

Communities and Memories — A Global Perspective

The 3rd UNESCO International Memory of the
World Conference 19–22 February, 2008
National Library of Australia, Canberra

Planning is progressing for the conference which looks back on the achievements of the *Memory of the World* program and forward to its sustained growth, wide acceptance and importance. It will be held in association with representatives from the Intangible Cultural Heritage sector and will be preceded by a meeting of the Regional *Memory of the World* Committee for the Asia-Pacific Region 17–18 February and a symposium on Intangible Cultural Heritage on 18 February. The conference program revolves around five key topics:

- *Memory of the World in the UNESCO framework* — examining its status within UNESCO and its relationship to other UNESCO activities, such as Intangible Cultural Heritage, Masterpieces of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity, Cultural Diversity, Human Rights and Cultural and Natural Heritage.
- *Global, regional and national perspectives* — looking at the effectiveness of the international, national, and regional programs, including their registers, in fulfilling the aims of the program.

- *Preservation and access* — taking a fresh look at the socio/technical and socio/cultural aspects of preservation and access and their roles in *Memory of the World*.
- *Sustaining the program* — exploring ideas, strategies and experiences to assist the growth of the *Memory of the World*.
- *Evaluating success* — identifying gaps, inconsistencies and inequities in the program and proposing solutions.

Eminent speakers will deliver papers to spark discussion on these topics and ample opportunities will be available for all delegates to contribute to the conference outcomes. The final day includes a UNESCO 'Soap Box' where all delegates are given a chance to have their say on any topic they believe is relevant to the development and sustainability of the *Memory of the World* program. The last day also offers workshops examining issues such as setting up a website, determining significance, submitting nominations, establishing a national committee and sponsorship. Registrations will open at the end of September 2007. For further information, see <www.amw.org.au/mow2008/mow2008.htm>.

Linking **Research** with Practice

This is the theme of the fourth Research Applications in Library and Information Studies (RAILS) seminar, which will be held at the State Library of Victoria on 30 November 2007. RAILS4 continues this theme from seminars held in previous years. The aim is to build partnerships among educators, researchers and practitioners, but also to ensure that a culture of informed and innovative practice is nurtured in the provision of library and information services (LIS).

If you are a practitioner interested in research, you can get involved by helping us to identify the research required by Australian practitioners and promoting the research agenda of Australian LIS peak bodies. If you are a researcher, you will be interested in making practitioners more aware of research that is currently underway and encouraging debate about it. For those

interested in current practice-based research there will also be the opportunity to hear about this and talk about this. There will also be a presentation on the Research Quality Framework which is currently being introduced into Australian universities.

The papers include: selection in academic libraries; information behaviour in public librarians; virtual reference and the digital library; information behaviour as cognitive shifting and multitasking; the NLA .au domain harvest; publication by Australian LIS academics; and the study of teenagers and their approach to reading and public libraries.

Join us to learn about the diversity of research interests we have in LIS in Australia and you may get inspired to do some research to help your LIS community. RAILS4 is being organised by the School of Business Information Technology RMIT University. A program and registration details are available at <<http://www.rmit.edu.au/bus/bit/rails4>>.

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