

• **3/5 WA Branch.** Australian Library Week — Pinjarra coach tour. Departs Heritage House, Mends Street, South Perth, 8.30am. South of the river pickup point at Murdoch Park and Ride Station, 8.50am. Lunch included. Cost: ALIA members \$30, non-members \$35. RSVP: 22/4 to Jenni Woodroffe, 9/85 South Terrace Como, WA 6152 ph 08 9367 4759

• **8/5 ALIA WA Specials section.** Library week breakfast. Mystery Speaker. Venue: CoCo's, Southshore Centre, 85 The Esplanade, South Perth. Time: 7.30pm. Cost: \$20. RSVP: 6 May Natarsha Lakomski ph 9314 1695, cobrn3@icenet.com.au

• **30/3, 27/4, 25/5, 29/6, 27/7, 31/8, 28/9, 26/10, 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.com

Conferences

• **25–28/10 Adelaide 98 Pathways to knowledge** ALIA 5th Biennial Conference. Adelaide convention centre, South Australia. Contact Hartley management Group ph 08 8363 4399, fx 08 8363 4577, sgt@ozemail.com.au

• **19–21/1/99 Information Online and On Disc 99 conference.** The ninth Australasian Conference and Exhibition. 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.acms.com.au>

National

• **3–9/5 Australian Library Week.** Theme: Libraries, pathways to knowledge. Further information available from ALIA National Office, PO Box E441, Kingston 2604 ph 02 6285 1877, fx 02 6282 2249, enquiry@alia.org.au, <http://www.alia.org.au/alw>

All inCite Events are limited to 40 words maximum and must include: date, name of Division, title of event, theme and key speaker (if relevant), venue, time, costs, and a contact name with phone and fax numbers.

ALIA divisions should mail or fax details of forthcoming events to the address shown below, or use our website electronic form on ALIANet.

Non-ALIA entries: Send (at a cost of \$40 for 40 words) with your complete billing details to **inCite Events**, ALIA, PO Box E441, Kingston, ACT 2604; fax 02 6282 2249. An invoice will be sent to the address indicated with your entry. For a small additional cost, your event may be listed on our World Wide Web site. Please call for details.

• **bullets indicate activities organised by ALIA Divisions**

Sanderson wins first Australian Design Award

A webserver called Spydus, from Sanderson Computers, has won the first Australian Design Award in a new software/electronics category.

The Spydus world wide web interface provides a bridge between web browsers and the Sanderson UriCA Library System. It allows complete external access to a library's resources using the Internet.

Spydus is installed at fifteen sites in Australia, New Zealand and the United States of America, with another ten sites worldwide to be installed in the first half of 1998. Current installations include the State Library of New South Wales, Boroondara City Libraries and Glen Eira City Libraries in Victoria.

Terry Insley, director of the Australian Design Awards, described Spydus as an innovative and powerful interface which had advanced the art of large database access.

An independent industry judge, Julian Day, managing director of the International Software Evaluation Group, said: 'Spydus is a unique browser which provides an extensive search capability, ideal for access and retrieval of library information and materials. Its use could be deployed in many other applications where standard web search engines are inadequate.'

Spydus, which utilises web browsers such as Netscape and Microsoft Internet Explorer, allows free-text keyword searching on any required access point or combination. It also permits alphabetic browsing of authority headings and references, and retrieves records matching the user's search. Spydus supports multiple databases.

Records are formatted for display with embedded HTML tagging, while a hyperlink facility is used to enable navigation between records in the database and to other Internet resources.

Australian Design Award assessment criteria included functionality and design, software development environment, aesthetics and user-consideration. The seven judges were impressed by the software's installation at sites in the United States of America.

Spydus was developed by Sanderson Computers' software engineers Jack Smith and Julie McKay, who were presented with the Australian Design Award in January at the 1998 VALA Library Conference.

Spydus can be viewed at the Sanderson Computer Solutions Roadshow in Sydney (10 March), Brisbane (17 March) and Melbourne (24 March). Telephone 03 9411 3300 for details. ■

Historic library closes

Blan MacDonagh, librarian

In 1932 Margaret and Paul McGuire, Catholic luminaries in South Australia, founded the Catholic Guild for Social Studies. A collection of books was set up to support the educational objectives of the Guild. This grew into the Central Catholic Library, which remained under the authority of the Catholic Archdiocese of Adelaide until its closure in 1981. Meanwhile, other education collections were being built up, which eventually came together as the Diocesan Resource Centre. In 1987 the collections moved to an Adelaide city centre location in the Catholic Diocesan Centre and were merged with a selection of material from the original Central Catholic Library.

The Diocesan Resource Centre (funded jointly by the Catholic Archdiocese of Adelaide and the Catholic Education Office) has, for the past ten years, provided a modern computerised library service with access to a central collection of print and audio-visual material covering a range of topics including religious education, theology, scripture, spirituality, church, liturgy, church music, personal development and Aboriginal studies. Principal users were primary and secondary schools and Catholic parishes, but the collection and services were open to all. The Diocesan Resource Centre contained approximately 15 500 books, 50 journal titles, 3000 audio-visual items and 1250 videos assisting more than 5000 registered patrons. Approximately 16 500 items were borrowed in 1997, and many of these were posted to rural areas through an advanced booking system.

The funding bodies decided to close the Resource Centre's doors at the end of January 1998, and the stock has been placed into storage for the next three months. A working party is in the process of deciding between dispersal of the collection or alternative access. The staff (one librarian, one consultant and one assistant) have been redeployed. ■