

Making news...

Selected reprints from newspapers and magazine in recent months

Information roles: a question of maturity?

Online Currents, 1 January, by Paul Bentley

The January issue of *Online Currents* dedicated considerable space to a report from the Information *Online 2003 conference*.

Knowledge management online war effort

Image and Data Manager, 1 February, by Siobhan Chapman

The records of World War Two service men and women have been transferred to the National Archives of Australia (NAA). The Department of Veterans Affairs transferred between 1.2 and 1.3 million dossiers, spanning Army, Navy and Air Force records to the NAA. The Department has also created an online database containing basic biographical details of each person. The site includes a search engine capable of searching by name, service number, honours received, place of birth, place of enlistment or town or suburb on enlistment form. The database can be found at <http://www.ww2.gov.au>.

eBook in for library training

Australian, 19 February, by Jim Buckell

An article encouraging distance students to do the library training program offered by university libraries so that they get the most from their library. University of Southern Queensland librarian Madeleine McPherson says that only about ten to fifteen per cent of distance students access the online library.

Features draw up to 1000 people daily

Border Mail, 19 February

Visitor numbers to the Wodonga Library have increased by about thirty-five per cent since the opening of the library's new facilities. Library staff have noticed a marked increase in internet usage in the library.

Learning centre set to go global

Hume Leader, 25 February, by Jennifer Grant

The Visy Cares Learning Centre due to open in March will be part of the Hume Global Learning Village. Not only will the centre offer interlibrary lending facilities, but will also offer internet access and the pre-school storytime reading activity.

Digital imaging

Australian, 25 February, by Adrian Lynch

More than 14 000 rare photographs and images,

the collection of the Royal Australian Historical Society, have been digitised thanks to a Centenary of Federation grant. The collection will eventually be made available on the web.

Funding cuts may kill uni research

Sydney Morning Herald, 26 February, by Aban Contractor

The Federal Governments higher education blueprint could see the closure of up to one-third of university laboratories and research facilities. The Opposition, academics and students condemned the government's proposals, which include higher student fees, loans closer to market rates, and an 'Australia-type' card to track students.

Free library service could be replaced by user-pays system

Fassifern Guardian, 26 February

The Boonah Shire Council has decided to adopt a business plan for its new cultural centre which could see the introduction of fees for services which are presently offered for free.

Cybrary: UQ library's evolution

Gatton Lockyer Brisbane Valley Star, 26 February

An overview of the University of Queensland Cybrary which is in operation throughout the university's thirteen library branches.

'Ned Kelly' asks for lots more

News - Mail, 28 February

Librarians from the State Library of Victoria donned Ned Kelly helmets during a protest action held to coincide with the launch of the Ned Kelly exhibition at the State Library. The library staff are asking for a six per cent wage rise.

Wanted: a librarian for the future

Advertiser, 1 March, by Geoff Kenihan

In this internet age, it appears that the public library still makes a real difference to people's cultural lives. The article goes on to describe the upgrade of the Hilton Library, and call for applications for the position of operations librarian at the library.

Bookworm Carr delivers \$25m

Daily Examiner 1 March

After persistent lobbying around the state, the NSW premier Bob Carr has announced an in-

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of Victoria, meet us in the Swanston Street Foyer at 6pm. Everyone is welcome, no charge, light supper provided. *RSVP's essential contact*: Tricia Murray, patricia.murray@rmit.edu.au

• **23-24/4 Vic & NSW Library Technicians.** *Techs on Tour Canberra*: be prepared... for the 2003 Techs on Tour to Canberra — a joint visit by the Victorian and NSW LT groups. Visit the National Library of Australia and other sites. A social dinner with the ACT Library Technicians is being planned. Contact: Kerrie Kelly, convenor, Vic LT group, kkelly@slv.vic.gov.au or Kevin Dudeney, convenor, NSW LT Group, kdudeney@graeae.unilinc.edu.au

• **3/5 Schools Victoria.** *Committee meetings*: Santa Maria College Library, Northcote, 9:30am. All members welcome to attend. For further information contact: Anne Girolami, secretary, ph 03 9851 1525, anneg@marcellin.vic.edu.au

• **6/5 Vic Library Technicians.** *Committee meeting and library tour*: Matheson Library (Monash University) followed by a committee meeting. Meet in the library's foyer at 6pm. Everyone is welcome, no charge, light supper provided. *RSVP's essential contact*: Tricia Murray, patricia.murray@rmit.edu.au

• **4/6 Schools Victoria.** *Committee meetings*: Santa Maria College Library, Northcote, 9:30am. All members welcome to attend. For further information contact: Anne Girolami, secretary, ph 03 9851 1525, anneg@marcellin.vic.edu.au

• **5/7 Vic Library Technicians.** *Techs on tour Melbourne: full-day of library visits*. Guest speaker: Angela Bridgland discussing the importance of continuing professional development. Lunch: \$9.90 ALIA members, \$12.20 non-members (incl. GST). Contact: Kerrie Kelly, kkelly@slv.vic.gov.au

• **19/7 Schools Victoria.** *Committee meetings*: Santa Maria College Library, Northcote, 9:30am. All members welcome to attend. For further information contact: Anne Girolami, secretary, ph 03 9851 1525, anneg@marcellin.vic.edu.au

• **16/8 Schools Victoria.** *Committee meetings*: Santa Maria College Library, Northcote, 9:30am. All members welcome to attend. For further information contact: Anne Girolami, secretary, ph 03 9851 1525, anneg@marcellin.vic.edu.au

• **25/10 Schools Victoria.** *Committee meetings*: Santa Maria College Library, Northcote, 9:30am. All members welcome to attend. For further information contact: Anne Girolami, secretary, ph 03 9851 1525, anneg@marcellin.vic.edu.au. Meeting will follow the PD activity organised for that day.

• **15/11 Schools Victoria.** *Committee meetings*: Santa Maria College Library, Northcote, 9:30am. All members welcome to attend. For further information contact: Anne Girolami,

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secretary, ph 03 9851 1525, anneg@marcellin.vic.edu.au

WA

3/4 CAVAL Training. *Book indexing intro refresher.* Centre for Business Solutions, 140 Royal Street, East Perth, 9:30–12:30pm. Cost: \$110 CAVAL/ALIA members, \$132 non-members. Contact: Eve Cornish, training@caval.edu.au. Registration online at <http://www.caval.edu.au>

3/4 CAVAL Training. *Journal indexing.* Centre for Business Solutions, 140 Royal Street, East Perth, 1:30–4:30pm. Cost: \$110 CAVAL/ALIA members, \$132 non-members. Contact: Eve Cornish, training@caval.edu.au. Registration online at <http://www.caval.edu.au>

4/4 CAVAL Training. *Book indexing intermediate.* Centre for Business Solutions, 140 Royal Street, East Perth, 9:30–4:30pm. Cost: \$198 CAVAL/ALIA members, \$220 non-members. Contact: Eve Cornish, training@caval.edu.au. Registration online at <http://www.caval.edu.au>

• **8/4–9/12 WA Forum.** *General meeting.* Room 2.9, Alexander Library Building, 5:30pm. 2003 meeting dates: 8/4; 13/5; 10/6; 8/7; 12/8; 9/9; 14/10; 11/11; 9/12. Contact: Belinda Grayson, ph 08 9383 8977, bgrayson@cambridge.wa.gov.au

• **15/4 KISWA.** *General meeting.* Café Pages. Contact: Rose Hockley, rose.hockley@wmc.com

National

• **12–18/5 Library and Information Week 2003.** Theme: *Information literacy.* Don't forget to publicise your LIW2003 events by sending the relevant information to events@alia.org.au For further information contact: alw@alia.org.au

• **25/7 ALIA ACOC seminar.** Wesley Conference Centre, Sydney. Further information contact Peter Haddad, ph 02 6262 1496, phaddad@nla.gov.au

• **5/9 National Simultaneous Storytime** will take place during Literacy and Numeracy Week, in libraries throughout the country at 11am AEST.

28–31/10 8th Interlending & Document Supply International conference. National Library of Australia, Canberra, Australia. Enquiries to: Tom Ruthven, director, interlending services, National Library of Australia, truthven@nla.gov.au

Conferences

• **24–28/8 10th Asia Pacific Special Health and Law Librarians conference.** *celebrate the future.* Adelaide Convention Centre, Adelaide. Contact: Festival City Conventions, ph 08 8363 1307, fx 08 8363 1604, librarians@fcconventions.com.au, <http://alia.org.au/conferences/shllc/2003/index.html>

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Making news continued...

crease of \$25.9 million to help fund local public libraries.

Reading habits change with the ageing process

Hamilton Spectator, 27 February

Changing demographics are having an effect on usage patterns for library services. In a report to the Glenelg Regional Library Board, a statistical analysis of trends showed that children were reading more fiction but non-fiction resources were being increasingly accessed via the internet.

Library will have it all, literally

Sydney Morning Herald, 3 March, by Robert Worth

The Alexandria Library have joined with an American artist and software engineers in an ambitious effort to make all the world's books available online. The Alexandria Library Scholars Collective could revolutionise learning in developing countries. The idea faces logistical, legal and technical obstacles, but the co-operative is interested mostly in books out of copyright and it plans to begin urging authors to donate their digital rights.

No sex, please: a blueprint for safer surfing

Sydney Morning Herald, 4 March, by Adele Horin

A report from the Australia Institute calls for an opt-out, rather than opt-in, filtering regime to counter internet pornography. The report says that the current system of regulation is 'manifestly failing'. The report also calls for the introduction of 'pornography education' in secondary schools.

Net laws a failure: Harradine

Sydney Morning Herald, 4 March, by Adele Horin

Continuing the focus on internet pornography, Adele Horin reports independent Senator Brian Harradine's concerns that the present system of internet regulation is not working. While Harradine would like to see regulation increase, there is growing recognition that education, not regulation is the long-term solution.

Also appearing in the 4 March edition were the articles 'Parents: teach your children well' by Adele Horin, and 'Net Nanny a part-time supervisor, says report' by Sue Lowe.

Fireproof library burns

Australian, 4 March

The Bibliotheca Aleandrina had to be evacuated recently due to a fire. The modern reincarnation of the famed Alexandria library was thought to be almost fireproof, with fire-proofing materials integrated into the design of the building. Fortunately the blaze was extinguished in about thirty minutes, and the section containing historical books and documents was undamaged.

Internet porn filters may become compulsory

Age, 5 March by Annabel Crabb

Prime Minister, John Howard, told coalition colleagues that the government was discussing ways in which to strengthen the online content legislation. One option under consideration is forcing internet service providers to fit filters au-

tomatically. The internet industry argued that this would be expensive and would dramatically slow internet speeds.

Booking in for the future

Australian, 5 March, by Jim Buckell

A profile of the UNTL Library and the work of the many volunteers and friends groups who are helping to rebuild the library. For anyone wanting to make donations in cash or kind visit the UNTL website at <http://www.untl.labor.net.au>.

Literary windfall well received

Wentworth Courier, 5 March

The concerted lobbying campaign organised by the Country Public Library Association seems to have paid dividends with the announcement of an additional \$25.9 million funding for public libraries in New South Wales over the next four years. The story was also covered in the *Forbes Advocate* on 6 March under the headline 'Carr pledges funds for public libraries'.

No more money for net porn watchdog

Australian, 6 March,

by Selina Mitchell and Luke McIlveen

The future of NetAlert, the body set up by the government three years ago to promote the positive use of the internet, is in doubt. NetAlert is running out of money, and there are doubts about it receiving funding in the upcoming May budget.

Parents the best internet censors

Canberra Times, 6 March, by Brian Greig

Senator Brian Greig (Australian Demoscrat spokesman on family and community services and information technology) urges that there are two underlying assumptions of the discussion paper, *Youth and pornography in Australia: evidence on the extent of exposure and likely effects*, which should be challenged. The first is that children are harmed by viewing sexually explicit material on the internet; second, that it is the government's role to do something about this. The authors of the paper, the Australia Institute, did not consult with the IT sector, NetAlert, the adult industry, or the psychological society when preparing the paper.

The real culprits in the internet pornography scandal

Age, 7 March, by Michael Cook

Michael Cook believes that politicians, advertisers and the media are the real culprits in the rise in internet pornography. He argues that the real reason we have failed to stop the spread of internet porn is legislative inconsistency.

Search engines stall as quiet achievers plough on in life's fast lane

Age, 10 March, by Sian Prior

Employees from the State Library of Victoria have been protesting for more than a month with the aim of gaining pay increases to put their salaries in line with librarians in other states. Prior argues that it is hypocrisy for our politicians to try to convince us that we need to become the clever country or the knowledge nation, and then pay the people whose job it is to gather, collate, conserve and disseminate this information peanuts. ■