

Making news around Australia

Selected reprints from newspapers and magazines in recent months

Online library trial begins

by Ian Grayson, *The Australian*, 8 December 1998

Infosentials has organised mass trials of their new online information service, Electric Library Australia, with more than 1000 schools, tertiary institutions and libraries around Australia taking part.

The service provides access to content from a variety of media sources including newspapers and magazines, reference collections, television programs, photographs and maps. Agreements are being negotiated with Australian news organisations, including the Australian Associated Press and Melbourne University Press, to ensure users do not end up with an 'American-centric' view.

Infosentials managing director Michael Schildberger said that there has been some resistance to the new service from teachers as some felt that it made researching a topic too easy. However, Mr Schildberger counters this by insisting that the skills students will need are not in finding the information, but sifting through the available material and determining what is relevant.

Work bans to hit library services

by Caroline Keenan, *Community News* (Moonee Valley) 24 November 1998

Library workers at the Hume Moonee Valley Regional Library implemented work bans in protest over the delay in finalising their enterprise agreement — it has been ten months since negotiations over the agreement began.

The staff are seeking a pay increase and changes to the non-paid maternity leave policy. The staff decided to take industrial action when management indicated that the agreement would not be finalised for another two months.

The bans applied to fine collection, internet assistance and answering the phone.

Saving the past for the future: Save our century

by Patrick Cornish, *The West Australian* 2 December 1998

'Save our century', a plan to preserve 100 years of Western Australian heritage was launched on 2 December. It is the first step of a State Library bid to raise \$5 million to help LISWA collect,

preserve, and present WA's stories since it became a state.

State librarian, Lynn Allen said maintaining heritage was particularly important because of the explosion in information and communication.

Logan top in library services

Albert and Logan News, 20 November 1998

Logan City Council libraries picked up two awards at the biennial conference in Adelaide in October.

The council libraries picked up the Bess Thomas Award for services to young people (see p24), and the Australian Large Print Community Services Award, judged on large print programs and services, publicity and public relations, fund-raising, outreach and community services and professional activities.

Community services committee chairman Councillor Pam Parker said that the Bess Thomas award was recognition of the time and effort the libraries had put into providing services for the young people in the area, in particular the annual short story competition and winning writers workshops.

She said library staff are to be commended on their efforts in providing exceptional and consistent service.

On-line mysteries of the internet explained

by Terry O'Connor, *The Courier Mail*, 28 November 1998

Australia went internet crazy for the Federal Government-sponsored Online Australia Day, designed to promote awareness of on-line benefits for all sections of the community.

In Queensland, multimedia training body QANTM and *The Courier Mail* ran the Community Cyber Challenge, the Queensland Art Workers Alliance launched its on-line employment service and the State Library celebrated the success of OPAL, Online Public Access in Libraries.

A web of intrigue about our history

The Advertiser, 21 November 1998

The State Library of South Australia recently launched their new Mortlock Database on to the World Wide Web. The database includes more than 49 000 historical images of South Australia and its people.

The database also includes cross-referenced articles and information about South Australia.

Librarian is twice honoured

The Canberra Times, 18 November 1998

Australian National University librarian received a rare double honour when he was awarded a Fellowship of the Australian Library and Information Association and a Fellowship of the British Library Association.

Colin Steele, the longest-serving Australian university librarian, is a leading authority on scholarly communication change and information access.

Row over sex book

by Cathy Heycock, *Port Phillip Leader* 9 November 1998

A local artist claims cartoon books on the general shelves at St Kilda library are hard-core pornography and should be moved. Steve Jones, a member of the library for more than twelve years, said he did not believe in censorship but was appalled at how easily the books could be obtained.

Port Phillip general manager of services, David Spokes, said the library aimed to cater to its varied audience, and the comic books would remain where they were. He said 'Library staff have been trained to handle such issues. It is part of our policy to reflect the diversity of the community'.

'Hate filter' unleashes web debate

by Julian Borger, *The Canberra Times*, 16 November 1998

The battle against racism in the US has taken to the World Wide Web with the development of a 'hate filter' designed to prevent young internet users being recruited by white supremacist and neo-Nazi groups using increasingly sophisticated child-oriented websites.

The filter is marketed by the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), however it is more than a block, it redirects the person to find information provided by the ADL on the group they were looking for.

The filter was produced in reaction to what the ADL called the 'exponential growth of hate sites' in recent years, such as the Ku Klux Klan, the National Alliance, and The World Church of the Creator groups. ■