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dent Library Technician conference grant winner, Helen Page, will be making a presentation, along with a panel of library technicians who attended the Fremantle conference. Box Hill Tafe, Nelson Campus, New wing, upstairs Room 222, 6 for 6:30pm, light refreshments provided. RSVP: Kerrie Kelly, ph 03 9669 9721, kerrie@slv.vic.gov.au

• **28/10 Vic Branch, Library Board of Victoria & Victorian Library Network Committee.** Seminar: *Marketing libraries* presented by Michael Faulkner, Market Direction Pty Ltd; Sue McKnight, president Vic Branch; Catherine Harboe-Ree; State Library of Victoria; Margaret Grabau, Libraries Victoria; and other speakers. William Angliss Institute of TAFE, 555 La Trobe Street, Melbourne (corner La Trobe & King Streets), 2:30-5:30pm, followed by drinks. RSVP by 22/10 to: h.sweeny@c031.aone.net.au

• **Nov Ballarat Regional Group.** AGM. Details: tba.

• **10/11 Vic Branch/VicLIS Forum.** more details later!

• **13/11 Vic School Libraries section.** AGM. Statewide School Support Centre, Church Street, Richmond, 9:30am. Contact: Maelor Himbury, secretary, ph 03 9366 2555 (w), fx 03 9367 9361, maelor@melbpc.org.au

• **3/12 Vic Branch.** *Christmas party*, celebrate the events of 1999 with colleagues and friends. Natures Element, 213 Franklin Street, Melbourne, 5:30 for 6pm ALIA members \$15; non-members \$25. RSVP: ALIA Vic Branch Office, Helen Sweeny, ph 03 9816 4904, h.sweeny@c031.aone.net.au See enclosed flyer for details.

• **6/12 Home Library Services SIG meeting** Williamstown Library, 104 Ferguson Street, Williamstown, 10am. Contact: Marie Boyd, ph 03 9932 4171.

## WA

• **19/10 WA Library Technicians section.** *Monthly meeting.* Inglewood Public Library, 895 Beaufort Street, Inglewood, 6pm. Contact: Wendy Monaghan, ph 08 9427 3267, wmonaghan@mail.liswa.wa.gov.au

• **16/11 WA Library Technicians section.** *Monthly meeting and AGM.* LISWA, 5:30pm, dinner to follow. Contact: Wendy Monaghan, ph 08 9427 3267, wmonaghan@mail.liswa.wa.gov.au

• **2/12 WA Local Studies section.** AGM. John Curtin Prime Ministerial Library, Curtin Campus, commencing with tour of exhibition at 4:30pm. Demonstration of the Virtual Library, 5pm, AGM commencing at 5:30pm. Contact: Julie Zuvela, ph 08 9386 6230, fx 08 9389 8742, jzuvela@nedlands.wa.gov.au

## Conference

• **13-15/10 13th National Cataloguing conference.** *Charting the Informa-*

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# Making news around Australia

## Selected reprints from newspapers and magazines in recent months

### National Library moving with the times

*The Canberra Times*, 17 August, by Jennifer Moran

Newly-appointed director-general of the National Library of Australia, Jan Fullerton, believes that the future will be characterised by responding to the possibilities and problems presented by technology. Ms Fullerton said that technology would directly influence the National Library's priorities in the future.

### Five things you didn't know about books

*The Age*, 24 August

1. The State Library of Victoria has eighty kilometres of books in its collection.
2. *Eucalyptus* by Murry Bail is Readings' biggest-selling book of the year.
3. The earliest known book are the clay tablets of Mesopotamia and the papyrus rolls of Egypt.
4. The Egyptian papyrus roll is a more direct ancestor of the modern-day book.
5. Evidence from archaeological digs shows the Chinese were producing books as early as 1300 BC.

### Embrace the business of knowledge

*The Age* (Melbourne), 24 August, by Helen Hayes

Governments are becoming aware of the importance of a knowledge-based economy where education, technology and entrepreneurship are three of the most important creators of competitive advantage. Helen Hayes, from the University of Melbourne, believes that the knowledge business is bound to become one of the greatest enterprises of the next century.

Helen believes that in order to maintain the quality of tertiary education, universities must understand the information needs of their students and staff.

### Regional ISPs under threat from \$150m censorship compliance

*The Australian*, 24 August, by Paul Budde

The direct cost of compliance with the Federal government's censorship laws could be as much as \$200 million. The internet industry faces the largest part of this, around \$150 million.

These figures, based on industry information, are a concern for the smaller service providers who will be less able to absorb the costs. Many smaller regional ISPs will not be able to afford the initial basic hardware and software to comply with the new laws.

### Most favour cyber censorship: survey

*The Australian*, 24 August, by Mark Hollands

Up to sixty per cent of the Australian popula-

tion support the blocking of controversial material on the internet according to a recent survey conducted by the Australian Broadcasting Authority. Most wanted racist messages and pornography banned.

More than 1000 Australians were interviewed for the survey. Citizens in the United States of America and Germany were also interviewed as part of the survey [ed: why?].

Some thirty-seven per cent of Australians said they would sign up with an ISP that offered to filter out questionable content, however only twelve per cent thought the government could be trusted on the issue.

The age of respondents had a bearing on their attitude to what is available on the web. Generally the older the respondent, the more concerned they were about violence and pornography on the web.

### Reverse 'net laws: expert

*The Australian*, 24 August, by Ilsa Colson

Professor Nadine Strossen, Civil Liberties Union president, has labelled the federal government internet censorship laws as draconian and repressive and made Australia 'the global village idiot'. Professor Strossen was speaking at a seminar on Freedom of speech and the internet in Melbourne. She said that the United States was concerned about what is happening in Australia in terms of restricting the 'net. She also said that the argument depended on by the federal government that children needed to be protected from some material on the 'net had already been rejected by the Supreme Court in the United States.

### Library joins forces to link knowledge

*The Australian*, 25 August, by Diana Thorpe

Helen Hayes, winner of the Telstra Business Woman of the Year (corporate and government category) and University of Melbourne's vice-principal (information), cannot recall any computers on desks when she joined the University library more than twenty-five years ago.

She says that the challenge for university libraries was to identify what could be achieved collaboratively. To this end, she organised a meeting of representatives from CSIRO, national, state and university libraries to discuss creating a national storage system of material including books, archives and journals.

### Library shelves old image for virtually-new look

*The Canberra Times*, 30 August, by Kathy Heagney

The ACT Library and Information Service is becoming more than just a place to borrow books. Librarians now help the unemployed find work, offer advice to small business, teach

seniors to use the internet, and provide students with tools to help them with their homework.

Urban Services minister Brendan Smyth said that the library service is leading the way for libraries of the future, with a range of electronic services being introduced. He said 'We are building a virtual community library ... accessible to everyone, whether at home work or in a library.'

#### Internet is top tool in classrooms

*The Daily Telegraph*, 30 August, by Rachel Morris

Statistics show that students across New South Wales are logging a total of 100 000 hours a day on the internet. Internet use has increased 600 per cent in the past year according to the Department of School Education. The Department's website registers more than 220 000 hits each day.

Every school in New South Wales has at least one e-mail address. Some have up to fifty computers connected to the internet, and an additional \$13 million is earmarked in this year's state budget to connect more schools.

#### Pamela Wilkinson wins State Library award

*Southern Highland News — Bowral*, 30 July

Pamela Wilkinson has been awarded the 'Vera' Award for 'rookie' mobile library operators at the Country Public Libraries Association conference. The award is recognition by peers for outstanding service to the community.

#### Sorry story of communities without books

*The Courier Mail*, 7 August, by Tony Koch

Alan Duff, author of *Once were warriors* and *What becomes of the broken hearted*, revealed in a recent interview how he had used some of his earnings to establish a volunteer-run library service in New Zealand. This scheme prompted Tony Koch to investigate what library services are available to indigenous people in Queensland. He was shocked to discover that of the thirty-six Aboriginal communities in the state, only six of them have a public library. The Queensland state government is moving to address the problem, but Mr

Koch puts out a call for communities to lend a hand.

#### Media centre option for extended library

*Alpine Observer*, 25 August

Plans to establish a multi-media centre in Bright as part of the library redevelopment could see the town become a regional leader in the booming new industry.

It is hoped that the inclusion of professional multi-media office suites and two training areas for sound and film recording/editing with the library will bring students and businesses into the area for training. It is also hoped that the centre would become home to an Internet Service Provider.

#### Money spent on services drives the dollar further

*The Sydney Morning Herald*, 2 September, by Adele Horin

New research has revealed that money spent on public services such as health and education generates more jobs and income than the same amount spent on other industries. The report 'Multiplying benefits, the economic impact of public spending' by Michael Carman, a research associate at the Public Sector Research Centre at the University of New South Wales, calls on governments to take full account of the wider damage to the economy and employment caused by cuts to public services.

The new research using Australian Bureau of Statistics data, compares the impact on the economy of public sector expenditure with the impact of expenditure on goods and services produced in the private sector. It shows that \$1 spent on health services will generate a total of around \$1.74 in income in the economy as health sector employees spend their wages and the recipients, in turn, spend theirs. In comparison, \$1 spent in the motor vehicle industry would generate income of only \$1.10. The main reason public sector industries have a higher multiplier effect is that they are labour intensive. Therefore any cut in the level of provision of these services has a proportionally more negative effect on wages and employment than changes in other industries. ■



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*tion Universe*. Carlton Crest Hotel, Brisbane. Contact: Intermedia Convention and Event Management, ph 07 3369 0477, fx 07 3369 1512, cat99@im.com.au <http://www.alia.org.au/sections/cat/conferences/>

• **12-13/11 2nd Local Studies conference.** *Post haste the millennium: opportunities and challenges in local studies.* Contact: Jenni Woodroffe, convenor, ph/fx 08 9367 4759, jenni@omen.net.au

• **14-17/11 Public Libraries conference.** *How far have we come... how far can we go?* Organised by ALIA WA Public Libraries section. Sheraton Perth Hotel, Perth. Contact: Promaco Pty Ltd, ph 08 9332 2900, fx 08 9332 2911, promaco@promaco.com.au URL <http://www.promaco.com.au/conference/1999/alia>

• **3-5/12 ALIA Information Literacy SIG and University of SA Library joint conference.** *Concept, challenge, conundrum: from library skills to information literacy.* Keynote speaker: Professor Ken Haycock. Uni South Australia, City West Campus. Contact: Irene Dorskatsch, ph 08 8302 4447, fx 08 8302 4754, irene.dorskatsch@unisa.edu.au *The conference has been extended by half a day.*

• **10/12 ALIA2000 conference** call for papers deadline. Contact Conference Solutions, PO Box 238, Deakin West 2600, ph 02 6285 3000, fx 02 6285 3001, e-mail [ALIA2000.conference@alia.org.au](mailto:ALIA2000.conference@alia.org.au)

**3-7/7/2000 21st Conference of the International Association of Technological University Libraries.** *Virtual Libraries: Virtual Communities*, hosted by QUT Library, Brisbane, Australia. Well known overseas/local speakers. Contact: Barb Ewers [b.ewers@qut.edu.au](mailto:b.ewers@qut.edu.au) For regularly updated information see: <http://www.lib.qut.edu.au/IATUL>

• **23-26/10/2000 ALIA2000 conference** *Capitalising on knowledge: The information profession in the twenty first century.* National Convention Centre, Canberra. Contact Conference Solutions, PO Box 238, Deakin West 2600, ph 02 6285 3000, fx 02 6285 3001, e-mail [ALIA2000.conference@alia.org.au](mailto:ALIA2000.conference@alia.org.au)

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