



... from previous page

# NetSpots directory – highlighting libraries for public access to the internet

The NetSpots Directory is a national directory developed to enable members of the community to find their nearest public internet access location, most of which are public library branches.

The NetSpots Directory is an initiative of the National Office for the Information Economy (NOIE), the Commonwealth Government's lead agency for information economy issues. Members of the public will be able to call a 1800 number, give the operator their location and any details of the specific requirements they may have (such as disability access) and the operator will use the directory to provide contact details of the most appropriate internet access locations to the caller.

The directory lists both free and charged access locations, and contains specific information for each location on:

- contact details (for example, phone, fax, physical address, e-mail);
- type of environment (for example, library, school, tele-centre);
- hours of operation;
- types of services available with the internet (for example, use of a printer, fax, e-mail, training, assistance); and
- the physical accessibility of the facility and equipment (for example, wheelchair or other physical access facilities/limitations, disabled parking).

The directory will also provide a valuable service for listed organisations, enabling them to advertise the range of internet

facilities and services they have available and possibly attract a greater number and a wider range of clients.

Having access to the information and services the internet can provide is an important social and economic factor in today's global 'information age'. There is increasing concern both nationally and internationally, that inequitable access to the benefits of the internet may exacerbate existing socio-economic divides within the community. The NetSpots Directory is one way of helping to bridge such a 'digital divide' by making it easier for people in the community to find out where they can go to 'go online'. Libraries offer an excellent opportunity for online access, due to their nation-wide coverage, well established infrastructure, and on-site expertise.

As the directory is based on a voluntary input principle, its success is dependent upon organisations keying their relevant information into the database. At present there are over one thousand public internet access facilities listed in the directory, over half of which are public library branches. However, a large proportion of Australia's public libraries offering public internet access have yet to enter their details into the directory. ALIA encourages all libraries offering public access to the internet, to submit their details via the electronic survey form located at <http://www.noie.gov.au/netspots>.

The directory was launched in June 2001. NOIE are also producing material that will be distributed to promote the existence of the NetSpots Directory. For further information, contact NOIE on 02 6271 1005. ■

## Conference

• 21–24/8 11th National Library Technicians conference. *An information odyssey*. The Hotel Grand Chancellor, Hobart Tas. Conference organiser: Mures Convention Management, ph 03 6234 1424, fx 03 6234 4464, [conventions@mures.com.au](mailto:conventions@mures.com.au) <http://www.alia.org.au/sections/libt/conferences/2001/>

• 26–29/8/2001 9th Special, Health & Law Libraries conference. *Rivers of knowledge*. Melbourne Convention Centre, Melbourne Vic. Conference secretariat: The Meeting Planners, ph 03 9417 0888, fx 03 9417 0899, [adocherty@meetingplanners.com.au](mailto:adocherty@meetingplanners.com.au), <http://www.alia.org.au/conferences/shllc/2001/>

• 12–14/10 2001 RAISS conference. *Revelling in reference 2001 – reference and information service section symposium*. Symposium themes: share the best; learn the new; make the difference. Venue: VUT Conference Centre, Melbourne. For more information please visit the Revelling in Reference web site <http://raiss2001.monash.org/>

• 21–23/10 2001 National TAFE libraries conference. *Passion power people – TAFE Libraries Leading the Way*. Sheraton Hotel, Brisbane Qld. Conference organiser: Organisers Australia, PO Box 1237, Milton, Qld 4064, ph 07 3369 7866, fx 07 3367 1471, [vanessa@orgaus.com.au](mailto:vanessa@orgaus.com.au) <http://www.alia.org.au/sections/tafe/conferences/>

• 7–9/11 14th National ALIA Cataloguing conference. *Seachange: cataloguing in a dot com world*. Deakin University, Geelong Waterfront Campus. Conference chair: Ebe Kartus, ph 03 5227 8228, [kartus@deakin.edu.au](mailto:kartus@deakin.edu.au)

• 12–16/11 Public Libraries national conference. *2001 The conference: Endless possibilities!* Melbourne Exhibition & Convention Centre Vic. Conference secretariat: Conference Consultants Australia, ph 03 9690 3933, fx 03 9690 3944, [alia@conferenceconsultants.com.au](mailto:alia@conferenceconsultants.com.au), <http://www.conferenceconsultants.com.au/alial/>

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, e-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, or e-mail [events@alia.org.au](mailto: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

**NEWSPAPERS WANTED**

- Bound volumes or long runs. All 19th and 20th century Australian and overseas newspapers
- Also popular MAGAZINES (e.g. *Life, Look, Women's Weekly*, etc.) to 1970

**PAPER WORLD**

Alan Waters, Paper World Pty Ltd  
Level 1, 48 Clifton Street, Prahran, Vic 3181  
Ph: 03 9529 6888 Fax: 03 9529 6388  
E-mail: [alan@paperworld.com.au](mailto:alan@paperworld.com.au)  
(Member of the Ephemera Society of Australia)

**ALS**

- Books and Multimedia for Public Libraries
- Pre-publication On-line Ordering
- Pre-publication Bibliographic Data and Imaging
- Furnishing and Cataloguing Services
- Australian Owned Since 1964

Easy to Select & Order

...

- ★ Fiction
- ★ Non-fiction
- ★ Videos
- ★ CD-ROMs
- ★ DVDs
- ★ Kits
- ★ Music CDs
- ★ Audio Books

at  
[www.alslib.com.au](http://www.alslib.com.au)