

- **16/3 WA Library Technicians section.** *Meeting and library visit.* Venue: to be advised closer to date. Contact Wendy Monaghan, ph 08 9427 3267, wmonaghan@mail.liswa.wa.gov.au
- **19/3 WA Special Libraries section.** *Bi-monthly breakfast*, guest speaker: Michael Jenner speaking on the Year 2000. 7:30am, Giardini, 135 Oxford Street, Leederville. Cost: \$17 ALIA members, \$19 non-members. Contact: Annette Carter, ph 08 9332 5773, acarter@iinet.net.au *RSVP by 16/3.*
- **25/3 WA Branch.** *Mentoring: what's in it for me?* What and Who: A forum for prospective mentors and mentorees. Subiaco Council Chambers, Rokeby Road, Subiaco, 5:45–7:45pm. Contact: Ann Ritchie, ph 08 9346 6184, RitchieA@ramsayhealth.com.au
- **20/4–19/10 WA Library Technicians section meetings.** Venue: to be advised. Meeting dates: 20/4; 19/5; 15/6; 21/7; 17/8; 15/9\*; 19/10. 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.)
- **22/5 WA Local Studies section.** *Visit to Harvey — ALW.* Stirling's Cottage and May Gibbs Room (lunch \$10ph), Harvey Historical Society Museum and Harvey Oral History Collection. Leaving Harvey Tourist Centre, 11am, returning approx 3:30pm. Contact: Julie Zuvella, ph 08 9386 6230, fx 08 9389 8742, jzuvella@nedlands.wa.gov.au for details of itinerary and transport arrangements.
- **4/8 WA Local Studies section.** *Visit to National Archives.* Program will be 'hands on' workshop, commencing 5 for 5:30pm. Further details TBA. Contact: Julie Zuvella, ph 08 9386 6230, fx 08 9389 8742, jzuvella@nedlands.wa.gov.au for details.
- **16/11 WA Library Technicians section.** *Monthly meeting and Annual General Meeting*, dinner to follow. Venue: LISWA, 5:30pm. Contact: Wendy Monaghan, ph 08 9427 3267, wmonaghan@mail.liswa.wa.gov.au

**Australian Library Week 1999**

- **17–23/5 Australian Library Week 1999.** *Libraries: explore and discover.* See the 4-page brochure of products available in this issue *inCite*. Further information from ALIA National Office, PO Box E441, Kingston 2604, ph 02 6285 1877, fx 02 6282 2249, enquiry@alia.org.au, www.alia.org.au/alw/
- **15/5 ACT Library Technician section.** *Celebrating 20 years, 1979–1999.* Celebration dinner during Library Week for all who have participated in the course. Venue: The Hellenic Club of Canberra, cost \$26.00. Further information from Ursula Macdermott, ph 02 6271 5668, ursula.macdermott@dpmc.gov.au
- **22/5 WA Local Studies section.** *Visit to Harvey — ALW.* Stirling's Cottage and May Gibbs Room (lunch \$10ph), Harvey Historical Society Museum and Harvey Oral History Collection. Leaving Harvey Tourist Centre, 11am, returning approx 3:30pm. Contact: Julie Zuvella, ph 08 9386 6230, fx 08 9389 8742, jzuvella@nedlands.wa.gov.au for details of itinerary and transport arrangements.

**Conf**

- **18–20/7 National TAFE Section Biennial conference.** *TAFE Libraries — Adding Value.* The Conference will focus on how TAFE libraries add value to vocational education and training. Wrest Point Convention Centre, Hobart. Contact: Mures Convention

continued next page...

# Making news around Australia

**Selected reprints from newspapers and magazines in recent months**

**Xena — warrior librarian**

'Ai yi yi yi yi!!!!' by David Leser, *The Sydney Morning Herald, Good Weekend*, 30 January

For those who thought the 'Incredible Library' poster from Australian Library Week 1998 was over-the-top, this from Lucy Lawless, AKA Xena: Warrior Princess: 'I just know I wanted to be respected. I wanted to be good at sport. I wanted to be pretty. I wanted to be head librarian.' With millions of viewers world-wide, perhaps Xena should become the new spokes-person for the library profession?

**Teaching the boys to make the grade**  
by Cindy Lord, *Courier Mail*, 21 January

There is mounting evidence that boys are lagging behind girls in literacy and communication skills. Many educators are now racking their brains to address this problem.

Emma Drover, a teacher-librarian at a Brisbane boys school is enticing students to the library with pizza, while English teacher Georgina Rigby is writing an English textbook specifically for boys. While boys recognise the value of reading in developing literacy skills (at least those who attend one particular Brisbane private school), it is disturbing that most still view it as a 'chore'.

**Database that Dan built has 6 billion pages**  
By Peter Witts, *The Australian*, 21 January

Dan Wagner has come along way in the last sixteen years. His company, Dialog, now claims to be the biggest cataloguer of business information on the planet — an estimated six billion pages of text are included in the database.

The key to Dialog's success has been its ability to standardise information from disparate sources such as news wires, magazines,

## Special offer

**The Australian dictionary of acronyms and abbreviations 4th edition, by David J Jones (1995, 472 pp soft ISBN 086805217)**

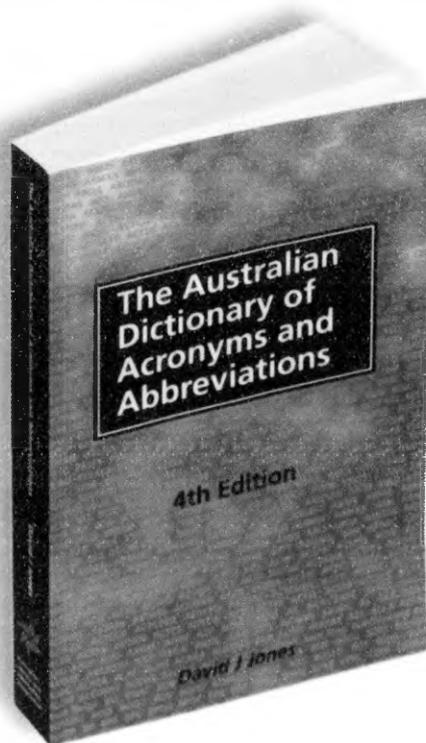
Abbreviations, acronyms and initialisations are an increasingly important part of written and spoken communications. Every day we see and hear more of them. Some are commonly understood, but many are obscure. As a reference librarian David J Jones has had to deal with many enquiries about the meanings of abbreviations; and he found Australian abbreviations posed the most difficulties because no dictionary of Australian abbreviations existed — so he compiled this one.

This vital reference work contains 47 000 entries, almost double that of the 3rd edition. The entries come from all fields of human endeavour, including science and technology, economics, politics, law, medicine, commerce, library and information science.

This is an essential reference work for libraries, schools, offices, those who work with words and any one who has an interest in modern Australian English usage.

As a special offer, the Australian Library and Information Association is offering the 4th edition at a special end-of-print price of \$15.00 for ALIA members, and \$20.00 for non-members.

Orders should be mailed or faxed to ALIA, PO Box E441, Kingston 2604, fax 02 6282 2249.



government and consultants' reports and put it in a form which can be transferred across the globe in seconds upon request.

#### ANU puts its journals into the system

By Claire Harvey, *The Australian* 20 January

The Australian National University has become the first Australian university to sign up with Electronic Collections Online, and American computer library that will offer the full-text of about 300 journals.

Aileen Webb, ANU Law Library's information access librarian says that the Library's subscription to the catalogue will enhance researchers ability to locate material, allowing them to undertake multi-disciplinary searches. She expects the database which has currently 198 full-text journals to grow to 300 in the next few months.

#### Virtual library set for campus

By Aldwyn Altuney, *The Queensland Times*, 14 January

The library at the University of Queensland's Ipswich campus is a 'virtual library' to be used as a partner in teaching, learning and professional development for students and staff according to Beth Cawter, liaison librarian.

The library is fitted with forty-two state-of-the-art IBM computers with database and internet access, a plug-in area for lap-tops, a student relaxation lounge, group study and seminar rooms, and four photocopiers. The new library will have flexible opening hours to suit students' needs.

Acting University of Queensland librarian, Gulcin Cribb, said that people could access more than 1.8 million items from university libraries across the state. The University's collection includes books, journals, maps, architectural drawings, microforms, newspapers, and music scores.

#### ACT Library to spill 120 staff positions

By Jane Dargaville, *The Canberra Times*, 4 February 1999

A consultant's report has labled Canberra's public libraries as traditional, passive and complacent, and has recommended that 120 staff positions should be spilled.

Among other things, the report called for a review of the ACT mobile library service and of special library services for house-bound people.

The Friends of the ACT Library Service are concerned by the report. Bill Tully, president of the group said that the report was a thinly veiled attempt to 'electronicise' Canberra's libraries as a cost-cutting measure.

The director of the ACT Public Library Service said that the review had been conducted as a response to growing pressure to examine the nature of library staff, and is not about major changes to library services to customers.

#### University librarians fight back

By Bruce Juddery, *The Canberra Times*, 7 December 1998

Australian university librarians are concerned about the impact of the falling Australian dollar combined with the increased power of the multi-national publishing houses. University librarians from eight universities and the CSIRO have combined forces to set up a 'fighting fund' to challenge the multi-nationals.

A series of task forces has been set up to prepare for a conference to develop plans for competitive electronic publication of academic material. The participants in the 'fighting fund' are the Australian National University, the Universities of Melbourne, New South Wales, Sydney, Queensland, Adelaide and Western Australia, and CSIRO. ■

Management, Victoria Dock, Hobart 7000, ph 03 6234 1424, fx 03 6234 4464, conventions@mures.com.au URL <http://www.alia.org.au/sections/state/conference/>

**22-23/7 The Vital Link. Library Staffing in the 21st Century.** City West Campus, Uni South Australia. For further information contact Ann Luzecky, Research and Development Librarian, Uni South Australia, Holbrooks Road, Underdale 5032, ph 08 8302 7040, fx 08 8302 6756, Ann.Luzecky@unisa.edu.au

• **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 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 URL <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.alia.org.au/sections/libt/conferences/1999/>

• **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 URL <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 *Call for papers deadline: 12/3.*

• **14-17/11 Public Libraries conference. How far have we come... how far can we go?** Organised by ALIA Western Australia Public Libraries section. Sheraton Perth Hotel, Perth. Contact: Promaco Pty Ltd, ph 08 9364 8311, fx 08 9316 1453, promaco@promaco.com.au URL <http://www.promaco.com.au/conference/1999/alia/>

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.

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**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, or e-mail **events@alia.org.au**. An invoice will be sent to the address indicated with your entry. For a small additional cost, your event may be listed on our website. Call for details.

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

## Auslib Press

congratulates Dr Christine Bruce, author of *The Seven Faces of Information Literacy*, on receiving a 1999 publications award of the US Association of College and Research Libraries for 'a very important contribution to the literature of librarianship'.

*The Seven Faces of Information Literacy* (\$36.00 plus \$6.00p&h) is available from

Auslib Press

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