

\$88, non-members \$110. Contact: Nicole Sinclair, nicoles@caval.edu.au

• **4/12 Home Library Service SIG.** *General meeting.* Yarra Plenty Regional Library, Ferris Boulevard, South Morang, 10am. Contact: Marie McMahon, ph 03 9401 0725.

WA

• **4/10–6/12 WA Children's and Youth Services section.** *General meeting, the more the merrier!* Brass Monkey in Northbridge, 6:30pm. 4/10, 6/12. Contact: Hilary Hatfield, ph 08 9411 3494, fx 08 9411 3493, hilaryh@cockburn.wa.gov.au

• **4/10 WA Public Libraries section.** *Quiz night — new date.* Book your tables of 6 with Evelina Dobrowolski, ph 08 9375 1766. *Write this date in your diary now!*

• **6/10 WA Public Libraries section.** *Annual general meeting, breakfast meeting, all members welcome!* Further details tba. Contact: Judi Willmott, ph 08 9354 5327, fx 08 9354 5953, jwillmott@canning.wa.gov.au

• **9/10–12/11 WA Branch Council.** LISWA, Room 2.9, 9/10; 12/11. Contact: Tracy Barker, ph 08 9272 1267, tracy@eon.net.au

• **10/10–12/12 WA Public Libraries section.** *General meeting, all members welcome!* Morley Public Library, 7 Dewar Street, Morley, 4pm. 10/10, 12/12 (second Tuesday of each month). Contact: Judi Willmott, ph 08 9354 5327, fx 08 9354 5953, jwillmott@canning.wa.gov.au

• **16/10 WA Library Technicians section.** *General meeting.* Deacons Lawyers, Boardroom, Level 31 Boardroom, Bankwest Tower, 108 St Georges Terrace, Perth, 5:30 for 5:45pm start. Contact: Sandra Wilson, wilsons@boris.curtin.edu.au or Sharon Becaria, ph 08 9426 3254.

• **23/10–27/11 WA Special Libraries section.** *General meeting.* Café at LISWA, 23/10; 27/11. Contact: Pauline Sawyer, psawyer@agric.wa.gov.au

• **7/11 WA Local Studies section.** *General meeting and tour of school archives.* Guildford Grammar School, meeting 5:30pm, tour after meeting. *RSVP to:* Julie Zuvella, ph 08 9330 5537, jzuvella@ozemail.com.au

• **11/11 WA Children's and Youth Services section.** *AGM.* Venue: to be decided. For further information contact: Hilary Hatfield, ph 08 9411 3494, fx 08 9411 3493, hilaryh@cockburn.wa.gov.au

• **14/11 WA Library Technicians section.** *General meeting/dinner.* LISWA, 5:30 for 5:45pm start. Contact: Sandra Wilson, wilsons@boris.curtin.edu.au

National

• **15–18/10 LIANZA 2000 Conference.** *Exceeding Expectations: Ka whaia te paetawhiti.* Christchurch Convention Centre. NZ Law Librarians Conference and COMLA Conference (18–20/10), same venue. A week not to be missed! For more information and registrations, go to <http://www.conference.co.nz/LIANZA2000/>

• **16/11 National School Libraries section.** *AGM by teleconference, 8pm EST.* Principal agenda item: the role of the national section in the future, and specifically, plans for 2001. Members are also urged to bring to the committee's attention any matter of concern or interest. Any member who would wish to take any part in the committee is urged to contact either a state-based member of the committee or Maureen Nimon, maureen.nimon@unisa.edu.au.

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Making news

Selected reprints from newspapers and magazines in recent months

Starting a lending library: some practical hints

The Australian Woman's Mirror, 18 August 1925, by I M Brodie

This gem begins: 'the work of a librarian is pleasant and particularly suitable for women; and when properly managed, a lending library can be a profitable venture...' I M Brodie then goes on to describe how a young lady could start her own lending library... Thanks to Jenny Davis from UTS Library for forwarding this piece.

\$337 150 major library upgrades for Southern NSW

Tumbaruma Times — Tumut, 26 July

Tumbarumba and Crookwell libraries have each been given \$100 000 through the state governments Library Development Grants. Both libraries will be re-developed. Other libraries in the region have also benefited from the grants, including the Monaro Regional Library, Bungendore Library; Yass Library; Tumut Shire Library; Goulburn Branch Library; and Gunning Branch Library.

\$100 000 grant for new branch library

The Great Lakes Advocate, 26 July

A new library for the Hawks Nest/Tea Gardens will become a reality thanks to a \$100 000 Library Development Grant. The library will house up to 15 000 books and provide a wide range of children's, literacy and cultural activities.

\$18 500 grant will boost local library's value as historical resource centre

Walcha News, 27 July

After a five-year funding battle, the Walcha Library will finally be able to install a microfilm/microfiche reader printer and photocopier thanks to a \$18 500 Library Development Grant.

Grant is welcomed

Crookwell Gazette, 27 July, by Susan Tate

Kerri-Ann Pratley said that she was 'relieved' that the Crookwell Library had received \$100 000 in the latest round of NSW Library Development Grants. The funding will be spent on improvements to the library, including increasing the number of computers available, increasing the floor space, and improving the interior design.

State Library's 150th birthday

Huon News, 2 August

A competition to find the oldest and youngest members in libraries throughout Tasmania has been launched to help celebrate 150 years of public libraries in Tasmania. Displays, live music, book readings, children's fancy dress party, and birthday card making activities will also be part of the celebrations.

Spreading the library word

Bendigo Advertiser, 3 August

Libfest, a celebration of libraries in the Bendigo region, has just received a boost with the announcement of a new three-year sponsorship deal with Colban Water. During Libfest each branch library will stage displays, activities and special events to illustrate the important and exciting ways libraries enrich the community. Libfest will be held at the Bendigo Library on 28 October.

Our culture costs \$199

Daily Telegraph, 4 August

Figures released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics indicate that governments and councils spend \$199 per person per year on cultural activities. The biggest chunks of the \$3.751 billion total were the Commonwealth's spending on radio and television broadcasting, as well as the states spending on national parks. Councils spent \$412.1 million on libraries.

Culture: governments loosen the purse strings

Australian Financial Review, 4 August, by Brook Turner

Spending on libraries is grouped with archives and accounts for \$756.2 million in outlays. The Commonwealth contributed just under 34 per cent of spending on cultural activities, with states and territories accounting for more than 46 per cent, and local governments 20 per cent.

Chaos blazes the trail in copyright payments for online music files

Australian Financial Review, 11 August, by Mandy Bryan

ChaosMusic recently announced a bold plan to allocate a proportion of their online advertising revenue to artists and publishers, providing some relief for artists from the growing practice of swapping music over the internet. ChaosMusic decided to take this pro-active step, rather than waiting for the music industry to develop a solution to the problem.

Uni libraries face e-change

Australian Financial Review, 11 August, by Kate Marshall

John Shipp, university librarian at the University of Sydney warns that universities may be forced to choose between the cost of investing in electronically published material and maintaining printed collections. Colin Steele, university librarian at the Australian National University said that Australian universities were being 'dumbed down by default' as a result of government budget cuts. University of Queensland librarian, Janine Schmidt said that government funding cuts to universities meant library budgets were not growing at the same rates as increases in costs.

No writers' block in e-book revolution

Australian Financial Review, 12 August, by Colin Steele

The 21st century will not see the death of the book, but rather will see its rebirth in electronic form. Participants at the National Scholarly Communications Forum in July almost universally accepted the death of the academic book in print form. Publishers from all the major university presses and those with academic ranges indicated the decreasing market for academic books in Australia.

According to Colin, the form of academic publishing as well as the places people buy the books will change dramatically. He believes that academic works will rely on text as well as multimedia, and will be available on the net. Internet sales are expected to make up fifteen per cent of the British market in the next three to four years.

Access to research balked by profit

The Canberra Times, 14 August, by Malcolm Gillies

Two key reasons for the decline in access to scholarly information in Australia are the declining dollar and the declining public investment in education and research. The root cause, according to Malcolm Gillies, is that not-for-profit scholarship has been captured by the commercial publishing cartels. Gillies also blames the Australian research culture of rewarding quantity of output over quality, as well as the tendency to place the traditional journal and monograph publication above more innovative means of dissemination: universities use refereed journal publication rates as a most important indicator for academic promotion and tenuring.

A radical proposal involves 'pre-print' archiving. Institutions would require staff, on completion of an item of research, to lodge a 'pre-print' on an institutional server. When the item is published the pre-print remains freely available through the server, which may be linked to a national pre-print archive.

MPs lose their library cards

The Australian, 18 August, by Dennis Shanahan

The independence of the Parliamentary Library has been called into question after a recent decision which means that researchers will now have to put their requests through the Minister's office, so that ministerial staff know what information is being sought by MPs and can regulate the speed of the response.

Speaker of the House of Representatives, Neil Andrew, said that the confidentiality of MPs and senators would be maintained and that the library maintained 'confidentiality as one of the basic underpinnings of its operations'.

MPs' inquiries to go via minister

The Canberra Times, 19 August, by Emma MacDonald

Community Services Minister Larry Anthony has been accused of compromising the independence of the Parliamentary Library service. The accusations came after Mr Anthony requested

that the Parliamentary Library pass all requests from Members for information of Centrelink to his office. Labor backbencher Anthony Albanese has accused Mr Anthony of trying to filter the flow of information.

Bid to halt ministers' library control

The Australian, 19 August

Labor backbencher, Anthony Albanese has called for an inquiry by the parliamentary privileges committee into a decision that could make Parliamentary Library researchers direct all enquiries about a government department to the relevant ministers office.

Library strike looms

Yarra Leader, 28 August, by Sherele Moody

The Australian Services Union is calling for patrons of libraries in the Yarra Melbourne Regional Library Corporation to support library staff by bombarding management with e-mails, faxes and phone calls. The action is in response to stalled enterprise agreement negotiations. Union officer Megan Jenner said that the Corporation's offer of a higher pay rate did not compensate for the loss of penalty rates and flexitime.

Rescuers save endangered websites

The Australian, 29 August, by Paul Broekhuysse

The National Library of Australia's Electronic Unit is leading the world in a new form of conservation: saving websites from disappearing into the ether. Since 1997 the unit has been archiving significant .au sites by copying them to its secure server and cataloguing them. The library has accumulated some 700 sites covering a wide range of areas. Julie Whiting, acting manager of the unit, said that the library was particularly keen to preserve sites that are important for historical purposes, such as the current Olympic sites and election campaign sites.

Educators unsure

how online learning shapes up

The Age, 5 September, by Eric Wilson

The jury is still out on the effectiveness of online learning when compared with traditional instructor-led training. Online learning is attractive as it offers access to the material when and where students need it, however the quality of learning outcomes is still being assessed. ■



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Conference

• **23-27/10 ALIA2000, 6th Biennial Conference.** *Capitalising on knowledge: the information profession in the twenty-first century.* National Convention Centre, Canberra. Contact: Conference Solutions, Brigitte Gunn, ph 02 6285 3000, fx 02 6285 3001, alia2000.conference@alia.org.au <http://www.alia.org.au/conferences/alia2000/>

• **24/10 Information Literacy SIG.** *AGM*, please note that our annual meeting will be held at ALIA2000 Biennial Conference. National Convention Centre, Canberra, 12.45pm (bring your lunch). Contact: Kris Johnstone, krisj@ozemail.com.au

• **25/10 UCRLS section.** *AGM, business includes reports the AARL report, and president and treasurers' reports.* Conference delegates collect your lunch, and bring it with you. Menzies Theatre, National Convention Centre, Canberra, 1pm. Queries: Nancy Clarke, UCRLS secretary, ph 02 6209 1117, n.clarke@signadou.acu.edu.au

• **27/10 Australian Serials Special Interest Group.** *Serials 2005-future directions.* National Library of Australia. Contact: Jenni Jeremy, ph 08 8302 6720, jenni.jeremy@unisa.edu.au *Note change of date*

27/10 CREATE Australia will hold a half-day workshop: *Implementing the library industry training package.* The workshop immediately follows the national ALIA conference to give delegates the opportunity to attend. Contact: CREATE Australia, ph 02 9211 5342, create@createaust.com.au

• **27/10 WA Local Studies section.** *Local Studies program at ALIA conference.* Guided tours of Old Parliament House, the National Archives of Australia, the National Library (Special Collections), and the National Portrait Gallery; and the Local Studies AGM. Venue: Canberra. Contact: Jan Partridge, ph 08 9266 7712, fx 08 9266 3152, jan@biblio.curtin.edu.au

• **27/10 ALIA RAISS/CAVAL RIG.** *Post ALIA conference workshop: Making reference work: evaluating your reference service.* Facilitator: Isabella Trahn. National Convention Centre, Canberra, 8:30-4pm. Cost (incl. GST): \$132 includes lunch/morning/afternoon teas. Contact: Rosemary Cotter, ph 03 9479 1934, fx 03 9459 2733, r.cotter@latrobe.edu.au *Limited to 45 attendees.*

• **16-18/1/2001 Information Online 2001.** *Tenth conference and exhibition.* Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre, Darling Harbour. Contact: Online 2001 Secretariat, Tour Hosts Pty Ltd, ph 02 9262 2277, fx 02 9262 3135, online2001@tourhosts.com.au <http://www.csu.edu.au/special/online2001/>

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