

# Library software wins awards for Australian developer

Library software developer Softlink began in a rented house in the outer Brisbane suburb of Eight Mile Plains in 1983. By 1999 the company was exporting to 85 countries on six continents with systems in use in more than 8300 libraries and in eight languages.

In these sixteen short years Softlink had moved several times seeking adequate working space. These included moves into Brisbane's CBD and finally out to the suburban commercial areas in Shailer Park and Springwood.

Such growth also led to the establishment of Softlink companies in the United Kingdom, the United States of America, India, Hong Kong, and New Zealand. Distribution agencies have also been established in Iceland, Malaysia, Japan and China.

Queensland recognised such home grown excellence with the 1999 Premier of Queensland's Award for Export Achievement: Information Industries.

This is of real significance to the world of libraries and information in that such specialist library software won such a prestigious award. The award was open to every information technology and communications company in Queensland.

Softlink next won the much sought after 'Australian Export Award: Information Industries' for 1999. This award recognises outstanding export achievement in the field of

information technology, interactive media and multimedia, and communications products and services. Considering the scope of industries covered by this award, the depth of expertise in these fields in Australia, and the resultant product appeal to export markets, Softlink's library software win is momentous.

Australia's relatively small population, and the demand for excellence in leading-edge information technology systems from a highly-trained professional library sector, have together created a competitive development environment. Softlink's library software products OASIS and A/W (Alice for Windows) have been forged in this environment to such an extent that they can be found around the world.

Softlink's software is multi-lingual and currently supports English, Chinese, Japanese, Thai, Vietnamese, French, Spanish, and Malay languages. The programming challenges inherent with languages other than English are being met, with the development of A/W to support Hebrew.

Softlink's staff must be acknowledged through these awards. It is significant that both library professionals and information technology professionals work together on the development of Softlink's products. And yes, Softlink's library professionals are true professionals in being members of their respective library associations, whether ALIA, LIANZ or BLA. ■

## And the winner is...

**No-one! We didn't receive any correct entries in the sport trivia quiz in the September issue, but here are the answers for those who just have to know...**

1. Tennis
2. The distance from the start at Windsor Castle to the finish at the Royal Box at White City in the 1908 Games. (<http://www.runnersworld.com/specials/olympic/events/mthon.html>)
3. Daniel Carroll (Australia 1908, USA 1920) (*Oz Rugby*)
4. Russell Mockridge (*101 Australian Sporting Heroes*)
5. Harold Connolly and Olga Fikotova (<http://www.hickoksports.com/biograph/connollyh.shtml>)
6. Santa Gertrudis bulls, first-cut lucerne, tractors, bees, burnt stuff
7. A testing protocol for erythropoietin (EPO)
8. Carlton, St Kilda, South Melbourne (*Encyclopedia of League Footballers*)
9. Alfred Shaw to Charles Bannerman (*Guinness Cricket Firsts*)
10. Dorothea Chambers in 1914
11. Vaulting Pole (IAAF Web site)
12. Pope John Paul II and Bill Clinton — Rugby
13. Douglas Jardine, English cricket captain, bodyline series
14. Hat trick (Flashman's Lady)
15. Croquet and running (Chapters VIII and III)
16. Hurling
17. Bombadier Billy Wells (Heavyweight Champion of Britain and the British Empire) hit the gong at the start of Rank movies
18. Andrew Ettingshausen and Glenn Lazarus



### ACT

• **15/11-13/12 ACT Branch.** Council meeting. NLA, 4th floor Conference Room, 5:30pm, unless otherwise announced. (15/11, 13/12). Contact: Sally-Anne Leigh, Branch secretary, ph 02 6249 3681, fx 02 679 9655, sally-anne.leigh@anu.edu.au

• **22/11 ACT Health Libraries' section and the Australian Society of Indexers** host a brainstorming session for database managers, indexing service providers and senior indexers/cataloguers. NLA, 10-12pm. RSVP by 17/11 to: Lynn Farkas, ph 02 6286 3529, lfarkas@pcug.org.au, Prue Deacon, ph 02 6289 7505 or Sandra Henderson, ph 02 6262 1481. Numbers are limited.

• **21/11 (note change of date!) UCRLS ACT in the ADFA Library Seminar Room.** 12.30-13.30 pm. Annette McGuiness (Australian Literature Electronic Gateway Project) on how this project will improve access to Australian literature from many sources. Bring your lunch. Contact Nancy Clarke, ph 02 6209 1117, n.clarke@signadou.acu.edu.au .

• **24/11 Special Librarians Section ACT. AGM** with breakfast at the Canberra Yacht Club. Come in droves: we need a minimum of 30 people. Full English breakfast for \$20 per head. RSVP with payment needed by 17/11. Contact David Bradley, ph 6287 6611, david.bradley@cbr.defence.gov.au .

• **25/11 Library Technicians (ACT) Section.** 7.00 pm. Celebrate the end of another year at the Phnom Penh Restaurant (Vietnamese), 8-9 Luxton St, Belconnen. Buffet \$20.00, vegetarian available. BYO. Partners, friends and work colleagues welcome. RSVP by 22/11 to Beth Clary, ph 02 6234 2225, beth.clary@radford.com.au .

• **28/11 ACT APSIG. Travellers' tales: come and hear more travellers' tales from near and far, from Jerusalem to places north or perhaps south?** NLA, 4th floor Conference Room, 12:30-1:30pm, all welcome, bring your lunch. Contact: Marie Sexton, ph 02 6262 1519, m.sexton@nla.gov.au

• **1/12 UCRLS ACT AGM**, then breakfast, at CHATS (Institute of the Arts Cafe, ANU), at 7.30 am. Dr Sue Stocklmayer, Director of the ANU National Centre for the Public Awareness of Science (CPAS), will speak on CPAS efforts to bring together scientists, science communicators and journalists to involve the public in discussion of science. Cost: \$15. RSVP for bookings (pre-payment please, cheques to ALIA) by 27/11, to Nancy Clarke, ph 02 6209 1117, n.clarke@signadou.acu.edu.au .

• **6/12 ACT APSIG. Christmas lunch.** Fig, Barker St, Griffith Shops, \$20 per head. *Bookings essential by 4/12 (cob).* Contact: Jeanette Regan, ph 02 6286 2737, jeanette.regan@anu.edu.au

• **13/12 ACT Branch. Christmas drinks/celebration.** Details: tba. Contact: Sally-Anne Leigh, Branch secretary, ph 02 6249 3681, fx 02 679 9655, sally-anne.leigh@anu.edu.au

### NSW

• **17/11 NSW TAFE section.** *The E-Seminar!* E-books, E-security, E-pages. Open Training & Education Network, 51 Wentworth Road, Strathfield, 9:30-4pm, register from 9:15am. Cost (incl GST): ALIA members \$45, non-members \$55. RSVP by 10/11 to: Margaret Roberts, ph 02 9715 8329, fx 02 9715 8311, margaret.roberts@tafensw.edu.au

• **27/11 NSW School Libraries section** *End of year function.* Venue: tba. Contact: Ian McLean, ph 02 9886 7501 (w), ian.mclean@det.nsw.edu.au

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