

Making news around Australia

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

Online program will link to the world

Fran Voss, *The Examiner*, 22 October 1997

Up to seventy regional Tasmanian communities will soon be connected directly to the world from their public library via the Communities Online program.

Communities Online, which will provide free community internet training and access through the State Library system, was developed from Premier Tony Rundle's Directions Statement earlier this year.

The program was launched in the Devonport Library yesterday when Tasmanian teachers and library staff were addressed by the creators of the successful New Brunswick, Canada program, Connect NB. Connect NB was developed in Canada in response to regional need. David Roberts, one of the Connect NB creators, said, 'We were primarily a forestry and fishing-based economy. When the resources dwindled there was a need to find other avenues of employment. Information technology was ideal but was developed in the three major centres while rural areas were being ignored.'

Jennings tops the poll in lending

Bob Hefner, *The Sunday Canberra Times*, 9 November 1997

Public Lending Right (PLR) payments totalling \$4.754 million were made to eligible Australian authors and publishers in June for 1996-97, according to the annual report of the Public Lending Right Committee.

PLR compensates authors and publishers for copies of their books held in public libraries. The rate per copy of each eligible book rose to \$1.19 for authors (from \$1.173) and to \$0.297 for publishers (from \$0.293).

Committee chairman Warren Horton said that while the Committee was disappointed that the Education Lending Right was not implemented, they were 'delighted with the Government's announcement that the decision to reduce the eligibility years of a book in

the PLR from 50 to 25 years would not proceed.'

The majority of claims by authors were in the \$50 to \$300 range, with the highest claims in the \$25 000 to \$30 000 range. The highest-scoring book was Paul Jennings' *Unbelievable! More surprising stories*.

Library warned about document theft risk

Joe Poprzeczny, *The Sunday Times*, 9 November 1997

A Notre Dame University academic who has had a long association with WA archives warned in May of the possibility of rare documents being pilfered. Details of the warning surfaced after it was revealed that twenty-six folios of documents on the 1885 murder in Roehampton of two bank officers, Thomas Anketell and Henry Burrup, are missing.

Historian, Professor Les Marchant, prepared a report on the State Library's geographical and historical collection and warned of a need for more thought on its access policy.

He said it was known some people sanitised material so that records reflected their beliefs. However, Professor Marchant also said that there are other reasons for people removing books or culling records.

'The essential point is that in both unusual political times and normal times, public librarians have a duty to protect the state-funded collection', he said.

Secrecy charge denied over tender for new Maleny Library

The Hinterland Shire Steering Committee has clashed with Caloundra City Council over the tender process for the Maleny Library.

The tender to renovate the old Coral Street fruit shed into the town's new library closed two weeks ago and is expected to be awarded by the end of the month. Hinterland Shire Steering committee chairman John Chiarotto has questioned the council's decision to not open the tenders in public.

Maleny councillor Ian Bryce said council's tendering process had been followed completely. He said that council only opened tenders in public when they were for major works and worth millions of dollars. The refurbishment and fit-out of the Maleny Library was expected to cost \$400 000 with an additional cost for the book stock and Internet/computer set-up. Work on the library is expected to start before Christmas.

People have their say on future of library

Border Mail, 22 October 1997

The Upper Murray regional Library Service has asked the public to determine how services will be provided in the future. The library, which services Albury-Wodonga and the shires of Towong, Indigo, Hume, Tumbarumba, Holbrook, Urana and Corowa, is under review.

Dr Veronica Lunn, who is conducting the review, said sixty people attended the meeting in Albury on Sunday. The meeting 'gave residents the opportunity to register their needs as library users and an opportunity to have some input as to how the service should be provided', Dr Lunn said, adding that for more than fifty years the library's model was one of cross-border co-ordination and provision of services to far-flung areas.

Dr Lunn said the review would also examine ways of retaining Albury council support.

Resource boost for shire library

Ken Utting, *Harvey Australind Reporter*, 14 October 1997

The Harvey Shire library service now has a language learning resource centre.

A \$10 000 grant from the office of Multicultural Interests and the Lotteries Commission has enabled the purchase of two computers, five interactive cassette players, and a number of interactive CD roms, books and dictionaries.

Shire president Jim Offer launched the resource centre at the Harvey Li-

brary recently, saying, 'It is not the first time our principal librarian has obtained grants which have been of great benefit to our libraries'.

Tearful farewell to the round reading room

The West Australian, 27 October 1997

An academic who wrote her first book beneath its expansive dome, a biographer who built his working life around its opening times, and a historian who met her husband by its book shelves were among those who came to say a final farewell on Saturday to the British Library's round reading room.

Young scholars and old book lovers gathered with tearful staff to wait for the final bell signalling the end of the room's 140-year history as a haven for researchers and writers. The room will become a cultural centre and open to visitors to the British Museum, in which it is housed. Among those who read, studied and wrote there since 1857 were Mahatma Gandhi, George Bernard Shaw, Rudyard Kipling and Karl Marx.

Migrant struggles recorded in book

Canning Community, 28 October 1997

A Vietnamese woman has written a book which she hopes will promote greater cultural understanding.

Emily Thai, of Victoria Park, said she took on the challenge because Vietnamese culture was often difficult for outsiders to understand.

Her book, *Silent Echoes*, gives rare insight into the lives of 14 Vietnamese women migrants who have settled in Perth over the past twenty years. It tells of the cultural barriers they faced and the way they came terms with their uncertain futures.

Ms Thai, a former Saigon High School teacher and social worker, came to Perth in the mid 1970s. She spoke fluent French as well as Vietnamese, but very little English. She

came to Australia because Vietnamese authorities told her that Australians spoke French. She was shocked when she arrived and heard the broad Australian accent.

Undaunted, she enrolled at Curtin University and completed a graduate diploma in library studies. She then worked for Perth TAFE and the City of Perth, where she initiated and ran a library education service to help migrant students learn English.

USQ blames Internet for demise of its publishing arm

Dorothy Illing, *The Australian*, 5 November 1997

University of Southern Queensland Press is to shut down after twenty-one years as the decline in university publishing continues. It will be the fourth university press to close since the early 1980s.

University deputy vice-chancellor said the press had been operating at a loss and that times were hard for university presses generally, with strong competition from other media, particularly the Internet.

Library focuses on adult literacy

Area News — Griffith, 17 October 1997

The Griffith City Library now has available for borrowing a new series of videos, titled *The reading writing roadshow*.

This series of twenty videos aims to teach literacy to Australians with English-speaking background who already have some specified skills in reading, writing and numeracy. It can also be used by non-English-speaking background users who can already cope with everyday Australian English.

Each program has a drama segment, constructed around three principal characters, plus documentary and comedy segments. The programs use everyday language and feature real-life stories. Topics include food labels, paying bills, workplace forms, newspapers, instructions, timetables and job applications. ■

New titles from the CIS

Introduction to information management

edited by

MICHAEL BRITTAIN

A challenging text aimed at students and practitioners, with distinguished contributors from Australia and the UK.

\$50.00 plus \$5.00 p&p

Disaster recovery for archives, libraries and records management systems in Australia and New Zealand

by

JUDITH DOIG

Detailed and invaluable book on disaster recovery planning.

\$40.00 plus \$5.00 p&p

The adolescent novel: Australian perspectives

by

MAUREEN NIMON and JOHN FOSTER

A pioneering study of the modern Australian novel, including essays on 15 prominent authors.

\$30.00 plus \$5.00 p&p

Religion and theology: A guide to current reference resources

by

LAWRENCE McINTOSH

International in scope but with particular attention to information needs in Australia and New Zealand. Over 650 titles, with annotations.

\$40.00 plus \$5.00 p&p

DDC 21 workbook

by

SYDNEY DAVIS

Practical introduction to Dewey Edition 21, from an author who has previously published workbooks with the CIS and with OCLC/Forest Press.

\$20.00 plus \$5.00 p&p

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