doora. Cost: CAVAL/ALIA CPD members $374, non-members $308. Contact: Nicole Sinclair, nicoles@caval.edu.au

• **23/3 CAVAL.** *Kinetica document delivery.* A full-day hands-on course covering the inter-library loans system within Kinetica. 9:30–5pm. CAVAL Collaborative Solutions, 4 Park Drive, Bundoora. Cost: CAVAL/ALIA CPD members $88, non-members $110. Contact: Nicole Sinclair, nicoles@caval.edu.au

• **30/3 CAVAL.** *Introduction to metadata.* A half-day information session designed to answer your questions about metadata (and help you formulate those questions you don't know you should be asking). Sydney [venue tba] Cost: CAVAL/ALIA CPD members $88, non-members $110. Contact: Nicole Sinclair, nicoles@caval.edu.au

• **5/4 Vic Library Technicians section.** *Committee meeting.* Everyone is welcome, (no charge) State Library of Victoria 328 Swanston Street, meet in the Foyer at 6pm. For more information contact: Tricia Murray, secretary, ph 03 9925 2063, patricia.murray@rmit.edu.au

• **17–21/4 Vic Library Technician section.** *Canberra visit.* This four-day bus trip includes visits to a number of unique libraries. For more information contact: Tricia Murray, secretary, ph 03 9925 2063, patricia.murray@rmit.edu.au

• **7/7 Vic Library Technicians section.** *Techs on tour.* A look at library technicians' work. Tours of SLV, keynote speaker, special library visit and lunch. State Library of Victoria, 9:30am. Cost: ALIA members $10, non-members $12. Contact: Kerrie Kelly, ph 03 9669 9037, kkelly@slv.vic.gov.au

WA

• **18/3–15/10 WA Library Technicians section.** *General meeting.* Venue: to be advised, 5:45pm start. 18/3, 9/4, 13/6, 14/8, 12/9, 15/10. RSVP contact: Sandra Wilson, s.m.wilson@curtin.edu.au

• **20/3 WA Local Studies section.** *Visit to WA Genealogy Society,* 6/48 May Street, Bayswater. Starting time 5:30pm. Contact: Julie Zuvela, ph 08 9330 5537, jzuvela@ozemail.com.au

• **15/5 WA Library Technicians section.** *National Library & Information Week.* Venue: to be advised, 5:45pm start. *RSVP contact:* Sandra Wilson, s.m.wilson@curtin.edu.au

• **9/7 WA Library Technicians section.** *General meeting.* Host: Judy Clayden. School of Computer & Information Studies, Edith Cowan University, Mount Lawley Campus, 5:45pm start. *RSVP contact:* Sandra Wilson, s.m.wilson@curtin.edu.au

• **13/11 WA Library Technicians section.** *Meeting and end of year dinner.* LISWA, 5:45pm start. *RSVP contact:* Sandra Wilson, s.m.wilson@curtin.edu.au

National

• **14–20/5 Library and Information Week.** *Libraries 2001: knowledge outlook.* See the 4-page brochure of products available in the March issue of *inCite.* Further information is available from ALIA National Office, PO Box E441, Kingston 2604, ph 02 6285 1877, fx 02 6282 2249, enquiry@alia.org.au, http:// www.alia.org.au/alw/

Making news around Australia

Selected reprints from newspapers and magazines in recent months

Rival publishers test the concept of 'co-option'
Australian, 9 January, by Karen Dearne

Legal publishing rivals Butterworths and CCH are testing online collaboration to provide access to their publications on the same website. Under an agreement announced late last year, both companies, while remaining entirely independent business competitors, will co-operate in a site called LexisLocal, due to be launched around March.

According to CCH syndicated content director, Kevin Ormrod, customer demand for improved cross-referencing of the databases of both companies had driven the need to collaborate. The common platform will provide a virtual library of CCH's tax products and Butterworth's legal products.

Library favoured over internet cafe
Blue Mountains Gazette, 10 January

Katoomba residents will have access to a newly renovated library as part of the refurbishment of their Civic Centre. Blue Mountains City Council struck out a proposal to establish an internet cafe next door to the library. Instead the $2 million refit will include extensions to the existing library and improvements to the building facade, lighting and amenities. Councillor Terri Hamilton said that current library services in Katoomba were not adequate for the population of the area and she had already received widespread support from residents for the future library extension.

'Archaic' library service faces restructure
Advertiser (Adelaide), 15 January, by Kim Wheatley

In an attempt by the state government to save $700 000 a year, a departmental library service, which provides information to headmasters, librarians and managers about the latest worldwide trends in education, faces restructure. SA Education Department head Geoff Spring confirmed plans to restructure what he described as an 'archaic' library service, which has a budget of $1.5 million. Australian Education Union state president John Gregory, describing the move as a 'tragedy', said that it was symptomatic of a government more interested in debt reduction than in education.

Research on seniors library use
News Chronicle, 16 January

The City of Nedlands in Perth has received $24 800 for a research project into senior citizens and their use of libraries. The Lotteries Commission grant will fund a consultant for a three-month research program to identify what seniors need from libraries today and what the baby-boomer generation will want when they are seniors. The research will lead to a plan for public libraries.

Funding boost for Kerang library
Northern Times (Kerang), 23 January

Kerang's planned new public library received a funding boost when Victorian Minister for Local Government, Bob Cameron, announced a $500 000 grant for the facility. The grant is part of a new state government program, Living Libraries, which supports the construction of replacement buildings and the extension, renovation or refurbishment of existing libraries.

Child-minding by the book
Guardian Express, 23 January

A recent decision by the City of Stirling encouraging parents to supervise children under the age of 18 while visiting its libraries will not be adopted by other WA local municipalities. The decision by Stirling libraries was prompted by some parents leaving their children unattended in libraries for long periods. The council is concerned about the possibility of paedophiles preying on unsupervised children. Council officials from other local government areas said that their councils had no immediate plans to adopt similar measures.

Petitioning the powers that be
Macedon Ranges–Sunbury Telegraph, 23 January, by Chris Riches

A 4600-signature petition from local library users, demanding adequate funding to stop possible cuts in services and operating hours, has been presented to four Victorian councils. The petition called on the councils — Macedon Ranges, Mount Alexander and Loddon Shires, and the City of Greater Bendigo — to ensure that there were no cuts to the North Central Goldfields Library Corporation's services. Without an increase in funding from all four councils, the corporation would be forced to consider money-saving options, including possible cuts to operating hours and mobile library services.

IT contract loses its appeal
Sydney Morning Herald, 23 January, by Toni O'Loughlin

The National Library and the Department of the Treasury dropped out of a $350 million Federal Government tender for IT services, involving three other agencies. Their withdrawal followed the recommendation of the Humphry review that control of the government's IT outsourcing program be taken away from the Office of Asset Sales and IT Outsourcing and handed back to departmental heads.

A spokeswoman for the National Library said the Library had dropped out of the tender because its requirements would be better met by tendering outside the group clustering arrangements. In fact, the National Library has

yet to decide whether it will now outsource any of its IT at all.

Learning centre concept promoted
News-Mail (Bundaberg), 24 January

Queensland's Isis Shire Council plans to expand its library facilities in an effort to promote the library as a learning centre. With the creation of a new assistant librarian position and the formation of a Friends of the Library group, Mayor Bill Trevor said the library, which was built last year as one of the council's major works, had the potential to provide more than just books to residents. Council will also consider extending the library's opening hours in next year's budget.

GST blamed for funding cut
Alexandra Eildon Marysville Standard, 24 January

Library funding in Murrindindi Shire, northeast of Melbourne, has seen a reduction of 1 per cent. The shire's Director of Community Services, Robert Croxford, identified the application of a GST to the purchase cost of library materials as the problem, as no sales tax was applicable to book purchases prior to the introduction of the GST.

Victorian library in dire straits
Portland Observer, 24 January

Despite hundreds of letters to relevant state government ministers, local politicians and shire councillors, Glenelg Regional Library Corporation is still in dire financial circumstances. Distribution of a promised $2 million, as part of the state government's Living Regions program, had not yet begun. This source of funding would be worth about $100 000 for GRLC. Local residents are urging a change from per capita funding for regional libraries to a more relevant and equitable scheme.

Sunday trading
Cairns Post, 27 January, by Marie Low

Cairns City Council is considering new measures which would open the city library for Sunday trading, following strong community representations. The move may mean cutting back the hours at branch libraries to allow Sunday opening at the city library.

In a further development, council CEO David Farmer forecast a full review by outside experts of strategic planning for the council's libraries.

E-books — a Queensland first
Coolum Advertiser, 2 February

Maroochy Shire Libraries have become the first public library service in Queensland to start lending e-books to library users. Library staff will pre-load titles on each e-book reader, a hand-held device similar to palm-based computers. Combining the versatility of a computer with the user-friendliness and familiarity of a book, the e-book readers have the capacity to store up to 100 titles in a device smaller than a notepad. It is antici-

pated that Maroochy library users will be able to borrow the e-books for up to two weeks.

New libraries funded
Bendigo Advertiser, 3 February

St Arnaud residents will get a new $360 000 library. A grant of $160 000 from the Victorian government's Living Libraries program will supplement funds allocated by the Northern Grampians Shire Council. A new public library at the Goldfields Community Resource and Exhibition Centre at Maryborough also received a kick-start with a $227 000 government grant. The $2 million centre will bring together library services, community information, information technology training, public exhibition space and tourist information into a central location. Local Government Minister Bob Cameron said that the funding would enable both libraries to offer modern, innovative and flexible library services to their communities.

No-cost freedom of information
Canberra Times, 6 February, by Liz Armitage

ACT Chief Minister, Gary Humphries, has announced the waiving of a $35 fee for members of the public making freedom of information requests. The measure is an attempt to re-enforce accountability in the wake of recent decisions creating a public perception that the ACT Government has not been as open and accountable as it could have been.

The tomes they are a-changin'
The Bulletin, 6 February, by Josh Gliddon

Helen Hayes, president of the Council of Australian University Librarians, is the architect of a radical rebuilding of the University of Melbourne's information infrastructure. An increasing volume of information in electronic format has forced a re-evaluation of what libraries and librarians do and how they go about doing it. The University of Melbourne now has 27 library buildings on campus, but no libraries. Instead the restructured service brings together six former departments, including IT, teaching support and information resources, into a single meta-department called the Information Division. Helen Hayes says that librarians are now information professionals working alongside IT professionals, all aiming at delivering one thing: information at the fingertips of students and staff.

TAFE 'could do better'
Daily Telegraph, 7 February

The efficiency of TAFE NSW has been criticised by the NSW Auditor-General who has suggested the educational institution still has room for improvement. In a report tabled in State Parliament, TAFE's management of its administration and provision of services were criticised by the Audit Office. The library system was identified as in need of reform with the Auditor-General suggesting its role in the education process was not fully recognised. ∎

... from previous page

- 14/5 Library and Information Week. *Information Rights day.*
- 15/5 Library and Information Week. *National Library Technicians day.*
- 16/5 Library and Information Week. *Thank You day.*
- 17/5 Library and Information Week. *National Simultaneous Storytime.*
- 18/5 Library and Information Week. *Libraries Online day.*

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 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, http://www.alia.org.au/conferences/shllc/2001/
- 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 http://www.alia.org.au/sections/tafe/conferences/ *Please note: correct dates above.*
- 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/
- 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
- 12–14/11 Public Libraries national conference. Melbourne Vic. Conference chair: Julie Rae, jrae@bayside.vic.gov.au

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