



University of Zadar

and the information disciplines"; an entire session on modelling bibliographic data and FRBR; a paper on the administration of e-resources and staffing implications; a study of Danish children's use of the International Children's Digital Library; and this author's paper on archiving television in the digital age.

LIDA is a small but surprisingly high-powered conference that provides an opportunity to gain a perspective outside the usual UK/North American axis. I was the only Australian there I think but can recommend attendance – at 200 Euros, registration is a bargain! Currently only hard copies of the papers are available (I know, the irony isn't lost!) – but the digital versions will be available shortly.

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Libero Consortia — An Italian success story

The LIBERO Consortia and Resource Sharing concept has been successfully executed in many regions throughout Australia and Europe. The latest LIBERO Consortia success story can be found in Padova, in the Veneto region of Northern Italy. The region consists of 104 communities which are grouped into five major regions covering over 2000 sq kilometers. These communities joined to form a consortium to service a combined 80+ branch libraries throughout the entire region.

Promoted by the Department of Culture of the Province of Padova an extensive process was undertaken to review all library policies. This process determined the necessity to create a unified catalogue in order to achieve a more complete and efficient research instrument. This would then allow searches to be far more comprehensive and effective thus improving the activities of circulation and acquisitions.

The Padova project not only involved the libraries; four additional parties were required to make this project possible. Given the enormous scale of the project it was necessary to roll it out over three stages. Phase one of the project was essentially the developmental stage which began in 2004. Phase two involved the implementation of the Federated Search module allowing members to search across one complete regional catalogue. Phase three saw the consolidation of individual LIBERO software to a unified system.

The benefits achieved are of considerable importance for both the library staff and its members. An overview of just some of

the many benefits achieved include the ability to do a single search on a unified catalogue and return a list of all materials available at each of the participating libraries in the province; uniformity of cataloguing; reduction of costs of cataloguing with data about a book catalogued within one network immediately available to other networks; guarantee of managerial autonomy for each individual network enabling individual library identity. With the unified catalogue it is now possible to know the lending availability of titles and thanks to one card per member in the Province of Padova members are able to borrow from any participating library within the region.

For further information on LIBERO or Consortia and Resource Sharing, please visit <http://www.libero.com.au>.

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An Australian in Samoa: celebrating Library Week Samoa "weaving knowledge"

Samoa is known for its beautiful beaches, rugby players, coconuts, *fafaline*, friendly people, *siva ali*, harmonised singing, Christianity, and the year-round humidity of the tropics.

It is not known for its libraries. But the Library Association of Samoa (LAS) plans to change that.



Susanne is second from the left

As I write this we are in the midst of a really successful National Library Week. Our theme for the week is 'weaving knowledge', which relates to traditional Samoan weaved fine mats that are valued highly and passed from generation to generation. We want Samoan stories, literature, and traditions to be similarly valued and shared, and for Samoans to have access to the information they need to gain knowledge.

For a tiny Pacific island with only one public library serving the entire population, the response to Library Week Samoa has been incredible. This is only the second time Samoa has held a library week. The first was held in 1988, and was by all accounts a modest affair.

I have spent the last four days being overwhelmed by the interest in and passion Samoa has shown for libraries.

From having over five hundred Samoan children dressed as their favourite book character parade through town to the public library, to 106 original short stories and poems about Samoan life entered