



ACT

• **1/12 ACT Library Technicians.** *Our end-of-year get-together*, from 4:40pm. Bring a plate and a gold coin. For venue details and reservations contact: Marion, ph 02 6270 6912, mboyd@hcourt.gov.au, or Beth, ph 02 6259 1240, beth.clary@radford.com.au

• **7/12 ACT Specials.** *No Libations, but breakfast at Bookplate restaurant*, Ground Floor, NLA from 7:30–9am. Contact: Susan White, ph 02 6205 0391, Susan.White@act.gov.au

• **12/12 ACTIVE ALIA.** *All ALIA members in the ACT are invited to a special showing of the NLA Centenary Exhibition: Treasures from the World's Great Libraries*, with a tour by the curator of the exhibition, Margaret Dent. 5–6pm. Contribution \$10. The tour will be followed by the group Christmas party. *RSVP ASAP to: Julie Ward*, Branch secretary, jward@nla.gov.au

• **12/12 APSIG.** *Christmas lunch.* Rubicon Restaurant, Griffith Shops, 12:15pm. \$20 a head for a fine lunch, all welcome. Come and enjoy some Christmas jollity with good food. *Pre-bookings essential — RSVP by 10/12 to: Dorothea.Polonyi@anu.edu.au*

NSW

• **3/12 ALIA Information Specialists.** *After5 Club.* State Library of NSW, 5:30 for 6pm. \$5 cover charge. See website at <http://groups.alia.org.au/groups/infospec/> and e-list at <http://www.alia.org.au/e-lists/alianet.lists.html> for details. Contact: r.mclauchlan@securities.edu.au

• **18/12 ALIA NSW.** *Council meeting*, all welcome. Coles Room, Level 11, State Library of NSW, Macquarie Street, Sydney, 6pm. *RSVP for catering purposes to: Jo-anne Fuller*, local presence co-ordinator, ph 02 9906 6000, fx 02 9906 5987, jojo1@ozemail.com.au

QLD

• **2/12 Pathways to CPD.** *Day cruise on SS Forceful.* Arrive 9:30am, depart 10am, back by 4pm. \$35 Adults, \$15 children under 15, \$99 family of 4. Includes lunch and morning/afternoon tea. *Cheques by 2/11 to: Helen Laurelin*, PO Box 462, Annerley 4103, ph 07 3848 3980 (hm).

• **5/12 ALIA Queensland Health Libraries.** *Evidence-based practice skills workshop:* learn PICO question formulation, study design/statistical methods and critical appraisal. Princess Alexandra Hospital, Brisbane, 9–4:45pm. Cost \$100 (incl. GST, lunch, morning and afternoon tea). Contact:

Library interiors — the inside story

Bridging the gap between design and functionality is the focus of a two-day forum to be held in Melbourne on Monday 4 and Tuesday 5 February 2002.

The State Library of Victoria Board forum, *Library interiors — the inside story*, will draw on the knowledge of architectural and design professionals who have a good understanding of the needs of libraries and other public facilities.

Case studies and a workshop session will provide practical advice about the 'do's' and 'don'ts' of library interiors relevant to all library sectors.

One of the forum presenters, Cecelia Kugler, has recently presented a paper at the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) Building conference in Boston. Her paper explored how demands for new services and access can conflict with the traditional collections and accommodation of expanding hard-copy collections.

At *Library interiors — The inside story* she will present three case studies, of one public and two academic libraries, to look at the impact of these changes and how they have shaped the libraries' particular priorities and outcomes.

Planning for the future has become critical in an age where technological possibilities are endless, she said, but must always be kept in balance with the more important human and social dimensions.

Academic library spaces are being called 'Hybraries' or 'Cybraries', reflecting the

changing nature of their services, which as well as managing and storing print resources, also provide access to a variety of electronic resources. University of Melbourne manager of planning and projects, Karen Kealy, said academic libraries must be designed with 'the flexibility to cope with changing demands,' which include 'traditional print-based resources, multi-media and electronic materials, providing for traditional study spaces, spaces for teaching, access to computers and collaborative learning facilities.'

Manager of buildings and facilities at the State Library of Victoria, Stuart Pickering, said the conference aims to provide councilors, local government CEO's, library managers and design consultants with information about the practical aspects of library design.

'Libraries need to provide spaces that not only look good but are flexible, functional, affordable and sustainable. The forum will assist information providers to work with design professionals to achieve this balance,' he said.

Other topics for discussion will include: the future of library design, interior design principles, space planning, creating flexible spaces, signage, working with heritage buildings, creating teenage spaces, and occupational health and safety.

For further details, contact Nicole Wiseman, State Library of Victoria on phone: 03 8664 7044 or nwiseman@slv.vic.gov.au. ■

Product news...

RefTracker for reference librarians

At last a request management system specifically designed for libraries!

Altarama Systems & Services has released RefTracker, a web-based application providing a request management function for libraries that improves service levels and efficiency of the reference desk function — it accepts reference queries, manages the response process, and maintains a knowledge database of re-useable answers, whilst maintaining statistics that verify the reference workload.

RefTracker will assist libraries of all types and sizes, but particularly those with branches without reference librarians, with external student populations, with a two tier reference service, or with shift changeovers at the reference desk. Libraries with high reference workloads, and questions that take some time to research will find it indispensable! Visit <http://www.altarama.com.au> for further information. ■

continued next page...