

Making news around Australia



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• **3/7 Vic Library Technician section.** *Techs on tour.* This year the tours will include the State Library of Victoria, a guest speaker and a choice of special/academic libraries. Lunch will be available. For further details contact: Kerrie Kelly, ph 03 9669 9721, kerriek@slv.vic.gov.au

• **20/7 Australian Society of Indexers.** *Abstracting and Indexing for Databases/Pictorial Indexing course.* ACER Conference Room, 19 Prospect Hill Road, Camberwell. Cost: \$100 (\$90 for ASI members). Contact: Max McMaster, ph/fx 03 9571 6341, mindexer@interconnect.com.au

• **25/7 Vic Children's & Youth Services section.** *Judge for Yourself — lunch with Jo Goodman,* Victorian Judge for 1999 CBC Awards. Attitudes, 217–219 Nelsons Place, Williamstown, 12:30pm. Listen to Jo speak about this year's entries. \$27 ALIA members, \$30 non-members, (two-course meal). Contact: Helen Taylor, ph 03 9873 5638 for bookings.

• **18/8 Friends of Libraries Australia Inc.** *Annual General meeting.* Australian Retired Persons Association Rooms, 290 Collins Street, Melbourne, 5:30pm. Contact: Daniel Ferguson, ph 03 9338 0666, danielf@alpv.com.au

• **4/9 Vic School Libraries section.** *Professional development activity: Copyright and electronic publishing.* Venues and cost: tba. Contact: Maelor Himbury, ph 03 9336 2555, fx 03 9367 9361, maelor@melbpc.org.au

WA

• **15/6–19/10 WA Library Technicians section.** *1999 meeting dates:* 15/6; 17/8; 15/9*; 19/10. Venue: tba. Contact: Wendy Monaghan, ph 08 9427 3267, wmonaghan@mail.liswa.wa.gov.au (* date subject to change due to Library Technician conference 8–10/9.)

• **4/8 WA Local Studies section.** *Advance notice of visit to National Archives.* Hands on workshop, 5 for 5:30pm. Further details: tba. Contact: Julie Zuvela, ph 08 9386 6230, fx 08 9389 8742, jzuvela@nedlands.wa.gov.au

• **16/11 WA Library Technicians section.** *Monthly meeting and Annual General Meeting, dinner to follow.* LISWA, 5:30pm. Contact: Wendy Monaghan, ph 08 9427 3267, wmonaghan@mail.liswa.wa.gov.au

National

• **22–23/7 The Vital Link: library staffing in the 21st century.** City West Campus, Uni South Australia. For further information contact Ann Luzeckyj, Research and Development librarian, Uni South Australia, Holbrooks Road, Underdale 5032, ph 08 8302 7040, fx 08 8302 6756, ann.luzeckyj@unisa.edu.au

Conference

• **18–20/7 National TAFE Section Biennial conference.** *TAFE Libraries — Adding Value.* West Point Convention Centre, Hobart. Contact: Mures Convention Management, Victoria Dock, Hobart 7000, ph 03 6234 1424, fx 03 6234 4464, conventions@mures.com.au <http://www.alia.org.au/sections/tafe/conference/>

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Selected reprints from newspapers and magazines in recent months

University library to honour Alfred Deakin

by Noel Murphy, *The Geelong Advertiser*, 14 May

A unique collection of books, portraits, sketches, photographs, cartoons, film footage, film commentaries and other memorabilia of Alfred Deakin are being brought together in Geelong. The collection, the Alfred Deakin Prime Ministerial Library, will be housed at the Woolstores campus of the Deakin University. It is a huge project which has drawn together the resources of archives and museums.

The library is tipped to become a key research tool and tourist drawcard. It will also form the basis of travelling exhibitions, an internet site and multi-media products.

Library chief warns on internet censorship

by Jim Dickins, *The Canberra Times*, 14 May

Warren Horton, director-general of the National Library of Australia, warned during his Australian Library Week Oration that the Federal Government moves to censor the internet may undermine the new medium, just as it begins to fulfil its liberating potential. He said that the Government's *Broadcasting Services Amendment Bill* was fixated on controlling the internet at a time when policy should be focussed on harnessing its promise.

Warren said that censorship raised issues of intellectual freedom and tended to focus on the narrow question of controlling pornography. He said that calls to restrict access to 'unsuitable' material on the internet missed the point that this information was already freely available in libraries in print form.

Keeper of culture

by Daphne Guinness, *The Sydney Morning Herald*, 15 May

Daphne Guinness spends a day with the retiring director-general of the National Library of Australia, described as the high priest of online cultural information. She describes the National Library as 'a place awash with computers, hardly a volume in sight.' He is a keeper of paintings, maps, manuscripts and papers too, and invites the reporter to Canberra to show her Billy Hughes's teeth.

According to Guinness, Warren has done more than anyone to lift the profile of the National Library and steer it into the new information age. The controversial Kinetic project is an example of this.

Coast tops the state in reading

By Trevor Paddenburg, *The Gold Coast Bulletin*, 6 May

Gold Coast libraries have recorded more visits per capita than any other city in Queensland, according to the Library Board of Queensland. The average citizen makes ten visits per year to the library. Joy Webster, acting library services manager puts this down to the range of services offered by the libraries — CDs, cassettes, videos, computer services, internet access, magazines, the daily papers, reference material and photocopyers.

Doing it by the book

Albert and Logan News, 9 April 1999

Helen Dunsford, a staff member at Logan North Library, has won the Logan City Council's Patty De Salvo Award. Helen received the award for her contribution while working as young people's liaison officer.

The Patty De Salvo award recognises Patty's commitment to Logan libraries and rewards library staff for outstanding customer service. A qualified library technician, Helen said that one of the greatest rewards of library work was story time.

Turning boys to books

by Christopher Bantick, *The Canberra Times*, 17 April 1999

There is evidence to suggest that boys and school do not mix. Literacy levels are significantly lower for boys than girls. However, identifying the problem is one thing, what to do about it is another.

Debbie Epstien is an associate of the Centre for Research and Education of Gender at the Institute of Education, University of London. Her book *Failing boys: Issues in gender and achievement*, suggests that the public reaction to the idea that boys are failing may be linked to the notion of the place of boys and the roles they have fulfilled as men.

One of the areas she considers essential in an understanding of boys' success at school is related to conceptions of their own masculinity.

One of the main ideas as to why boys do not read as much as girls is because they do not see men reading or involved in bookish activities — male role-models in schools are few and far between.

Review of library grants scheme well underway

Kilcoy Sentinel, 1 April 1999

The review of the Queensland Public Library Grant Scheme, administered by the State Library of Queensland, is well underway. The Scheme distributes more than \$17 million to 121 local governments in Queensland

through cash grants, and the provision of a Country Lending Service and centralised services.

The review process will concentrate on: how the grant is spent; the impact of technology and the related issues of connectivity, content and training; bookstock acquisition standards; services to indigenous communities; and the rising community demand for library services.

The recommendations from the review, expected in October, will help shape the future of the public library network in Queensland according to Queensland state librarian, Des Stephens.

Art purchases open to public scrutiny: Foss

by Anne Burns, *The West Australian*, 14 April

Political interference in major acquisitions by the WA Art Gallery and Museum would be exposed to public scrutiny under legislation before State Parliament.

If an arts minister acted against the advice of the gallery or museum advisory boards that advice would have to be tabled in both houses of parliament under the legislation.

The legislation establishing the minister as the 'owner' of the state collections of the art gallery, the museum and the Library and Information Services of WA has been criticised by arts groups and the State opposition for giving too much power to the minister. Mr Foss stated that the legislation carried a safeguard that the boards of the three bodies would remain guardians of the collections.

Storing e-data for e-ternity

by Denis Faye, *The Age* (Melbourne), 4 May

The Public Record Office of Victoria was faced with a dilemma when the Victorian Government committed itself to becoming 'paperless' — how to keep track of the many and varied computer systems around the state in the hope of storing the information they contained.

In April the Victorian Electronic Records Strategy (VERS) was launched to address the long-term e-data preservation needs of the state.

The strategy involves capturing electronic documents at the point of creation using Adobe's Portable Document Format (PDF).

Metadata is expressed using eXtensible Markup Language (XML). The team who developed the strategy chose PDF and XML because the standards are freely available and open. It was also felt that although the

formats may not be used by future generations it will be easy to track down the information needed to create a PDF viewer.

Towards 2000 with a \$9m library

by Ben Hooper, *The Advertiser*, 21 April

A \$9 million upgrade to the Burnside library and community centre was recently approved. The upgrade plans — including a village green, multi-purpose atrium and coffee shop — were approved by the council after more than two hours debate.

The manager of the library was delighted with the decision. She said that more than seventy percent of the population are registered borrowers and about 1000 people visited the library every day.

Work on the project is due to begin in January 2000 and the target completion date is April 2001.

Librarians take on role of internet teachers *The Canberra Chronicle*, 13 April

The ACT government recently launched an innovative internet training centre at Griffith library. The new centre was established as a result of customer demand for consistent, professional and quality training.

Brendan Smyth, ACT Urban Services Minister, said that people were keen to be taught by librarians because 'they are skilled in explaining to people how to access information in plain, easy to understand language'.

Courses to be offered at the centre are 'Introduction to the internet'; 'Searching the internet effectively'; and 'Using electronic mail effectively'.

Eros hops into bed with anti-porn senators

by Lauren Martin, *The Sydney Morning Herald*, 4 May

'When even the librarians turned against them yesterday, the good senators on a crusade to censor smut from the internet slumped, aghast.' A great beginning to an article about the Senate Select Committee on Information Technologies.

Martin goes on to say that ALIA gave much the same evidence as the other experts who appeared before the committee. This way that the Government's proposal wouldn't achieve its laudable aim of protecting children, and further, would degrade the internet for students, adults and business.

John Tierney worries that kids would go home and pore over 'net porn until mum got home from work, to which Senator Harradine replied that perhaps mothers should not work then. Mr Tierney then suggested that any mothers working as librarians should not be left in charge of the kiddies! ■



• **22-26/8 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, fx 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.* 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 10th ALIA National Library Technicians Section conference.** *Projections reflections.* The Esplanade Hotel, Fremantle, Western Australia. Contact: Anne Nicolay, Keynote Conferences, PO Box 1126, West Leederville 6001, ph 08 9382 3799, fx 08 9380 4006, keynote@ca.com.au URL http://www.ca.com.au/~keynote/conf_page/cnf5libtech.html

• **13-15/10 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 2nd Local Studies conference.** *Post haste the millennium: opportunities and challenges in local studies.* Contact: Jenni Woodroffe, convenor, ph/fx 08 9367 4759, jenni@omen.net.au

• **14-17/11 Public Libraries Conference.** *How far have we come... how far can we go?* Organised by ALIA WA Public Libraries section. Sheraton Perth Hotel, Perth. Contact: Promaco Pty Ltd, ph 08 9332 2900, fx 08 9332 2911, promaco@promaco.com.au URL <http://www.promaco.com.au/conference/1999/alia>

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