Library and Information Week, 23–29 May 2005

LIBRARY & INFORMATION WEEK
FEEDING HUNGRY YOUNG MINDS
YOUR LIBRARY — A FUN PLACE TO LEARN, CREATE AND PLAY

It's Library and Information Week this month and some fantastic events are planned to raise awareness of the value of libraries, information services and information professionals around Australia.

The Sydney Writers' Festival is delighted to be hosting US librarian extraordinaire (and action figure model) Nancy Pearl during the Festival. Nancy will be speaking at an exclusive free event for librarians on Thursday 26 May 2005, and the Festival would like to extend an invitation to ALIA members to attend. The event will be from 5:30 to 7:00pm at the Richard Wherrett Studio, Sydney Theatre. More details can be found at http://swf.org.au.

ALIA would again like to thank our principal sponsor for Library and Information Week 2005, NetAlert Limited. As part of NetAlert's ongoing commitment to Australian public libraries, an internet safety publication, *A Librarian's guide to internet safety*, has been developed to assist librarians keep young patrons safe while using the internet.

This guide complements two others already published by NetAlert to inform Australians about internet safety. *A Parent's guide to internet safety* gives advice to families on safe use of the internet at home. It is distributed through the NetAlert Helpline and at events, shows and conferences around Australia. *A Teacher's guide to internet safety* provides educators with an understanding of internet safety issues as well as a range of strategies they can use to teach internet safety in the classroom. Developed in 2004, it was distributed along with a Wall Chart and Quick Reference Guide to all Australian schools as part of the NetAlert Cyber-Safe Schools program.

A Librarian's guide to internet safety has been developed with the assistance of ALIA and provides information to librarians about the safe and responsible use of the internet, especially by young patrons, in public libraries. The dangers associated with using the internet are highlighted as well as strategies that librarians can implement to minimise the risks.

The guide is based on the view that young library patrons need to be educated about safe and responsible use of the internet given widespread online access in public libraries in Australia. The guide will be launched with other related materials during Library and Information Week. For more information, contact NetAlert on 1800 880 176 or e-mail enquiries@netalert.net.au.

ALIA is also pleased to introduce another of our partners for Library and Information Week 2005, *Good Reading* magazine. *Good Reading* is the Australian independent magazine for book lovers. Thousands of librarians already use *Good Reading*, not only as a purchasing tool, but also as a useful guide for their library users, helping them to expand their reading horizons. Inside the magazine you'll meet some new authors or get to know some familiar ones a little better; discover some intriguing book facts; taste-test some of the latest books with regular extracts; find out what book-related events are on throughout the country; take a tour around some unusual and interesting bookshops; plus read independent reviews of books from all genres, including fiction, biography, history, gardening, cooking, arts and kids books.

A subscription to *Good Reading* not only gives you access to special discounts from all *Good Reading* partners and automatic re-entry into a monthly draw to share in $2000 worth of books, but also a 15 per cent discount on your book purchases through GR Direct, a comprehensive mail order bookshop. It's a bookshop in a magazine, delivered direct to your door each month! For further information, visit http://goodreadingmagazine.com.au.

Have you ordered your LIW merchandise yet? Head to http://shop.alia.org.au to purchase some of the fantastic merchandise we have available this year to decorate your library. A series of three posters and three bookmarks — aimed at school and public libraries, information science and information online, and a general audience — have been created, so you can choose the poster that best suits your audience, or purchase all three in a discount pack!

And don't forget we want to know how your library will be celebrating LIW. E-mail alw@alia.org.au with the details of your organisation's activities and stay tuned to http://alia.org.au/advocacy/alw/2005/ for regular updates.

Statistics count — the ABS in action in LIW

Library and Information Week is a great opportunity to showcase Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) information in your library. The ABS Library Extension Program (LEP) is again offering libraries a free LIW Kit to help them promote their ABS collections and services. Even libraries without an ABS collection can use the kit, as it includes materials promoting the wealth of free information on the ABS website.

This year's LIW Kit is bigger and better than last year's — and includes stickers, posters, mouse mats, a series of attractive 'Statistics Count' info sheets, a citation guide for ABS information and a quiz for your clients. Order your LIW Kit by e-mailing library@abs.gov.au.

Make your LIW promotion count — enter the LEP Excellence Award! This exciting new award is designed to recognise and reward the efforts of libraries in promoting awareness, understanding and use of ABS information to their clients. The Award will be launched during Library and Information Week. The winner will receive a trophy and $1500 worth of ABS products or services of their choice. For more information, entry details and ideas for promotions, check out the May issue of the *LEP Newsletter*, or the LEP pages of the ABS website. So get creative and enter!

And the awareness raising continues...

Whilst Library and Information Week is a special initiative, the LEP team works right through the year in partnership with a nationwide network of libraries to open the door to the value of ABS statistics. For more information about the LEP, visit the ABS website at http://abs.gov.au (>Services we provide >Library Extension Program). ∎