

# Making news...

Selected reprints from newspapers and magazine in recent months

**Librarians — the missing weapon in the literacy war**  
*Age* (Letters), 17 October,  
by Marianne Punshon

Marianne argues the importance of teacher-librarians in improving information literacy. She says that recent research has demonstrated that a strong library program can lead to higher student achievement — regardless of socio-economic factors or the educational levels of the general community. She points out that only fifteen per cent of Victorian primary schools have a trained teacher-librarian. Moreover, training for teacher-librarians is not available in Victoria.

**Where websites go to die**  
*Sydney Morning Herald*, 17 October

This article is a profile of the National Library of Australia's PANDORA project. The PANDORA project began in 1996 and is being used as a model for the massive archiving project by the United States Library of Congress (MINERVA), and it may also be used as the model for the British Library which is making a second attempt to archive internet content.

**Library's new, exciting chapter**  
*Advertiser*, 16 October

This article is a report on the opening of the re-developed State Library of South Australia. In opening the redeveloped Library News Corporation chairman Rupert Murdoch said that the refurbishment makes it 'a more Australian library, reflecting the culture of this country with great style and, more important, great facilities'.

**Murdoch boost for library**  
*The Australian*, 16 October

Rupert Murdoch said that libraries are becoming increasingly dependent on donations and sponsorship to fulfil their role in advancing scholarship. Speaking at the opening of the refurbished State Library of South Australia, Mr Murdoch said that a lack of public and government funding had 'driven our research libraries to downsize and cost-cut at the very time that they should be at their most expansive and productive'. News Corporation donated \$400 000 to the \$44 million redevelopment.

Similar stories appeared in the *Herald Sun* on 16 October 'Cash plea for our libraries', and the *Daily Telegraph* (Sydney) the same day: 'Lack of funds threatens research libraries'.

**Shush you good things — librarians silence Namibia's opponents**  
*Daily Telegraph*, 15 October

Yes, librarians are featuring in articles about the Rugby World Cup! A group of fifty-six librarians from Lake Macquarie drove to Gosford to support Namibia in their first game of the cup — against Argentina. And the final score? Argentina 67, Namibia 14.

**Free ticket for IT ride**  
*Northern News*, 9 October

Brisbane City Council has issued more than \$1500 worth of bus tickets to Woolloowin State School IT pupils so that they can travel to Chermisde library for lessons. The council acted in response to a plea from the school after the school's library and computers were destroyed in an arson attack. Pupils from the school will travel to the library on Brisbane Transport buses free-of-charge for the rest of the fourth term.

**Schools transformed**  
*The Age*, 7 October, by Bob Johnstone

In this potted history of the rise of computers in the classroom, Johnstone reports that there are plenty of reasons to be optimistic about the future of learning using the tools which technology provides, but there are also serious concerns. A number of Australian and overseas success stories are related, and he urges the public to be sceptical of reports which purport to demonstrate that computers somehow imperil learning.

**E-mail is National Archives time bomb, expert says**  
*Australian*, 7 October, by Selina Mitchel

Adrian Cunningham from the National Archive says that e-mail could prove to be a black hole in official record keeping. Government departments have a responsibility to keep appropriate records — including electronic files such as e-mail — for accountability, transparency and historical reasons.

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members \$750. Contact: APESMA Management Education, ph 1300 853 377, [short\\_courses@apesma-ed.com](mailto:short_courses@apesma-ed.com)

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• **2/12 Hunter Regional Group.** *General meeting and social activity.* Further details to be advised. Contact: Dianne Schofield, [diane.schofield@hunterlink.net.au](mailto:diane.schofield@hunterlink.net.au)

### QLD

• **20/11 Quorum Group.** *General meeting.* Brisbane City Council Central Library Theaterette, 5:00pm for 5:30pm. A gold coin is requested to cover the costs of light refreshments. Contact: Joy Goldsmith, [joy\\_goldsmith@hotmail.com](mailto:joy_goldsmith@hotmail.com)

• **23/11 Qld Library Technicians.** *Tech's xmas breakfast.* Watt Café at the Powerhouse, New Farm, 8:30-11:30am. Cost: \$10-\$25 set menu. *RSVP to:* Anna Johnson, ph 07 3864 4639, [a.johnson@qut.edu.au](mailto:a.johnson@qut.edu.au). Contact: Jennifer Parker, ph 07 3244 6464, [jennifer.c.parker@det.qld.gov.au](mailto:jennifer.c.parker@det.qld.gov.au)

• **5/12 ALIA New Librarians Symposium 1.5.** *ALIA NLS1.5.* Find out all the details on our website. \$125 ALIA members, \$165 non-members, \$110 student/concession [GST incl]. Carlton Crest Hotel, Brisbane Contact: Robyn Gattera, ph 07 3403 2592, [twq@brisbane.qld.gov.au](mailto:twq@brisbane.qld.gov.au), <http://conferences.alia.org.au/newlibrarians2003/>

• **11/2/2004 Qld Library Technicians.** *General meeting.* Guest speaker and venue: tba. Drinks and nibbles at 5:30pm for a 6:00pm start. Gold coin donation appreciated. Contact: Jennifer Parker, ph 07 3244 6464, [jennifer.c.parker@det.qld.gov.au](mailto:jennifer.c.parker@det.qld.gov.au).

• **27/3/2004 Qld Library Technicians.** *Visit to UQ Ipswich Library and possibly Ipswich Hospital Library and Ipswich Library followed by lunch.* Contact: Jennifer Parker, ph 07 3244 6464, [jennifer.c.parker@det.qld.gov.au](mailto:jennifer.c.parker@det.qld.gov.au)

### SA

• **17/11 SA Library Technicians.** *General meeting.* The Left Bank, 165 Pulteney Street, Adelaide, 6:00pm, all welcome. Contact: Fairlie Sampson, [library@tauondi.sa.edu.au](mailto:library@tauondi.sa.edu.au)

• **26/11 InfoSci (SA).** *Three Letter Acronym [TLA] XMS meet-*

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ing. Experience a fun TLA\* XMS — we'll try (not too hard) to explain and relate jargon terms! EDS, 108 North Terrace, 5:30pm for 6:00–7:00pm. Cost: \$2 members, \$5 non-members. *RSVP by 21/11 to:* Fiona Thomson, ph 08 8302 6880, fiona.thomson@unisa.edu.au

### VIC

**11–12/11 APESMA: short course.** *Project management.* Melbourne. Cost: members \$650, non-members \$750. Contact: APESMA Management Education, ph 1300 853 377, short\_courses@apesma-ed.com

• **15/11 Schools Victoria.** *Committee meeting.* Santa Maria College Library, Northcote, 9:30am. All members are warmly welcome to attend. Contact: Anne Girolami, secretary, ph 03 9851 1525 or anneg@marcellin.vic.edu.au.

**18–19/11 APESMA: short course.** *Risk management.* Melbourne. Cost: members \$650, non-members \$750. Contact: APESMA Management Education, ph 1300 853 377, short\_courses@apesma-ed.com

**20/11 30th anniversary celebrations** at *Victoria University for library technician course.* Terrace Restaurant, Nicholson Street Campus, 6:00–8:00pm. Cost: \$10.00 at door for all graduates, food and drinks supplied. Contact: lan.rogers, ph 08 9284 8665.

**24–25/11 APESMA: short course.** *Finance for non-financial people.* Melbourne. Cost: members \$650, non-members \$750. Contact: APESMA Management Education, ph 1300 853 377, short\_courses@apesma-ed.com

**26/11 Christian Librarians' Network.** *Dinner, guest speaker: Rev Dr Gordon Preece,* Keeping up-to-date in the Information Age. Presbyterian Theological College 684 Elgar Rd, Box Hill North, 7:00pm. Cost: \$25. *RSVP by 19/11 to:* Margaret Zarifeh, ph 03 9848 4531 (ah), 03 9898 9384 (bh)

**27/11 APESMA: short course.** *Writing winning technical documents.* Melbourne. Cost: members \$350, non-members \$450. Contact: APESMA Management Education, ph 1300 853 377, short\_courses@apesma-ed.com

### WA

• **11/11 WA Forum.** *General meeting.* Room 2.9, Alexander Library Building, 5:30pm. Contact:

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### Making news continued...

**Book worms eager for the next e-chapter**  
*Sydney Morning Herald, 7 October,*  
by Charles Wright

Yarra Plenty Regional Library has begun a twelve-month e-book trial. Twenty-five patrons with their own reader signed up for the trial in the first week, with more interested if the library would lend the hardware as well. An article about the trial also appeared in the *Herald Sun* (Melbourne) on 1 October with the headline 'Load up reading material'.

**Feast at the library: wear white gloves**  
*Canberra Times, 3 October,* by Philip O'Brien

The National Library of Australia is opening up its collections to the public in a unique way. They have begun a series of 'white glove' evenings where visitors can experience at close hand the richness of the library's collections in a pleasant social atmosphere. To tie in with Floriade, the first of the evenings showcased some of the library's garden history treasures. Marg Burn, head of the library's Australian collection likened the evenings to a 'hands-on version of the library's Treasures exhibition'.

**Call for libraries to turn new leaf**  
*The Mercury, 3 October*

Timothy Snyder and Keith Curry Lance, leading researchers from the United States, said that well-staffed, well-stocked and well-supported school libraries are vital if children are to reach their academic potential. The researchers were among 800 local, interstate and international librarians and educators in Hobart for the *Island Journeys* conference organised by the Australian School Library Association and the Children's Book Council of Australia.

**School libraries and student achievement**  
*Teacher Librarian, 1 October*

Recent research has found that school libraries can have a positive impact on student achievement — whether such achievement is measured in terms of reading scores, literacy or learning more generally.

**TAG team: collaborate to teach, assess and grow**  
*Teacher Librarian, 1 October*

Collaboration between teachers and teacher-librarians is essential when it comes to planning and implementing a curriculum unit. This in-depth article looks at the way collaboration is encouraged at the Leal Elementary School.

**Ghost greets library guests**  
*Townsville Bulletin, 30 September,*  
by Roberta Mancuso

Charters Towers has a new library. The \$2.2 million Excelsior Library was opened at the end of September. The library has been built on the site of the old Excelsior Hotel which was destroyed by fire in 1995. The new library looks like a pub on the outside (it retains the original façade), but holds a wealth of information and technology on the inside. And what else does the library hold? According to some, the ghost of a patron who died in the 1995 fire.

**Rewriting history could leave museum looking past it**  
*Sydney Morning Herald, 29 September,*  
by Joyce Morgan

Professor Frank Talbot, former head of Washington's Smithsonian Institute, said that the review into the National Museum of Australia, and the virtual firing of the museum's director, Dawn Casey, suggests that something is fundamentally wrong — 'a political attempt to sanitise our history: to hide away the brutal aspects of colonisation perpetrated by both invading and invaded populations...'

**Room for debate as bookish hotel fights Dewey system**  
*Sydney Morning Herald, 27 September,*  
by Michael Luo

Online Computer Library Centre (OCLC), the non-profit library co-operative which owns the copyright to the Dewey Decimal Classification system, has sued a boutique hotel in New York which has used the system as the theme. The Library Hotel numbers its rooms and stocks them with books according to Dewey's classification system. It also features a number of guest reading rooms. OCLC is seeking damages of three times the profits made by the hotel since it opened.

**On the map**  
*Australian Financial Review, 25 September,*  
by Terry Ingram

Terry Ingram reports on the National Library of Australia's growing map and chart collection. He believes that the library has staked its territorial claims to be Australia's leading collector of charts and maps. Some recent acquisitions include a rare double hemispherical world map showing the track around the world by Le Maire and Schouten in 1615–17; a 1609 map of New Guinea; and early real estate sales plans for the Gold Coast and Brisbane.

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