

ACT

• **25/8 ACTIVE ALIA/AGLIN Info Sharing.** *Language and controlled vocabulary.* Sherrey Quinn (Libraries Alive!), Development of a system to manage the Defence Glossary; Anne Daniels and Pam Garfoot, Language Management in Centrelink (Online 2005 paper). NLA 4th Floor Conference Room, 4:00–5:30pm. Contact: Karna O'Dea, ph 02 6121 6310, karna.odea@dewr.gov.au

1/9 Power searching with the pros 1. *Level one workshop* focuses on introducing the main concepts that information professionals need to be familiar with. Presenters: Mary Ellen Bates and Chris Sherman. Novotel, 65 Northbourne Ave, Canberra. Cost [incl GST]: \$395 ALIA members, \$455 non-members. Contact: Elizabeth Swan, ph 02 9371 0300, e_swan@infoedge.com.au

2/9 Power searching with the pros 2. *Level two is a new advanced workshop* for information professionals who have already attended previous Web Search Pacific workshops. Novotel, 65 Northbourne Ave, Canberra. Cost [incl GST]: \$395 ALIA members, \$455 non-members. Contact: Elizabeth Swan, ph 02 9371 0300, e_swan@infoedge.com.au

• **28/9 APSIG.** *Spring dinner: at a Canberra restaurant.* Contact: George Miller, ph 02 6295 1439, gmiller@cyberone.com.au

• **19/10 ACTIVE ALIA.** *Information management in the Parliamentary Library — Info Online 2005 Encore.* Moving right along: using RFID for collection management at the Parliamentary Library. NLA, Conference Room, 4:00–5:30pm. ALIA/AGLIN Info Sharing Session. Contact: Sherrey Quinn, ph 02 6257 9177, sherrey.quinn@alianet.alia.org.au

26/10 2005 Clare Burton Memorial Lecture. *Girls, schools and society: a generation of change.* Guest speaker: Professor Alison Mackinnon, Hawke Research Institute, University of SA. Hosted by Australian National University, Great Hall, University House, ANU, 6:00pm for 6:30pm dinner. Contact: Lesley Hayes, ph 02 6125 4649, lesley.hayes@anu.edu.au.

26–27/10 2005 actKM Conference. *Managing Knowledge for Better Performance* Rydges Lakeside in Canberra. Contact: David Williams, ph 02 6121 7022, david.williams@dewr.gov.au, http://www.actkm.com/actkm_2005_conference.html

• **4/11 ACTIVE ALIA.** *Jobs and skill gaps: what the market is looking for.* Panel discussion: Anna-Maria Sviatko (One Umbrella), Megan Curlewis (Informed Sources) and speaker tba (Zenith). AGLIN/ALIA Joint Information Sharing Session. NLA, Conference Room, 4:00–5:00pm. Contact: Karna O'Dea, ph 02 6121 6310, karna.odea@dewr.gov.au

NSW

• **31/8–30/11 NSW Mentoring Group.** *Library folk in the pub.* Come and join us for our regular informal gathering. Chat about work, the profession or whatever. All library-types welcome! 1st floor bar, Agincourt Hotel, cnr Harris and George Streets, Railway Square, from 6:00pm. 31/8, 28/9, 26/10, 30/11. Contact: Alyson Dalby, ph 0404 655 319, libraryworld@exemail.com.au

• **5/9 ALIA Acquisitions National and AS-SIG Seminar.** *New ways of publishing, printing and preservation: trade and library developments.* Parliamentary Theatre, Parliament House, Macquarie St, 9:00–4:30pm. Cost [GST incl]: \$88 ALIA members, \$110 non-members, \$66 student/concession. Contact: Bev Lindqvist, ph 08 8302 6734, beverly.lindqvist@unisa.edu.au

5/9 Power searching with the pros 1. *Level one workshop* focuses on introducing the main concepts that information professionals need to be familiar

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Making news...

Selected reprints from newspapers and magazines in recent months

World will see a virtual Sydney *Australian*, 29 June

The online multimedia Dictionary of Sydney has won almost \$1 million in funding from the Australian Research Council. The five-year grant has been awarded to the University of Sydney, the City of Sydney and the State Library of New South Wales, joint partners in the dictionary's development.

With a management board chaired by city historian Shirley Fitzgerald, the dictionary will include primary sources, bibliographic material, new research and multimedia resources such as images, maps, databases and movies.

Australian gothic tale wins Franklin *Australian*, 24 June, by Murray Waldren

The \$42 000 Miles Franklin Literary Award has been won this year by Andrew McGahan for *The white earth*, a complex tale of power, passion, dynasty and dispossession.

Morag Fraser, spokeswoman for the Franklin judging panel, praised the novel's 'imaginative force and contemporary relevance' in exploring 'Australia's unresolved social and political problems'.

McGahan's first novel, *Praise*, won The Australian/Vogel Award and a Commonwealth Writers Prize and his third novel, *Last drinks*, won a Ned Kelly award for crime writing.

Birth of a state *Southern Star*, 15 June

The Queensland State Archives recently acquired some important historical documents dating back to 1859. One document, the Letters Patent signed by Queen Victoria establishing the Queensland colony, was found in the British Archives after decades of searching. Other Letters Patent from 1862 and 1872 giving effect to changes to Queensland borders form part of the acquisition.

Top-shelf library award *Advertiser* (Adelaide), 14 June, by Rhiannon Hoyle

The \$41 million refurbishment of the State Library of South Australia has won the Rider Hunt award. The award is presented annually in each state by the Property Council of Australia for outstanding property developments demonstrating excellence in the efficient use of capital in property development and maximum community benefit for public buildings.

The original 1960s building was partially taken apart and a contemporary shape was developed from the old shell. The redevelopment has led to a 66 per cent increase in users as well as enhanced safety for staff and customers.

War over literacy still taken as read *West Australian*, 8 June, by Bethany Hiatt

Teaching Australian children to read has experts split between the whole-of-language and phonics methods. In one camp are those who favour teaching children phonics — the relationship between letters and sounds — and in the other

are the whole-language advocates, who believe immersing children in texts will help them learn to read in the same way they learnt to talk, from being exposed to language.

Writer and literacy consultant Mem Fox is a passionate advocate for the whole-language method of teaching reading. She has persuaded federal Education Minister Brendan Nelson to fund 'the first read-aloud summit in the world' as part of the 2005 National Literacy and Numeracy Week.

But Melbourne-based literacy expert Dr Kerry Hempenstall says Australian methods of teaching children to read need sweeping changes. He was one of 26 signatories to a letter demanding an overhaul of literacy teaching that resulted in Dr Nelson calling a national inquiry into the teaching of literacy. The inquiry's recommendations are eagerly awaited.

Mayor turns page in book war *Courier Mail*, 8 June, by Chris Griffith and Rosemary Sorensen

Brisbane City Council will scrap the popular One Book One Brisbane program after this year and replace it with a competition for short stories. The author chosen as the focus of this year's One Book One Brisbane selection, Kimberley Starr, described the axing as 'a loss to the community'.

Culture and libraries in Brisbane will, however, benefit with an increased budget allocation of \$101.1 million, up from \$98.9 million. Spending on libraries will rise from \$34 million to \$37 million and library refurbishment will get \$8.5 million.

New chapter in libraries *Hills Shire Times*, 7 June

Castle Hill Library is just nine months old but it is already one of the most popular spots for families in the Hills district of Sydney. And its astonishing growth has broken records — loans from the library are up by 117 per cent from the same period last year, the largest growth in a one-year period in Australia.

Located opposite a major shopping centre and with a community centre in the same complex, the Castle Hill Library is designed like a bookstore, with wide aisles, lounge chairs and a coffee shop. It contains a large children's section with a castle and a 'fairytale atmosphere', and a huge activities room. The library is also very popular with teenagers and young people, who consider it a 'cool' place to be seen.

Book worms turn to DVDs *Sunday Mail* (Adelaide), 5 June, by Kate Patterson

Public libraries are enjoying a revival, but it's the stacks of DVDs rather than books drawing the crowds in. The burgeoning collections of CDs, DVDs, computer games and online services appear to be popular drawcards.

Brisbane City Council's initial collection of 1000 DVDs in 2000 has grown into a citywide

collection of over 17 000. They are proving so popular that usually only 7 per cent of the DVD collection is on the shelves, with the rest out on loan.

Visits to the State Library of Queensland increased last year by 34 per cent, with almost 9 million people passing through its doors. The number of people visiting Brisbane City Council's 32 libraries is also on the rise, with more than 5 million patrons last year.

Booking for a library *Mt Druitt Standard*, 1 June

The construction of Rooty Hill High School was completed in 1962, strangely without the inclusion of a library. Forty-three years later, the western Sydney school is still without a proper library, even though frustrated parents have been active in presenting their concerns to parliament.

Currently, a small number of books are being stored in converted classrooms, with students unable to study in the cramped and uninviting conditions.

At the launch of a campaign for a purpose-built library, supported by the school's staff and parents, school captain Patrick Keating said, 'There is something seriously wrong when governments can spend billions on private schools while public school students, like those at Rooty Hill High School, have to get by without a proper library.'

South Australians write new chapter in library success

Advertiser (Adelaide), 26 May, by Andrew Hough
New figures released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics show South Australia's council-run libraries are the most popular in the nation. At 7.6 visits per head of population, South Australians went to local government libraries more often during 2003, and borrowed more material per head, than anyone else in the country.

Beth Davidson-Park, a member of the Libraries Board of SA, said libraries were no longer just providing books, but were offering a range of information and entertainment services. 'People enjoy being in libraries. They have ambience, they are accessible and people feel safe in them,' she said.

Library joins worldwide query service

Western Morning News (UK), 25 May

A pioneering new service, with around 50 participating libraries throughout the UK, is set to bring an end to unanswered questions. The free system, Enquire, enables computer users to e-mail their questions, which will then be answered by library staff.

Organised by the National Lottery-funded project People's Network, the service is available 24 hours a day. The People's Network and Enquire are managed by the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (UK). Organisers have plans to introduce the service across Australia in the near future. For more information visit <http://www.peoplesnetwork.gov.uk>.

Library to donate books to Aceh

Canberra Times, 24 May

The National Library of Australia will donate \$13 000 worth of Indonesian-language books to

people in Banda Aceh, devastated by both the tsunami and earthquake in the last six months.

The books, mostly children's books and adult recreational reading, will be purchased by the library's regional office in Jakarta, and donated directly to the refugee camps in Aceh, currently housing more than 250 000 people.

The tsunami devastated Aceh's public library system. Only the building of the main public library still stands, while the collection of more than 200 000 books and all mobile library vans were destroyed.

Libraries make job hunt easier

Oakleigh Springvale Dandenong Times, 18 May
Greater Dandenong Council last week launched Job and Career Link centres at its Dandenong and Springvale libraries, an initiative made possible with a grant from the state's Department of Victorian Communities.

The centres will provide jobseekers with internet and e-mail access and links to job search sites and resume templates, along with reference books for job skills, fax machines, printers and access to phones. Library staff will also be trained to advise job seekers about vocational courses.

Access to publicly funded libraries beyond reach

South China Morning Post, 14 May, by Pauline Bunce

It is almost impossible for anyone, other than current or former students or staff of Hong Kong's universities, to gain reading access to any of the city's publicly funded university libraries.

As a distance-mode doctoral student of an Australian university, the writer is forced to arrange interlibrary loans of books and pay for photocopies of articles to be sent to her by mail. Yet, so many of the publications are on shelves just metres away on the other side of the heavily policed entry barriers to the local university libraries. What is doubly annoying for her is that her research subject is an important aspect of Hong Kong's English language education and that some of the photocopy requests have had to travel from Hong Kong to Australia and back again.

It seems that university library administrators fear an influx of secondary school students if they allow entry to anyone other than the university's own staff and students. ■

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with. Presenters: Mary Ellen Bates and Chris Sherman. Quay West Suites, 98 Gloucester Street, The Rocks, Sydney. Cost [incl GST]: \$395 ALIA members, \$455 non-members. Contact: Elizabeth Swan, ph 02 9371 0300, e_swan@infoedge.com.au

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NT

• **24/8 Top End.** *General meeting.* Minerals and Energy Library, 5:00pm tour, 6:00pm meeting. Contact: Jayshree Mamtara, ph 08 8946 7881, jayshree.mamtara@cdu.edu.au

• **25-26/8 Central Australia Regional Group.** *Futures Expo, Alice Springs.* A Territory-wide careers event for parents, teachers and young people. Our booth will be staffed by public, special, school and academic library staff who will inform Central Australian young people about their career options in the library industry. Contact: Sonia Sumner, ph 08 8959 5266, sonia.sumner@cdu.edu.au

• **28/9 Top End.** *General meeting.* Venue tba, 5:00pm. Contact: Jayshree Mamtara, ph 08 8946 7881, jayshree.mamtara@cdu.edu.au

• **7-8/10 3rd ALIA Top End Symposium Technology.** *Visions or Nightmares: True Stories in the Territory.* Charles Darwin University, Palmerston Campus. Come along and hear from some of those who have had dreams, nightmares and visions of failed technology projects but also have many triumphs to share and be proud of. Contact: Dianne Wilcox, ph 08 8988 2723, diwilcox@austarnet.com.au

• **11/10 ALIA Top End.** *Adapting or mutating? Future prospects for the librarian species.* Dinner with Andrew Booth at Tim's Surf and Turf Restaurant, 10 Litchfield St, Darwin, 6:30pm. Contact: Jayshree Mamtara, ph 08 8946 7881, jayshree.mamtara@cdu.edu.au

QLD

• **9/8 ALIA Quorum.** *General meeting to discuss the events planned August to December.* Venue tba. Watch the ALIA QLD e-list for more information closer to the date. Contact: Joy Goldsmith, ph 0410 723 975, joy_goldsmith@hotmail.com

• **1/9 ALIA Quorum. NER*D** — *International Conferences 2005.* Participants of the IFLA, ALA and Engaging Communities conferences will talk about the key themes and ideas from the conferences. Further details will be published on the ALIA QLD e-list closer to the date. Contact: Joy Goldsmith, ph 0410 723 975, joy_goldsmith@hotmail.com

• **28/9 Qld OPAL.** *General meeting.* Host: Kerri Nixon, Resource Options. Venue/time: tba. Contact: Kerri Nixon, ph 07 3391 3499, info@resource-options.com.au

• **29/9 ALIA Quorum. NER*D** — *next 2005 (Lib Techs).* Participants of the next conference will talk about the key themes and ideas from the conference. Further details will be published to the ALIA

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