VALA 2008: Libraries/Changing Spaces, Virtual Places

VALA — LIBRARIES/TECHNOLOGY AND THE FUTURE/INC.

Well I'm back in my office, reviewing my notes, looking over the business cards I exchanged and fondling the goodies I collected at the exhibition to give as presents to the staff I left behind. What an exhausting, but exhilarating VALA experience I had as a first time delegate.

There were some outstanding presentations throughout the conference especially from some of the keynote speakers. One of my favourites was Peter Lor's (Secretary General of IFLA) presentation on *International Librarianship 2.0: some international dimensions of Web 2.0 and Library 2.0*. Speaking about the flow of information in developing countries, he also outlined some of the issues facing our sector including 'brain drain' and the unfair exploitation of indigenous knowledge.

Terence Harrison of Royal Melbourne Hospital collaborated with Catherine Voutier of the Centre of Clinical Effectiveness, Monash Medical Centre in Melbourne, to bring together Terence's Blog on clinical evidence issues and Catherine's Wiki on clinical evidence resources. The result (which they have called a Bliki) is Exploring the Evidence Base which includes a categorised list of resources in the Wiki section and discussion topics with the facility to comment and collaborate in the Blog section.

Professor Schubert Foo presented some of the initiatives the National Library of Singapore has taken to meet its users in their own spaces and provide an enhanced library experience, while Luke Wroblewski from Yahoo gave an outstanding plenary session on the last day. He spoke about web design patterns and introduced a number of tools that were new to me, including Rollyo, where you can create a search engine that searches only the sites and blogs of interest. Luke also spoke about Renkoo invite, a tool that enables the user to plan an event from the start, by using a variety of technology platforms including SMS, instant messenger and email.

It was impossible to see all the excellent presentations, so I would like to thank my conference buddies: Debb Zott, Kylie Jarrett, Alison Carter and Pam Cunningham who regaled me with their favourite moments of the conference while writing this report.

Take a look at the full papers on the VALA website **http://www.vala.org. au/vala2008/prog2008.htm**

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Have you heard about... the Book Wish Foundation established to provide reading relief for people in crisis? They are raising money to build a library in the Bredjing, Treguine, and Gaga refugee camps and in the nearby village of Hadjer Hadid in Chad.

More than 60,000 refugees live in the camps, and many thousands of neighbouring Chadian villagers are enrolled in literacy, pre-school, or primary school programs. Information available at **http://www.bookwish.org**

Library and Information Week
19-25 May 2008

Softlink — celebrating 25 years

http://www.alia.org.au/advocacy/liw/2008/

Libraries are for everyone! Libraries connect people to ideas; a vital part of our commitment to promoting the free flow of information and facilitating all Australians' access to recorded knowledge, information, and creative works.

This year's LIW promotional materials include a colourful poster, bookmarks, balloons, book journals and re-usable red ALIA @ your library® shopping bags. Order these products now via our 2008 LIW website.

Don't forget to mark your calendar for National Library Technicians' Day, celebrated this year during LIW on Tuesday 20th May.

In 2008, National Simultaneous Storytime returns to LIW. Libraries are for everyone – including, of course, children! This popular event on Wednesday 21st May highlights the importance of books, reading and literacy for children, as well as promoting storytime activities in public libraries.

Media releases will be distributed nationally. Look for them and other media resources on the LIW website, where you can download them to supplement your own local media program.

Libraries are for you and for all Australians – for everyone!

Australian Library and Information Association

National Simultaneous Storytime 2008

Wednesday 21 May at 11:00am

Imagine thousands of children across the country, sitting, spellbound as they listen to the tale of a very ordinary brown dog, who is dreaming of a home of his very own...

This year's National Simultaneous Storytime (NSS) book is *Arthur*, written by Amanda Graham and illustrated by Donna Gynell!

Beautiful poster available now.
http://www.alia.org.au/advocacy/ storytime/2008/