

# Library and Information Week 2001

## Knowledge outlook, 14–20 May 2001

Our famous May week for promoting the library and information sector is, in celebration of the *real* new millennium, to be called Library and Information Week (LIW). It will be held from 14 to 20 May next year. Its theme is *Knowledge outlook*. ALIA's Board of Directors has approved the name change from Australian Library Week and the broader approach to publicising the contribution which our sector makes to the community.

The new name and the theme emphasise the role of trained librarians and library technicians in the handling of information. Our management of information is based on the principles of accuracy, authority, objectivity and access, with an emphasis on currency and conservation depending on the needs of our clients.

The change of name from Australian Library Week reflects the insertion of 'information' into the name of our Association to reflect the coverage of our sector. Library and Information Week will promote all types of library and information service centres where our professionalism and skills are used and needed.

To further this end, ALIA is ascribing individual themes and activities to individual days, as follows:

Monday 14 May:  
*Information Rights Day*

Tuesday 15 May:  
free day

Wednesday 16 May:  
*Thank You Day*

Thursday 17 May:  
*National Simultaneous Storytime*

Friday 18 May:  
*Libraries Online Day*

The calendar of events enables a special emphasis nationally on the individual themes, but libraries should not feel restricted by them. Suggested events around these and other ideas could occur throughout the week. Western Australian and other libraries which may close on Wednesday, for example, could choose Tuesday as their day to say thank you to their supporters. This is why we have allowed a

free day. Other libraries may choose that day to celebrate local history or publicise specialist services to individual user groups, for example, local business, older or younger users, homework assistance to school students, or collections devoted to indigenous issues or community languages.

The idea of choosing a daily theme is to enable maximum opportunities for publicity and community involvement, and to ensure that different types of libraries and information service providers and networks have a chance to display their services to the broad community and to individual client groups. The plan is not prescriptive.

## Information Rights Day

Monday 14 May is Information Rights Day. The aim is to raise awareness of everyone's democratic and equal right to information, for the benefit of the individual and of society.

Events for this day, such as discussions or debates, might focus on equity of access to information, censorship and copyright issues and services targeted at those sections of the community who may be advantaged or disadvantaged in an information economy. Key groups and affiliated organisations which have commitment to the free flow of information are encouraged to be involved in Library and Information Week activities.

ALIA will publicise nationally Australia's first information rights day.

## Thank You Day

A national event will be held on Wednesday 15 May to highlight library programs and other success stories made possible through the support of elected officials and state and federal funding.

We encourage all libraries to host an event on this day, perhaps inviting a target audience to the library to meet someone who has benefited from the library's programs. Friends of Libraries Australia, local councillors and members of Parliament, businesses and community groups, academics, company heads, and key client groups will appreciate recognition for the support

they have given to libraries and information centres throughout the year.

## National Simultaneous Storytime

Public and primary school libraries will organise, with the assistance of state co-ordinators, the simultaneous reading of the same story at the same time on Thursday 17 May. The LIW Committee is yet to decide on the book but a universal favourite is likely to be chosen.

## Libraries Online Day

Libraries Online Day, to be held on Friday 18 May, will concentrate on how libraries are using information technology to improve their services and the education programs they are running for their users to enhance information literacy and access.

ALIA welcomes your ideas for and involvement in Library and Information Week. Details of promotional material will be released in the new year, but further information about LIW is available from ALIA's national co-ordination officer, Amanda Jacobsen at ALIA National Office or from the LIW committee members in each state and territory.

The committee members are:

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