

Making news around Australia

Selected reprints from newspapers and magazines in recent months

• **Feb 1999 VICLIS Forum.** *CPD brainstorming and planning session.* Please prepare suggestions for events that you would like to attend in 1999. [date to be announced].

22-25/2/1999 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

• **10/12 WA Branch.** *CPD committee.* End of 1998 function and student focus group night. Guest speaker: Glyn Parry on "Libraries and Librarians I have known". Rosie O'Grady's, James Street, Northbridge, 5:30 for 6pm, members/students \$10.00, non-members \$12.00. Contact: Denise Barker ph 08 9478 0261, bellib@starwon.com.au RSVP by 23/11.

National

27-29/1/99 The History Institute Vic. *Summer School of Historical Research.* three-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.

27-29/8/1999 Australian Society of Indexers. *Second International Conference, 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/

• **22-26/8/1999 8th Asian Pacific Special Health and Law Librarians Conference.** *Strait to the future.* Wrest Point Hotel Casino, Hobart. Contact: Mures Convention

Busy library bigger

South West News, 9 September 1998

Brisbane Lord Mayor Jim Sorley has re-opened the Indooroopilly Library after a \$1.2 million revamp and new location. The busiest library in Brisbane, Indooroopilly, draws 40 000 visitors a month.

The revamp is part of a \$8.5 million project to enhance libraries throughout Brisbane as community centres.

Indooroopilly has been expanded to include free internet access, CD-ROMs, word-processing facilities, a community meeting room with after hours access, after hours book return, display areas and study and lounge facilities.

IBM seer predicts revolution

by Mark Hollands, *The Australian*, 15 September 1998

Gary Cohen is paid by the world's biggest computer company to predict the events of tomorrow. 'I see fundamental change,' says Cohen of IBM.

Convergence was inevitable and it was likely telecommunications companies will prime themselves to become content providers.

Another important factor will be the successful roll-out of Internet2 — an American project in which 125 universities are linked to a high-speed network that can transfer data up to 100 times faster than the World Wide Web.

History suggest Internet2 will overreach the logical expectations that will be set for it.

Locals comment on how to improve library services

North West Express, 10 September, 1998

The Mildura Rural City Council's libraries management service is due to go to tender and local groups have participated in developing specifications and commenting on how service levels can be approved.

Victorian councils are now required to 'market test' or tender out fifty per cent of their functions.

Library issues raised included: the need for improved children's access; the need to promote usage to men and the elderly; visits by authors; and the need for a book return bin

Maitland's grief recorded

Maitland Mercury, 3 September 1998

A record of the outpouring of grief and sorrow from Maitland people at the news of the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, will be kept at Maitland City Library.

Member for Maitland Peter Blackmore presented a book of thousands of condolence sheets which contain personal messages penned by residents upon hearing about the Diana's death.

Mr Blackmore said the record would serve as evidence for future generations of the significance of the Princess in our times and people could look back at messages penned by their grandparents.

Intellectual rip-off

The Sydney Morning Herald, 18 September 1998

Many Australian companies did not take their intellectual property seriously and could be losing millions of dollars by not protecting trade secrets, a survey says. A PricewaterhouseCoopers survey of 159 chief executives found more than one-third had experienced at least one loss incident.

Free library opposed

The Toowoomba Chronicle, 16 September 1998

Toowoomba City Council will fight a proposed 'free library service' policy which could see it lose \$32 000 a year.

The policy, drafted by the Library Board of Queensland, means councils such as Toowoomba could no longer charge residents from nearby shires to use their library services.

Free library services were a major part of society's investment in democracy and user-pay systems limited access to information — but the Council disagreed and described the policy as 'unfair'.

Cr Sue Englart said Toowoomba ratepayers had to pay to keep the library while non-ratepayers paid nothing. 'It's wrong,' she said. Several other councillors agreed with her and will write to the Board outlining their concerns.

La Trobe urged to open up

by Michael Geary, *Preston Post Times*, 16 September 1998

A study has recommended opening-up La Trobe University library and other university facilities to Darebin residents.

The study, commissioned by Darebin Council, identified a lack of library facilities in the surrounding area. The library could be used by secondary schools and perhaps be opened to the general public.

The report recommended the provision of night school and adult education facilities, maximising existing educational space at the university beyond normal academic hours should be considered.

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A university spokesman said it would be inappropriate to comment at this stage as he had not seen the report.

Library access easier

The Canberra Times, 28 September 1998

Remote users are finding it easier to access the resources of the National Library of Australia thanks to the new terminal connectivity product from Hummingbird Communications.

The product, HostExplorer, allow on-line access to the national database, production of library catalogues, electronic messaging and the customising of subject bibliographies.

Library friends attack book tax

Whitehorse Post, 23 September 1998

The Friends of Nunawading Libraries (FOLN) has hit out at the Federal Government's plans to impose a Goods and Service Tax on printed material.

FOLN said it was dismayed to find the Government's proposed new tax would apply at the full rate to all classes of books.

'This practice is almost unheard of in civilised countries', FOLN said. 'Overseas experience shows that book sales drop at the same rate as prices rise.'

'In addition, with consumers' choice of ordering tax-free books over the internet, the Australian book trade, including authors, printers, publishers and retailers is going to be hit hard.'

'Given that nearly all libraries are on fixed-budget contracts, these costs will have to be covered by cuts in service.'

Library wins support

The Guardian, 23 September 1998

The CBD-based Swan Hill's library has won a huge vote of support from the public.

A proposal to relocate the library to the education precinct in the grounds of the secondary college has fallen from favour.

A recent survey of library customers revealed that fifty-six per cent would no longer use the library if it was relocated.

US to protect children on the net

The West Australian, 6 October 1998

A US Senate panel has approved the first legislation to protect the privacy of people using the internet.

It would require companies online to make 'any reasonable effort' to get parental consent before asking children under-13 for their names or e-mail address.

Under the Bill approved by the Senate Commerce Committee, the Federal Trade Commission would enforce the new privacy rules for children.

The Committee stripped from the Bill language imposing limits on what personal

information could be gathered about children aged from 13 to 17 years.

Deirdre Mulligan, of the Centre for Democracy and Technology, called the amended Bill a 'sensible approach to privacy that will ensure that Web sites targeting children collect sensitive personal information only when parents see fit, but it preserves the internet as a medium that kids can freely use to seek information'.

Federal regulators said that many companies were collecting personal information from children, sometimes asking them for their names and e-mail addresses using animated characters or an incentive to join a contest or play a game.

Tertiary study

Gympie Times, 1 October 1998

Tertiary study for thousands of Queenslanders is now as close as their local library. The Queensland Tertiary Admission Centre (QTAC), which administers entry to all public tertiary institutions in Queensland and Northern NSW, has formed a partnership with the Library Board of Queensland to use library facilities to assist applicants with on-line tertiary study applications.

With more than 130 libraries now added to the growing state-wide network of computers, applicants from ninety per cent of Queensland will benefit enormously through this QTAC and library initiative.

Benefits include increased application efficiency, reduced processing costs, forms not getting lost or delayed in the mail, instantaneous applications and acknowledgment of applications and free, up-to-date information on the latest courses and associated information.

Government threat to history

Geraldton Guardian, 19 October 1998

The oral histories of Western Australia have been put under threat by the Court Government's penny-pinching, according to Sheila McHale, the Labor spokeswoman for Arts and Heritage.

The Government has decided not to renew the contract of the Battye Library's Oral history Unit co-ordinator, Stuart Reid.

The move was condemned as short-sighted by local, state and national experts in oral histories.

Regions to get cheaper internet access

by Leonie Mellor, *The Advertiser*, 29 October 1998

South Australian rural communities will gain free access to the internet from public libraries by June next year.

The free access is part of a \$6 million joint enterprise between local government, public libraries and the SA Regional Development Association to improve telecommunications services to people in the country. ■



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Management, Victoria Dock, Hobart 7000, ph 03 6234 1424, 03 6234 4464, conventions@mures.com.au <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 ALIA National Library Technicians Conference. Projections/reflections.** Venue: The Esplanade hotel, Fremantle, WA. Contact: Keynote Conferences, PO Box 1126, West Leederville 6901, ph 08 9382 3799, fx 08 9380 4006, e-mail keynote@ca.com.au

• **13-15/10/99 13th National Cataloguing Conference. Charting the Information Universe.** Carlton Crest Hotel, Brisbane. Contact: Intermedia Convention and Event Management, ph 07 3369 0477, fx 07 3369 1512, cat99@im.com.au <http://www.alia.org.au/sections/cat/conferences/>

• **12-13/11/99 2nd National Local Studies Conference. Post haste the millennium: opportunities and challenges in local studies.** Contact National Local Studies Section, ph 08 9266 7712, fx 08 9266 3152

• **14-17/11/99 Public Libraries National Conference. How far have we come... How far can we go?** Perth. Contact: Promaco Conventions, ph 08 9332 2900, fx 08 9332 2911, e-mail promaco@promaco.com.au, <http://www.promaco.com.au>

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