



Whether he's cranky or hungry, Bear is a winner

As Matthias Litters says in this month's EEL, there's an app for that! But when it comes to children's book apps, they can be very hit and miss. However, we've found a couple that we just love.

This year's NSS was such a success in no small part to Nick Bland's wonderful story, *The Very Cranky Bear*. Hundreds of thousands of children across the country sat down at 11 am on the 23rd of May to listen to the story of four small friends, a warm cave, and its current cranky occupant.

For a number of participants, this experience was enhanced by the innovative and interactive *The Very Cranky Bear* app, which was used in schools, libraries, and daycares to extend and augment the reading experience.

If you loved the book and the app, you'll be interested to know that Nick Bland's next book about our Bear friend, *The Very Hungry Bear*, now has an app of its own, with audio recorded by Australian actor Angus Sampson. Children have the opportunity to read aloud and record their own audio, or hear the story read by Angus and help by turning the pages and interacting with different elements throughout the story.

OCLC helps libraries enter the cloud

Libraries around Australia have begun pilot projects to implement OCLC WorldShare Management Services, the cooperative's new cloud-based approach to managing library services. WorldShare aims to provide tools to improve library workflows, reduce costs, and offer new opportunities for collaboration, by providing a web-based environment that streamlines cataloguing, acquisitions, license management, and circulation, and offer a next-gen discovery tool for library users. Under the project, libraries will be able to share infrastructure costs and resources, as well as collaborate in ways that free them from the restrictions of local hardware and software. WorldShare Management Services also offer the ability to manage collections of print, electronic, and digital material from start-to-finish, and the integration of license management features into interlibrary loan processes. You can find out more on the OCLC website: www.oclc.org/au/en/webscale/default.htm

Thoughts of a Queen

There's something delicious about reading someone else's personal diary – and this thrill is increased a hundredfold when the writer is one of the most famous monarchs in history.

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II has launched a unique online resource that will allow monarchists, historians, and curious readers the opportunity to do just that. The personal journals of Queen Victoria, all 141 volumes and some 43 000 pages, are now publically available in their entirety for the first time, thanks to a collaboration of The Bodleian Libraries, The Royal Archives, and ProQuest.

Queen Victoria was a prolific writer and recorded her thoughts and experiences almost daily, starting with her first entry as a young girl of 13 and continuing until just weeks before her death in 1901. Her journals provide a fascinating insight into her life

as Queen, giving an intimate first-person account of key events in her life and sixty-three years on the throne, from her coronation and her marriage to Prince Albert to the Diamond Jubilee of 1897. The journals also trace important events in political and social history such as meetings with her Prime Ministers, The Great Exhibition, and the Crimean and Boer Wars, shedding previously unrecorded moments of significance for world history.

More information is available here: www.queenvictoriasjournals.org, and ProQuest has developed a specialised version for libraries. The Queen Victoria's Journals website is mobile-compliant and can be viewed from all iPhones, Blackberry, and Android phones. The website is supported by a Facebook page at www.facebook.com/queenvictoriasjournals and Twitter at @QueenVictoriaRI.