

Making news...



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• **4/7 WA Special Libraries section.** 4th of July Breakfast — American Independence Day. Key Speaker: Charles Taylor, Principal of the Foothills School, Guildford. Venue: McDonalds, Town Hall, 582 Hay Street, Perth. 7.30am, \$8.00. For menu choices contact: Becky Lowe, ph (08) 9367 2889, becky@iinet.net.au

22–24/7 Insearch/Knight-Ridder Information Seminars. Introductory DIALOG (22/7), Dialog Web/Alert (23/7), Business (24/7). Perth contact: (02) 9212 2867, krinfo. aus@uts.edu.au

National

11–13/2/98 The New Zealand Law Librarians' group conference 1998. *Challenges to tradition: law and knowledge for the new millennium.* Auckland, NZ. Contact: The Conference Secretariat, The Conference Company, PO Box 90–040, Auckland, NZ. Ph +64 9 360 1240, fax +64 9 360 1242, info@tcc.co.nz, <http://www.knowledge-basket.co.nz/nzllg/welcome.html>

Conference

• **25–26/8 ALIA National TAFE Section Biennial conference.** *Partnerships.* Venue: Marriot Hotel, College Street, Sydney. For further details contact: Joanne Fuller, ph (02) 9906 6000, fax (02) 9906 5987, jojo1@ozemail.com.au

• **11–12/9 12th National Cataloguing conference.** *New opportunities for cataloguers.* Paper sessions and workshops. Contact: Prue Deacon, ph (06) 289 7062, prue.deacon@hhlhcs.ausgovhcs.telememo.au

• **19–20/9 ALIA Local Studies conference.** *Timekeepers: forging links in local studies.* Venue: South Perth Heritage House. Contact: Alison Gregg, Education Department WA, 151 Royal Street, East Perth, ph (08) 9264 4952.

• **24–26/9 Library Technicians conference.** *InterACTION.* Venue: National Convention Centre, Canberra. Contact: Conference organiser, Brigitte Gunn, Conference Solutions, PO Box 238, Deakin West 2600, ph (06) 285 3000, fax (06) 285 3001, office@con-sol.com

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Snippets from newspapers around Australia

'DVCs miss out as West delayed three months'

From *The Australian*, 5 March 1997, by Madeleine Coorey

The Federal government has extended the deadline for the final report of the West review of higher education by three months at the review committee's request.

The \$2 million review charged with preparing the blueprint for university policy for the next twenty years now has until 27 March 1998 to complete its findings, pushing back the release of a draft discussion paper from August to October.

'MPs library puts price on rare books'

From *The Weekend Australian*, 12 April 1997, by Fiona Carruthers

Under accounting methods to be introduced in NSW from 1 July, collections held in State galleries, museums and libraries must be valued. The State Auditor-General, Mr Tony Harris said 'Taxpayers will be able to see ... what these collections are worth and what sort of resources go towards their upkeep'. Chief librarian at the NSW Parliamentary Library, Mr Bob Brian, said it was almost impossible to put a value on the library collection which contains more than 150 000 volumes accumulated since 1840.

'Library studies key to career'

From *The Canberra Times*, 15 April 1997

Australian Bureau of Statistics figures of November 1996 indicated a seventy-five per cent increase in the demand for librarians, researchers and other information professionals by the year 2000.

'Move to cancel overseas book aid'

From *The Canberra Times*, 16 April 1997, by Ian McPhedran

The Federal Government has moved to cancel a program which supplies library books to poor countries in Asia. According to an AusAID source, no formal request for funds had been received from the Australian Centre for Publications Acquired for Development, which is part of the International Development Program of Australian Universities and Colleges. The centre provides books and journals to tertiary institutions in Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam, Indonesia, Thailand, Fiji and Papua New Guinea. About 150 institutions would lose a key source of research material if the program is abandoned.

'Log into the city library'

From *The Courier Mail* (Brisbane), 21 April 1997, by Ella Riggert

Brisbane residents can tap into the city council's library database from their homes or offices. The new DataDial service has made it possible for people to gain access to more than one million items at thirty-three suburban council libraries.

'\$20 000 grant to update city libraries'

From *The Illawarra Mercury*, 2 May 1997

Wollongong City Library services are to be updates through at \$20 000 grant from the State Government. The money will be used to digitise 5000 local studies photographs and publish them on CD-ROM. It would also fund a part-time librarians and a computer for indexing collections.

'Public libraries are uniquely placed to support a culture of lifelong learning and I am particularly pleased that the thousands of library users throughout the Wollongong region will have access to the latest facilities and services', said MP Gerry Sullivan.

'Fees up in open and shutter case'

From *The Daily Telegraph* (1st edition), 5 May 1997, by Mark Skelsey

Sydney City Council's new draft budget has indicated that fees for holding a park wedding to being a library member in the Sydney city centre could jump.

People outside the council area would have to pay a \$10 fee to borrow books from Sydney Town Hall library, compared with only \$2 last year. City residents would pay no library membership fee. The council will make a decision in the next few weeks as to whether the new fees should be approved.

'Quiet achievers make a noise at their local library'

The Daily Telegraph (1st Edition), 8 May 1997, by Alister McMillan

With 445 000 people passing through its doors last year, Cabramatta's Whitlam Library is the second-most frequented in New South Wales, next to Sutherland Library. Only the State Library can boast a busier reference section.

In an area dominated by blocks of flats many children think the library is a safe and comfortable place to meet friends and do their homework — as many as 400 students come to the library each day. About one-hundred elderly people take advantage of the quieter mornings, and in the evening parents and children arrive en masse. Library manager, Anne Hall said 'We've moved away from the old image of libraries as strictly quiet and boring. It's a fun, social place.'