

LIS sector watch

Nada Anderson, ALIA research officer

Networking the Nation evaluation report <http://dcita.gov.au>

This evaluation of the Government's Networking the Nation program comprises 4 reports. The first identifies the social and economic impacts of the program. The second report looks at the tangible assets and services the program has delivered to regional, rural and remote communities. The third is an efficiency review of the program by an external consultant. The fourth report is an assessment of the program drawing on elements from the first three reports.

Community critical: Australian public libraries serving seniors

Bundy, Alan AM, Friends of Libraries Australia (FOLA)
<http://www.fola.org.au>

FOLA recently conducted a survey to identify the extent to which local public libraries are able to be used readily by seniors, and their experience when they do so. The survey aims to inform and encourage those numerous local councils and their public library services still without strategies and priorities for developing services for older adults, and to develop them as soon as possible.

Emerging technologies: a framework for thinking

Education.au limited. Commissioned by the ACT Department of Education and Training.
<http://det.act.gov.au/publicat/pdf/emergingtechnologies.pdf>

A report on the emerging technologies that are pertinent to education and training in the pre-school, school and VET sectors in the ACT. It focuses on technologies that relate to the delivery and enhancement of teaching and learning. The report covers issues that affect the ACT's capacity to implement ICT, general trends in emerging technologies,

the take-up of technology in education, emerging technologies relevant to educational settings, and identifies a decision-making matrix that could be used when exploring the potential of an emerging technology.

Teleworking

Sensis Insights Report
<http://www.about.sensis.com.au/knowledge/research/php>

How is teleworking affecting Australian society? This report uses data from the Sensis Business Index and the Sensis Consumer Report to capture the attitudes of Australian consumers and business owners to teleworking in April and May 2005.

Factors affecting the impact of teacher education courses on teacher preparedness

Ingvarson, Lawrence; Beavis, Adrian and Kleinhenz, Elizabeth, Australian Council for Educational Research
http://www.acer.edu.au/about/staffbios/ingvarson_lawrence.html

The study seeks to provide guidance to policymakers on appropriate standards for assessing and accrediting teacher education programs to ensure that future graduates are well prepared for the demands of teaching. The study focusses on the characteristics of effective initial teacher education programs, as reported by teachers who have just finished their first year of teaching.

Increasing the attractiveness of libraries for adult learners

Chovlin, Catherine, Customer Interpreter Ltd for Museums Libraries Archives Council (UK)
<http://mla.gov.au.uk/information/publications/00pubs.asp>

The report presents proposals on ways to enhance and build on current provision for adult learners, focussing on

libraries' key strengths and offering opportunities to increase the role libraries play in this field. The report describes the barriers that prevent potential learners from using libraries for learning, and suggests ways to make libraries more accessible to adult learners. It also offers guidance on the language and messages most likely to influence adult learners.

Digital divisions: there are clear differences among those with broadband connections, dial-up connections, and no connections at all to the internet

Fox, Susannah, Pew Internet and American Life Project (US)
<http://www.pewinternet.org>

This report provides statistics and demographic information on a survey of internet use and type of internet connection in the USA. The report findings suggest that a new divide has developed between those who have high-speed connections to the internet and those stuck with slow dial-up access. ■

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SLV Scholarships

Two State Library of Victoria scholarships were awarded in October. The recipients will travel to the UK in 2006. The Barrett Reid Scholarship was given to Lorraine Seeger and Bernadine Nolen of the Eastern Regional Libraries Corporation. They are, respectively, community liaison manager and Belgrave branch manager, and intend to use the award to study social inclusion in the UK public library system. The Margery C Ramsay Scholarship was awarded to Shirley Prescott. Her area of study is reading services and staff training for reader development. ■