

## Libraries in the twenty-first century: charting new directions in information services

edited by Stuart Ferguson

Published by the Centre for Information Studies, Charles Sturt University  
<http://www.csu.edu.au/faculty/educat/sis/CIS/index.htm> priced at \$104.50 for ALIA members.

To understand 'why this book', consider the first sentence, "One of the reasons for embarking on a publication of this kind was the relative absence of a generic monograph... on the profession of library and information management and the directions it is currently taking". The book also fills a major gap, focusing on Australia.

Aimed at a wide audience the book will appeal to the seasoned librarian, the new graduate, alike and from the library and information management academic to the librarianship student.

Belonging to the series, Topics in Australasian Library and Information Studies, dating back to 1988 and which has given us 27 publications over 19 years. So we should both thank and congratulate the Centre for Information Studies at Charles Sturt University for their ongoing commitment to such publications and indeed for their research and continuing professional development in library and information studies.

In this book you will find contributions from a wide range of prominent

Australian librarians and experts in their respective fields. It is great to see what our respected colleagues have to say about the state of Australian libraries today.

It struck me as a very thorough analysis of the landscape. It's unusual to find a publication which ranges across all of the library sectors and issues: public libraries, school libraries, higher education libraries, national and state libraries, and special libraries. It covers issues such as collecting, access, library automation and other service issues. It looks outwards into the information environment, and the legal, managerial, historical and social contexts. Each chapter has been written by an expert who has been carefully chosen.

I give a few examples at the risk of offending any contributors I don't mention. Do you want an understanding of the management challenges facing our libraries? Turn to the chapter by Damian Lodge and Bob Pymm. Do you want to understand the challenges facing

the education of library workers? Where better to start than the chapter in this book written by Gillian Hallam. What about cataloguing and information access issues? Check out the chapter by Philip Hider. Of course the exciting activities of, and the collaboration between, the state, territory and national libraries are set out with clarity and readability by my colleagues Roxanne Missingham and Jasmine Cameron!

Some other things about this book are worth commenting on. For one thing, it is very well indexed. Whoever did the index – well done! It also has a good glossary. Not something you find very often in a publication like this.

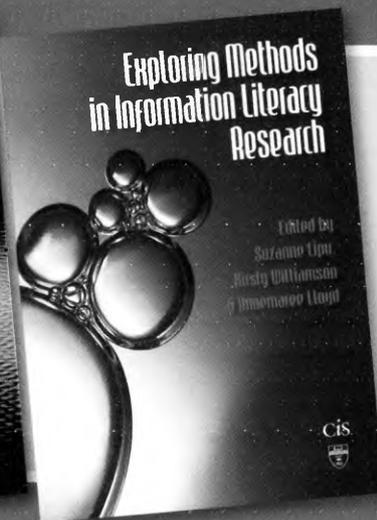
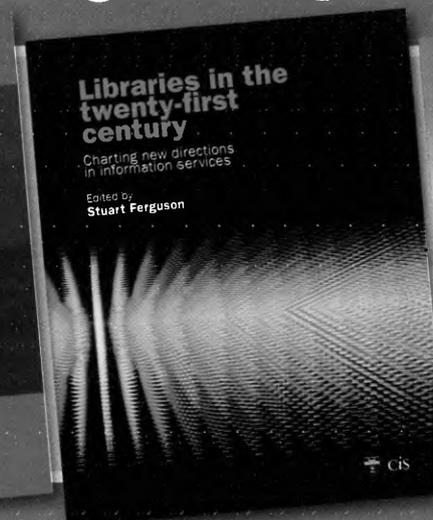
In the 19<sup>th</sup> and final chapter, entitled 'Conclusion: from people's university to information for all', Alex Byrne begins by saying "It is a great time to be a librarian or information specialist". I would have to wholeheartedly agree.

Dr Warwick Cathro  
 National Library of Australia  
[wcathro@nla.gov.au](mailto:wcathro@nla.gov.au)



**Centre for Information Studies**  
**Charles Sturt University**

**Focusing on the profession**



**To order:** please call **02 6933 2325**  
 email [cis@csu.edu.au](mailto:cis@csu.edu.au) or visit [www.csu.edu.au/cis](http://www.csu.edu.au/cis)