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Making news around Australia

Selected reprints from newspapers and magazines in recent months...

The world's librarians gather in Canberra

The Canberra Times, 29 September 1997

They came from Fiji, the United States, Papua New Guinea and Singapore. Library technicians from around Australia and the world arrived at the 9th National Library Technicians Conference for a week of conference events, trade show exhibits and Floriade.

The trade exhibition was opened by Senator Margaret Reid, while governor-general Sir William Deane opened the conference and Warren Horton, director general of the National Library of Australia, gave the keynote address.

Net lifeblood for librarians

Stephen Brook, *The Australian*, 23 September 1997

Librarians will not survive if they are merely at the cutting edge of the information age. Instead, they will have to be at the 'bleeding edge' of technology to prosper.

This is according to International Association of Metropolitan City Libraries president, Andrew Miller. Mr Miller, at the IAMCL conference in Perth on 22 September, said that librarians require 'bleeding edge' knowledge of technology in order to guide the public through the labyrinth of Internet 'dead ends' to find useful information.

Mr Miller did not see remote accessing of information, leading to a fall in library attendance, as a major concern for libraries. He did, however, view the falling standards of children's literacy as a problem, saying children need to be encouraged to discover the joys of reading and using their imaginations.

A great day for the Irish

The Courier Mail, 13 September 1997

It has taken nearly 100 years, but the Queensland Irish Association finally has a permanent, professional reference library.

The Queensland Irish Association first opened its library in 1905. But the new technologies of radio and then television caused interest to wane. The library became a function centre and the books were packed away. Now, 1100 volumes fill the purpose-built room in Tara House, including a facsimile edition of the medieval *Book of Kells*, purchased for \$15 000 and now worth \$30 000.

Floating library to visit Darwin

Blair Kelly, *NT News*, 15 September 1997

The world's largest floating library hits Darwin tomorrow, bringing along its impressive cargo of more than 500 000 books. The *MV Doulos*, with its crew and staff of 300 volunteers from

thirty nations, has visited sixty countries around the world. A German company, Good Books For All, established the floating library twenty-three years ago with the sponsorship of businesses around the world. Staff of the 83-year-old ship, with its *Guinness book of records* listing as the world's oldest active passenger ship, say that the *MV Doulos* aims to encourage international friendship.

Library banishment

Paul Lampathakis, *The Sound Telegraph*, 27 August 1997

The families of people who don't return books to Rockingham WA libraries could be banned from borrowing to combat book losses which cost ratepayers \$6500 last financial year.

The aim of the strategy is to stop people with overdue books from borrowing on other people's cards — but it is hoped that the rule will rarely need to be enforced because the threat of having the whole family banned will encourage borrowers to return or pay for overdue books. A month-long 'book amnesty' will launch the initiative, during which offenders can return overdue books without being fined, no questions asked.

Touch screen solves parenting problems

The Narrogin Observer, 10 September 1997

Family and Children Services have put a 'touch screen' in the Narrogin Library to answer parents' questions at the touch of a button. The touch screen allows parents to select an age group they wish to get information about and choose what subject they would like. They can then print off any helpful information. The touch screen will be travelling to all Western Australia towns with Family and Children Services branches.

Libraries turn over new leaf with funding

Community News, 23 September 1997

The Victorian State Government has recently introduced triennial funding and service agreements for public libraries.

The aim, says Tullamarine MP Bernie Finn, is to remove 'the element of funding uncertainty', and will allow libraries to map out their futures. 'Libraries can now operate with guaranteed core funding for three years', said Mr Finn, adding that the service agreements were 'the biggest development in government funding for public libraries since grants were introduced fifty years ago'.

Mundubbera news

Maryborough Chronicle, 2 October 1997

A three-year program is providing \$2.3 million

5:00pm (meeting and party). \$7.50 ALIA/PLM members, \$10 non-members. Bookings: Alan Howell, 02 9273 1679, ahowell@ilanet.slnsw.gov.au.

• **26/11 NSW Special Libraries section.** Librarian's libations and networking. Join us at the Wentworth, Garden Court Bar, Level 5, for networking and drinks. 5:30pm onwards, everyone welcome! No need to RSVP. Contact: Yasna Palaysa, ph 02 9228 5107.

• **30/11 Hunter Regional group meeting.** Christmas function. For further details contact: Mrs Judith McLean, ph 02 4926 7267, fx 02 4926 7324.

• **1/12 NSW School Libraries section seasonal function:** Executive meeting 5:30–6pm, function 6–9pm. Contact: Andrew Barber, ph 02 9519 1544, fx 02 9519 1657.

• **1/12 Far North Coast Regional Group.** End-of-year party. Details: TBA. Contact: Glenda Kimmins, ph 02 6620 3181, fx 02 6620 3875, gkimmins@scu.edu.au.

• **3/12 NSW Health Libraries section.** Marketing and income generation — food for thought. Royal Women's Hospital, Medical Library, Barker Street, Randwick (near roundabout), 5:30 for 6pm. All welcome. Contact: Kaye Lee, ph 02 9267 6936, fax 02 9767 7630, klee@lib.crg.csnsw.gov.au.

• **10/12 NSW Special Libraries section.** Christmas cheer at Christensens. Christensens, 45 Phillip Street, Sydney. \$10 members, \$15 non-members, 5pm. Contact: Therese Bendeich, fx 02 9284 9358, therese@westpac.com.au. Cheques made payable to: ALIA NSW Special Libraries.

10/12 Insearch/Knight-Ridder Information Seminars. Introductory DIALOG. Sydney contact: 02 9212 2867, krinfo.ans@uts.edu.au.

• **15/12 NSW Cataloguers section.** AGM and Speaker on developments with AACR. Details: TBA. Contact: Sue Thomas, ph 02 9230 1489, fx 02 9221 5260, sthomas@ilanet.slnsw.gov.au.

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for sixty public library Internet accesses across Queensland. Delivery of hardware to equip these sites will begin in November.

Mundubbera Shire Council agreed to contribute \$2000 towards the \$5000 project and is now looking into placement of the workstation and furniture requirements.

Vatican gift takes pride of place at Notre Dame

Joe Poprzeczny, *The Sunday Times*,
28 September 1997

A gift from the Vatican, the biggest book in the University of Notre Dame's library was written by a man who lived from AD 127 to 151. Claudius Ptolemy's famous book, *Guide to Geography*, reached Europe in the 1400s, boosting interest in mapping, discovery, astronomy and navigation.

The leather-bound Vatican facsimile carries a series of coloured maps and pages of columns showing latitudes and longitudes of 8000 places in the then-known world.

\$500 000 starts agreement

Caulfield/Glen Eira Leader, 29 September 1997

The Glen Eira Library Service has received a grant of almost \$500 000 as part of Victoria's statewide boost to public libraries.

Caulfield MLA Helen Shardey presented the cheque to Mayor Alan Grosshard, acting CEO Andrew Newton and senior librarian Sue Webster. Mrs Shardey said that the increased grants were proof of the government's support of public libraries.

Age no barrier to learning to surf the Net

Jonathan Granger, *The Canberra Times*,
6 October, 1997

Canberra's senior citizens are now able to surf the Internet, with the launching of the new Seniors Internet Centre at Woden Public Library. ACT chief minister Kate Carnell said, 'The centre is non-confrontational, with no competition for the computers by young people.'

Library access boosted

Whitehorse Gazette, 8 October 1997

Whitehorse residents will soon be able to access their own library records and the entire library catalogue via the Internet — in the comfort of their own homes. In addition to free public Internet access and word-processing facilities at all branches, the Whitehorse Manningham Regional Library Corporation's new computer system enables people to access details on the half a million items available at the seven regional libraries from the comfort of home or work.

Wired for a new age

Janine Sim-Jones, *The Herald Sun* (Melbourne),
14 October 1997

School communities will join a state-wide working bee on 15 November as part of NetDay Victoria. NetDay Victoria is a campaign to attract community and corporate sponsors to give the State's students the best Internet access in Australia.

Parents, teachers and information technology professionals will install network cable and access points at 100 schools — and have set the ball rolling for more schools to come online at a series of NetDay events around the state.

Fran reads into the future

Tracey Joynson, *The Herald Sun* (Melbourne),
14 October 1997

Fran Awcock, the new State Library of Victoria chief, is building on the library's business information service. Under a plan which would lift the value of library services, Ms Awcock said executives could nominate topics for research and pay librarians to prepare summaries on them. Ms Awcock said that the plan was part of a library push to ensure it remained relevant, citing national research which showed that while fifty per cent of Australians regularly visited a library, these users did not include professionals in their 30s and 40s.

Library boss to 'foster our culture'

Sarah Thomas, *The Advertiser* (Adelaide),
18 September 1997

Ms Robyn Collins, currently director of the State Library in Tasmania, has recently been appointed as the new director of the State Library of South Australia. She sees her challenge in SA as being able to balance the demands of the electronic age with the need to preserve culture.

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QLD

• **10/11 Qld Branch Council meeting.** Convention Centre, 4:45pm, observers welcome. Contact: Robyn Gattera, ph 07 3403 5938.

• **10/11-8/12 Qld Library Technician section meetings.** State Library of Qld, Metway Theatre, 5:30pm (unless advised otherwise). 10/11 — bring a Library Technician; 8/12 — AGM and Christmas lunch (venue: TBA). Contact: Heather Gray, ph 07 3226 6184.

• **12/11 Qld Branch.** Kerry Smith, ALIA president on *What did ALIA do for us this year?* 5:30 for 6pm, venue to be decided. Contact: Janice Rickards, ph 07 3875 7134, j.rickards@ins.gu.edu.au. RSVP 7/11.

13-14/11 ILANET Courses — Searching Australian Databases — morning (13/11), Internet course — afternoon (13/11), Searching International Databases I (14/11). Course outlines and bookings, ph 1800 801 659, ilanet@ilanet.slnsw.gov.au.

17-21/11 Insearch/Knight-Ridder Information Seminars. DIALOG Web Workshop (17/11 pm), Introductory DIALOG (19/11), Beyond the Basics (21/11). Brisbane contact: 02 9212 2867, krinfo.aus@uts.edu.au.

• **21/11 Qld Special Libraries section.** *Continuing education survey form due* — be in the running to win the mystery prize to be drawn at the AGM. Help us to plan continuing education events for 1998! Contact: Meg Jones, ph 07 3269 7457.

• **21/11 Qld Special Libraries section.** *Nominations for 1998 committee due.* All Specials are encouraged to consider nominating for the committee. New members needed! Join us in 1998! Contact: Jane Simon, ph 07 3275 6261.

• **27/11 Qld Special Libraries section.** *Annual General Meeting.* All welcome. COTAH Skyline Restaurant, South Brisbane. 6pm, \$18 members, \$20 non-members. Contact: to Helen Laurel, ph 07 3848 3980. Book early! RSVP 10/11.

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