

15/5 Doing research on the net (half day) Uni of NSW, School of Information, Library and Archive Studies. Contact: Maureen Henninger, ph (02) 9385 3589, fax (02) 9385 3430, M.Henninger@unsw.edu.au.

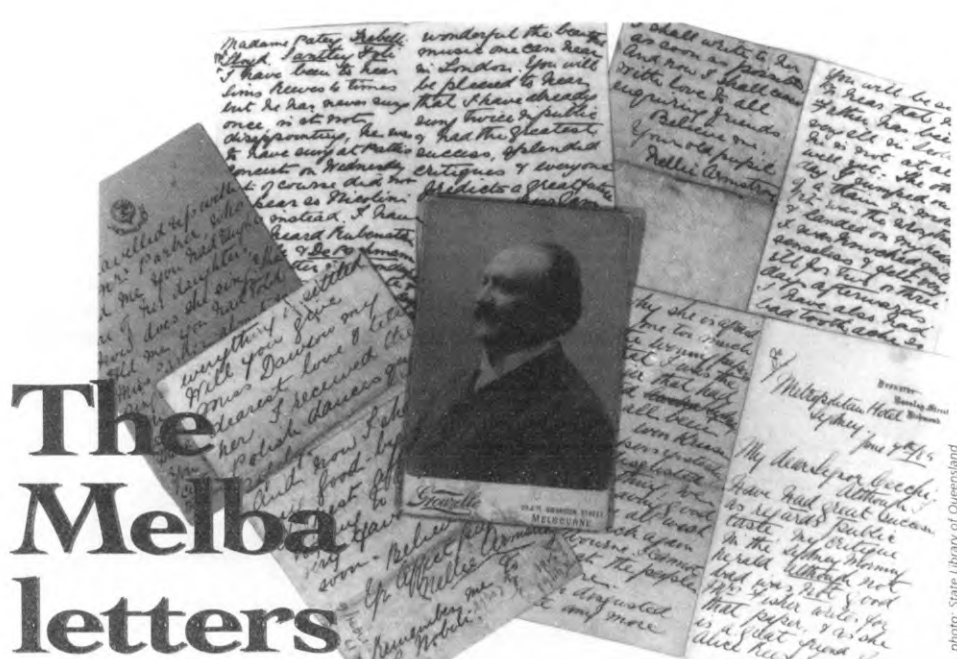
26-30/5 Introduction to the management of recordkeeping systems. Uni of NSW, School of Information, Library and Archive Studies. Contact: Maureen Henninger, ph (02) 9385 3589, fax (02) 9385 3430, M.Henninger@unsw.edu.au.

• **31/5 & 21/6 NSW Schools section. Advanced Internet.** Macquarie Uni, Time/Cost: TBA. Contact: Ailsa Holmes-Walker, ph (02) 9871 3541.

Starting in August, Foundations of audiovisual management — to be conducted in distance mode. Uni of NSW, School of Information, Library and Archive Studies. Contact: Maureen Henninger, ph (02) 9385 3589, fax (02) 9385 3430, M.Henninger@unsw.edu.au.

Starting in August, Preservation administration (library and archive) — to be conducted in dis-

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A series of letters written in the 1880s by Australian soprano Dame Nellie Melba to her singing instructor have been purchased by the State Library of Queensland.

Melba's nine surviving letters to Signor Pietro Cecchi in Melbourne were written between September 1882 and August 1886, mostly from Mackay where she lived with her husband Charles Armstrong.

One unhappy letter, undated, was written shortly after the birth of her son George:

'... times are very bad here and we are as poor as it is possible for anyone to be ... The pianos here are all bad ... I am anxious to

leave Queensland as soon as possible. I must make some money. Could you not form a small company and let us go touring through the Colonies? ... I am very unhappy here where there is no music, no nothing. I want you to keep this quite a secret from my sisters and friends, do not mention it to anyone until everything is settled.'

Archives and manuscripts librarian, Karen Friedl, said the letters were purchased at auction, along with several early photographs, calling cards and newspaper clippings.

The Melba letters can be viewed at the John Oxley Library of Queensland History, at the State Library of Queensland. ■

Now on disk

The Australian guide to consumer health information, 4th edition

Health Link, the consumer health information service at Westmead Hospital has just released the fourth edition of *The Australian guide to consumer health information* as an electronic directory. The software has been developed to provide librarians with a quick identification of health-related information sources, which can assist members of the general public.

This innovative and intuitive, PC-based resource provides integrated access to over 1000 key Australian health related services and support groups, together with details of over five hundred books and booklets

which have been written for the general public on a wide range of health topics. Many of the publications have been reviewed by specialists associated with Westmead Hospital or The New Children's Hospital.

As with the three earlier printed editions of the resource, the information has been compiled by Moira Bryant. The software has been developed in conjunction with Data Diction.

Searching can be carried out by entering the name of a service, the location, or a health topic. The resulting matches are displayed in an alphabetical sequence and their location is identified on

the adjacent map. Related publications are listed below the names of service. By scrolling through the list, the full details for the service or publication are displayed in the bottom part of the screen. A novel feature of the software is its ability to search by index terms. A map can be used to limit the search geographically. Provision is also made for users to add their own notes to any record. Details of individual services or publications can be printed to give to clients.

The guide is now available at a cost of \$45. A brochure and order form is enclosed with this edition of *inCite*. ■