

play. Unusual and interesting special libraries in the Adelaide area display their work. Contact: Clare Aitken, ph 08 8303 8859, clarea@cobweb.com.au.

• **27/10 SA Special Libraries section** *Conference dinner*. This will be held in conjunction with the Health Libraries section and is intended to welcome interstate visitors for the Biennial Conference. Contact: Clare Aitken, ph 08 8303 8859, clarea@cobweb.com.au.

• **2/12 SA Special Libraries section** *AGM*. Contact: Clare Aitken, ph 08 8303 8859, clarea@cobweb.com.au.

Tas

• **20/5 Tas Branch**. Marion Jameson, Allport librarian, 1997 Sir John Morris Memorial Fund travelling scholarship report. Venue: Allport Library, State Library, 91 Murray Street, Hobart, 5:30pm. Contact: Meredith Newman, ph 03 6232 5258, fx 03 6232 5103, newmanm@h130.aone.net.au. *RSVP by 15/5*.

31/5 Applications close – Sir John Morris Memorial Trust Fund Travelling Scholarship — furthering the knowledge and skills of Tasmanians working in library, archives and related fields. Contact: The Secretary, State Library and Archives Trust, 91 Murray Street, Hobart 7000, ph 03 6233 6815, fx 03 6231 0927, Bridget.Hutton@central.tased.edu.au

15-16/6 The Dialog Corporation *Update 98: what's happening with Dialog?* Seminars on business, patents, health/medical and sciences. Training courses. Contact: Haydn Glick, ph 02 9299 6767.

Vic

• **5/5 Vic Branch**. *AGM*. Village Roadshow Theatre, SLVic, 5:30 for 6pm. The launch of ALW in Victoria will follow this meeting. *RSVP* for catering purposes to the Victorian Branch Local Presence officer, ph 03 9513 4866, fx 03 9315 3533, ibloc@vicnet.net.au.

• **6/5 Vic Special Libraries section**. *Tour of CSIRO Molecular Science Library*, 343 Royal Parade, Parkville, 12:30-1:30pm. *BYO Lunch*, tea and coffee provided. Contact: Tim Suttie, ph 03 9662 7243, fx 03 9662 7220, Tim.Suttie@molsci.csiro.au. *RSVP by 4/5*.

• **7/5 Vic Library Technicians section** *DW Thorpe Inc and the services they provide for libraries*. Karen Hewitt, DW Thorpe, Bibliographic Services Unit. 6 for 6:30pm, RMIT Library's seminar room 1, Building 8, Swanston Street, Melbourne. \$1 ALIA members, \$5 non-members, refreshments provided. *RSVP*: Kerrie Kelly, ph 03 9669 9037, kernek@slv.vic.gov.au

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Australian Library Schools' Forum goes online

Dr Kirsty Williamson, executive officer, Australian Library Schools' Forum

On 9 October 1997, following the ALIA Forum, the inaugural meeting of the Australian Library Schools' Forum (ALSF) was held in Canberra. It was the initiative of Professor Don Schauder, of Monash University and Dr Kirsty Williamson, who is a member of the academic staff of both the Department of Information Management and Systems at Monash University and the School of Information Studies at Charles Sturt University.

Library schools were contacted in early September 1997 to propose that we meet to initiate co-operation amongst them. The forum was held to capitalise on the enthusiasm expressed by the schools for this initiative.

The forum was attended by representatives of almost all the library schools in Australia. The University of Canberra hosted the meeting and provided a very comfortable venue. The meeting was chaired by Professor Don Schauder.

To begin the forum a representative of each school provided an overview of the schools' place in the academic structure and its involvement in flexible delivery.

Dr Harry Bruce of the University of Technology, reported on a research initiative aimed at stimulating co-operation. Harry has applied to the Australian Research Council under the Special Research Initiatives Program. A number of universities involved in the research are Monash University, University of New South Wales, University of Canberra and Charles Sturt University. In brief, the process includes establishing: an e-mail Listserv or Web-based interactive environment; a research retreat at each institution, to develop a research profile for the school; a research retreat and seminar hosted by the University of Technology, Sydney to articulate a progressive research agenda for information studies in Australia — the retreat will include an invited prominent researcher to provide an international perspective; and a conference which will formalise and express the articulated research agenda.

The meeting agreed that this process should be implemented, regardless of whether the grant application is successful and should include all schools interested in being involved.

There was too little time to explore fully the possibilities of the collaborative offering

of higher degrees by course-work. There was support for the mutual recognition of subjects across schools. It was suggested that schools should offer their more unusual subjects to students throughout Australia. This would mean that students enrolled at Edith Cowan could take a subject, not available at their own institution, which was offered by the University of South Australia, for example. Subjects would mostly need to be available in distance mode. However, it could be that a student living in Sydney, but enrolled at Charles Sturt University, might decide to take a campus-based subject at University of Technology, Sydney.

There was strong support for an on-going educators' forum. It was agreed that the purpose would be: To advance education and research in librarianship in the third millennium through: subject exchange and development; grant-based and commissioned research; publishing (print and electronic); educational and research events; advocacy for librarianship education and research; marketing; and an Australian and international profile.

Bob Moore from Charles Sturt University offered to set up a Listserv to facilitate discussion and the implementation of the decisions. It was agreed that Don Schauder would be the chair of the forum and that Kirsty Williamson would be the executive officer.

After a convivial lunch in the University of Canberra's Balcony Restaurant, a delegation made their way to ALIA House, to report to the ALIA Board of Education which was conducting a full-day meeting. The Board expressed strong support for the venture.

One of the issues raised with the ALIA Board of Education was the problem of DEETYA weightings for LIS subjects. ALIA has made several attempts to lobby the Federal Government about this. It was suggested that, if the forum wanted to make another attempt, ALIA would provide support.

The next meeting of the forum will be held at the ALIA Conference, in Adelaide in October 1998.

All educators in the field of library and information studies are welcome to join the forum. Details of how to join the Listserv can be obtained from Kirsty Williamson (e-mail: kwilliamson@csu.edu.au). ■