

Making news around Australia

Selected reprints from newspapers and magazines in recent months

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• **11/12 Vic Branch/ACLIS.** *VicLIS Forum Christmas party...* watch for further details and flyer for RSVP and venue details. \$15 members, \$30 non-members. Contact: Jo Marshall, marshallj@wehi.edu.au

22-25/2/99 Australian Society of Indexers. *Back of the book indexing.* ACER Conference Room, 19 Prospect Hill Road, Camberwell. Cost: \$250 (\$225 for ASI members). Contact: Max McMaster, ph/fx 03 9571 6341, mindexer@interconnect.com.au

WA

• **4/11 WA Local Studies section AGM.** *Guest speaker: Dr Jan Ryan on Chinese immigration in Western Australia.* Venue: Chung Wah Association, Northbridge. A tour of Chung Wah will follow the meeting. Contact: Julie Zuve-la, ph 08 9386 6230, jzuevela@nedlands.wa.gov.au

• **16/11 WA Special Libraries section.** *Committee meetings.* 5:30-6:30pm. Venue: To be advised. Contact: Ling Heang ph 0418 941 861, HEANGSL@bigfoot.co

• **17/11 WA Library Technicians section meeting.** *AGM and dinner.* Venue: LISWA at 5:30pm. Contact: Wendy Monaghan, ph 08 9427 3267, fx 08 9427 3256, wmonaghan@mail.liswa.wa.gov.au

18-20/11 Train the internet trainer. *Nationally recognised short course from the Internet Training Institute.* Perth contact: Else Paeglis, ph 1800 039 098, info@iti.com.au URL <http://www.iti.com.au/TTT/>

• **10/12 WA Branch.** *End of year function and continuing professional development.* Library's, librarians and me. Guest speaker: Author Glyn Parry. Venue: Rosie O'Grady's, Northbridge, 6-7:30pm, cost: \$8 ALIA members, \$10 non-members. Contact: Denise Barker, bellib@starwon.com.au

National

27-29/1/99 The History Institute Vic. *Summer School of Historical Research.* 3-day course for researchers: visit archival repositories in learn information access, develop research skills, specialist archivists. Cost: \$250 (all three days), \$100 (selected days). Details: History Institute, 254 Faraday Street, Carlton 3053. Ph/fx 03 9344 6209.

27-29/8/99 Australian Society of Indexers. *Second International Confer-*

Intellectual infrastructure under threat by Shelly Simonds, *ANU Reporter*, Volume 29, No 14, 23 September 1998

The falling dollar has caused a major crisis for Australian university libraries, forcing them to cancel nearly \$7 million in subscriptions to over-seas publications.

The falling exchange rate combined with rising prices has forced the ANU Library to cut about \$800 000 of overseas serials subscriptions this year, librarian Colin Steele said. The cuts have been most severe in the sciences. By the end of 1998, more than a third of biomedical publications will be discontinued, and about a quarter of all serials received by ANU will be discontinued and about a quarter of all serials received in science, law and economics will be cancelled.

'The major research collections in this country are housed at universities and the CSIRO and they are being devastated.' Mr Steele said. 'The intellectual infrastructure of this country is under serious threat'.

The ANU has joined other Australian universities and the CSIRO to form a 'fighting fund' and develop strategic and business plans for national initiatives. The group will also attempt to increase public awareness of the problems facing Australia's intellectual infrastructure.

'No one university can solve this problem alone. We must form national and international initiatives to tackle it', Mr Steele said.

Australian universities are facing a triple-whammy of funding cuts, a rise in the cost of serials, and the weak dollar.

The full text of this article can be found at <http://www.anu.edu.au/pad/ANURep/V29-14/library.html>

Brought to book
Eureka Street, July/August 1998

Colin Steele raises similar concerns in his article which appears in the July/August edition of *Eureka Street*. According to Mr Steele, an intellectual time bomb is ticking away beneath the surface - affecting not only the research community but also the nation's access to a wide range of information.

Busy postgrad students demand change
Campus Review, 16-22 September 1998

The changing profile of postgraduate students has challenged the way universities deliver programs and the way they organise support structures according to Mairéad Browne, dean of the University Graduate School at the University of Technology, Syd-

ney. The assumption that postgraduate students are 22-year-old male scholarship holders studying full-time for a degree in science is quite wrong.

Professor Browne said that keeping university offices open outside of normal house would not generally be a viable proposition, but alternative channels of communication - fax and e-mail for example - could be better utilised to assist students.

To help alleviate the problems faced by those working and studying, the University of Technology Sydney is redesigning and upgrading the school's website. The project is planned to include chat lines and a facility for the electronic submission of administrative forms.

Worrying statistics in Western Australia by Gay McNamara, *The West Australian*, 7 October 1998

West Australians make the fewest visits to public libraries according to a recent report by the Australian Bureau of Statistics. And according to the statistics it is the those in their late teens as well as those aged between twenty and thirty who have deserted public libraries.

State Librarian, Lyn Allen, disputes the figures and argues that maintaining loans was more relevant than visits. West Australians actually borrow about eight books per person each year - about one book more than New South Wales readers.

To combat falling visitor numbers, public libraries in the state are implementing online programs to help attract younger people to the libraries. Most libraries have internet access, and are moving towards on-line catalogues. There are plans to include reference material on-line, but Ms Allen believes that publishers will be reluctant to allow free on-line access to fiction.

\$1.8m funding for library internet terminals
Shepparton News, 25 September 1998

A \$1.8m internet program has been announced by Alan Stockdale, Victorian minister for information technology and multimedia. 'Libraries' online' will double the number of public access internet terminals throughout Victoria's public libraries.

The \$1.8 million will also be used to explore ways of providing continuous on-line access to library services; look at the use of satellite technology to improve the quality and speed of internet access; and investigate using technology to make internet access easier for the disadvantaged, the disabled,

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and elderly Victorians, as well as those who use languages other than English.

Bayside libraries are the best in the state
The Advertiser Brighton/Sandrigham
5 October 1998

Bayside Library Service has been recognised as one of the best library services in the state in the recent 1998 Arts Victoria Local Government and Arts Leadership Awards. The Service won a Best Practice Management of a Library Service award in recognition of its innovative programs to support arts and culture in Bayside and the strong links the libraries have with the community.

Apple seeks to escape cyberspace
Helene Zampetakis, *The Financial Review*,
1 October 1998

Apple Corp has developed tools to suck people out of cyberspace and put them back into the real world. The technology includes interactive computer screens, a search engine that responds to descriptions instead of keywords and tools that encourage conversation over the internet.

But the market is not ready for these tools, according to Dr Kristina Woolsey, a scientist with the company. Dr Woolsey said the challenge has become how to use computational technology to enhance the real world.

Technology has the potential to offer everyone access to 'the world's treasure troves'. It could help distribute information and break down barriers, however it could also entrench inequity by consolidating power in the hands of those who controlled the business.

Dr Woolsey was in Melbourne recently to deliver a keynote address at the Apple university Consortium Conference.

Books dive with dollar
by Jane Albert, *The Australian*,
30 September 1998

The weak Australian dollar and rising overseas prices have forced university libraries to cancel subscriptions according to a survey conducted by the Council of Australian University Librarians. In most cases, the faculty of science was the hardest hit.

Library access easier
The Canberra Times, 28 September 1998

A new terminal connectivity product is making access to the resources of the National Library of Australia easier. Hummingbird HostExplorer, allows on-line access to the national database and other sections of the library. The HostExplorer is being used to

connect remote users to the library's Australian Bibliographic Network through an IBM mainframe.

La Trobe urged to open up
by Michael Geary, *Preston Post Times*,
16 September 1998

The North East Corridor Strategic Plan, has recommended opening the La Trobe University library to Darebin residents. The study, commissioned by Darebin Council, considers development options for the city's north.

The report identifies a lack of library facilities in the surrounding area and suggests that the university library could be used by local secondary schools, and perhaps opened to the general public.

Bill Clinton netted
The Sydney Morning Herald,
18 September 1998

When the allegations of Paula Jones against president Clinton were first made public, the mainstream media in the United States disregarded them. It was not until the publication of 'The Drudge Report' on the internet that the mainstream media took the allegations seriously. The publication of the report on the internet seriously hurt president Clinton — once the report was on-line it was impossible to control the flow of information.

The internet allows readers to process the information, and it defeats censorship by interest groups. This was the motivation behind the decision to place the Starr report on the internet.

Given the damage done to his reputation, it is ironic that president Clinton has been a strong believer that the internet should be free from government regulation, advocating instead the use of filtering software.

Library a 'disgrace'
by Peter Caton, *Daily News Tweed Heads*,
5 September 1998

Deputy Mayor of the Tweed Shire Council has stated that the Tweed Heads Library is the worst in New South Wales — citing the fact that the library has the lowest number of books per capita in the State.

The Council recently voted unanimously to spend \$1.22 million to build and equip a new library. The new building will triple the size of the existing library.

A survey of the local population is being conducted to gauge levels of community satisfaction with the library service. Both library users and non-users will be surveyed. ■

ence, *The August Indexer*. Hobart, Tasmania. Call for papers. Contact: Max McMaster, ph/fx 03 9571 6341, mindexer@interconnect.com.au

Conference

• **19-21/1/99 Information Online and On Disc 99 conference.** *Strategies for the next millennium*. ALIA Information Science Section. Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre, Darling Harbour. Contact: Wael Foda, ACMS, ph 02 9332 4622, fx 02 9332 4066, online99@acms.com.au, <http://www.csu.edu.au/special/online99/>.

• **22-26/8/99 8th Asian Pacific Special Health and Law Librarians Conference.** *Strait to the future*. Wrest Point Hotel Casino, Hobart. Contact: Mures Convention Management, Victoria Dock, Hobart 7000, ph 03 6234 1424, 03 6234 4464, conventions@mures.com.au URL <http://www.alia.org.au/conferences/strait/>

• **6-8/9/99 Reference and Information Service section conference.** *1999 and Beyond — Partnerships and Paradigms*. Venue: Hilton Hotel, Sydney. Contact: ACMS — Conventions & Exhibitions Pty Ltd, PO Box 468, Paddington 2021, ph 02 9332 4622, fx 02 9332 4066, raiss99@acms.com.au, <http://www.csu.edu.au/special/raiss99/>.

• **8-10/9/99 10th National Library Technician section Conference.** Theme: *Projections Reflections*. Venue: The Esplanade Hotel, Fremantle. Contact: Anne Nicolay, Keynote Conferences, PO Box 1126, West Leederville 6001, ph 08 9382 3799, fx 08 9380 4006, keynote@ca.com.au

• **13-15/10/99 13th National Cataloguing Conference.** Theme: *Charting the Information Universe*. Place: Brisbane. Venue: To be advised. More details to follow.

• **14-17/11/99 1999 Public Librarians Conference.** Place: Perth. Contact: Promaco Pty Ltd, ph 08 9364 8311, fx 08 9316 1453, promaco@promaco.com.au

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