Sant Angelo College. Contact: Andrew Barber, ph 02 9519 1544, library@newton-pah. dse.nsw.edu.au

- **19/5 NSW Branch council meeting**. State Library of NSW, Jean Garling Room, Macquarie Street, Sydney, 6pm. Observers welcome. Contact: Jo-anne Fuller, ph 02 9906 6000, fx 02 9906 5987, jojo1@ozemail.com.au

20/5 Keeping up with internet developments. UNSW, School of Information, Library and Archive Studies. Contact: Maureen Henninger, ph 02 9385 3589, fx 02 9385 3430, M.Henninger @unsw.edu.au

- **23/5 NSW School Libraries section**. *Powerpoint presentations*. Venue: Macquarie University Library, Information Technology Training Unit. Contact: Ailsa Holmes-Walker, ph 02 9781 3541, ailmuirf@ozemail.com.au

6-20/7 Re-entry skills for librarians, week 1 UNSW, School of Information, Library and Archive Studies. Contact: Maureen Henninger, ph 02 9385 3589, fx 02 9385 3430, M.Henninger@unsw.edu.au

- **20/6 NSW School Libraries section**. *New Technology.*

- **12/9 NSW School Libraries section**. *Write your own report card: accountability and the school library*. Contact: Ian McLean, ph 02 9886 7501, mcleani@gwise.dse.nsw.edu.au

- **7/11 NSW School Libraries section**. *Conserving the past for the future — archives in school libraries*. Contact: Ailsa Holmes-Walker, ph 02 9781 3541, ilmuirf@ozemail.com.au

Qld
- **23/4 Qld Special Libraries section**. International special librarian's day. Qld Art Gallery, plus optional tour of QAG Library or Golden Age of Dutch Art exhibition, 12 2pm. Lunch — $14 ALIA members, $16 non-members Contact Maree Pickering, ph 07 3224 4688, maree.pickering @premiers.qld.gov.au

- **3-9/5 Qld Special Libraries and Library Technician sections**. Specials and Technicians go west for Australian Library Week. Quiz night in Toowoomba — 8/5. Technicians visit — 9/5.

The Australian Libraries Gateway

A one-stop-shop for Australian libraries

The Australian Libraries Gateway is a new web-based directory service which improves access to information about Australia's libraries. The National Library of Australia is developing the Australian Libraries Gateway service through a project which has been funded by the Commonwealth Department of Communications and the Arts. The project is a key part of Australia's Cultural Network (http://www.acn.net.au), a web-based service which aims to be 'the best place to start' for anyone interested in Australian culture. The first release of the Australian Libraries Gateway website can be found at http://www.nla.gov.au/libraries. The site will deliver a notable improvement to the National Library of Australia's infrastructure in the area of directory services.

Among other things, the Australian Libraries Gateway aims to be a directory of current information about every library in Australia — there are presently more than 2000 libraries in the database. Its goal is to be a 'one-stop-shop' for Australian libraries and a vital tool for both Australian and international users.

The data contained in the Australian Libraries Gateway database has primarily been extracted from the Interlibrary Resource Sharing Directory (a directory of information about libraries that participate in interlibrary loan), and from the Australian Libraries database on the SunSITE at the Australian National University, maintained by Mark Nearhos.

So far, the Australian Libraries Gateway can help users to:

- find all the libraries in a defined local area (their address, phone number and access conditions);

- locate all the public, university or health libraries in Australia or just those in a particular region of Australia;

- search the catalogues of libraries throughout Australia;

- link to the website of a library and thus discover the resources it provides and the services it offers; and

- access Australia's cultural heritage via online exhibitions, events and image collections.

Before August 1998, site developers intend to create a mechanism for discovering which Australian libraries have good, specific research collections (making use of the Australian Conspectus information) and provide links to collections of useful information maintained on library websites.

How will the Gateway remain current?
While the site resides at the National Library of Australia, all Australian libraries have a role to play in maintaining the Australian Libraries Gateway. Individual libraries maintain the currency of the information about their own library. The 'useful resources' are maintained by libraries and other organisations throughout Australia (the Gateway simply links to these resources and serves as an alternative and central point of access). There is a form on the site that allows for online updating of information.

Guidelines for library websites
Much of the information about Australia's libraries is found on individual library websites. As part of the Gateways project, the National Library of Australia has produced a short document entitled *Draft guidelines for the content of library websites*, which is accessible at http://www.nla.gov.au/libraries/guidelines.html. These guidelines are intended to improve the availability of information about the use of libraries by the general public. However, as the guidelines are currently in draft format, your feedback is sought to shape them into a useful document.

Directory of Z39.50 targets
The Australian Libraries Gateway service aims to provide access to library catalogues, as well as websites and other information about libraries. Access to library catalogues is also being improved through the Z39.50 standard search protocol. Consequently, a Directory of Z39.50 targets in Australia is included as part of the Australian Libraries Gateway site. If your library has a Z39.50 server, please contribute the appropriate technical information to this part of the site at http://www.nla.gov.au/libraries/z3950.

Have your say
You are invited to visit this site, and to provide comments about it. Library staff are encouraged to contribute to the improvement of the site, through the provision of accurate data about their library. You are encouraged to participate in this important initiative as it has great potential as a tool for Australian and international users, for library professionals and for the general public. Contact Leanne Brandis, ALG project officer, telephone 02 6262 1575, or e-mail lbrandis@nla.gov.au. ∎