

# ALIA Awards for Innovation go national!

The ALIA Awards for Innovation, previously offered only in Victoria, are now available nationally. The awards recognise the outstanding achievements of information professionals and their work to create innovative solutions and practices in a rapidly changing industry. The awards have been particularly well-received in Victoria, and the ALIA Board of Directors is delighted to extend this to other Branches. Special thanks must go to the awards sponsors Library Locums, Australia's national recruitment specialists for the library and information industry. Library Locums provide a prize of \$500.00 for one winner in each of the following categories: school, academic, public, special, law, and health libraries.

Last year, the winners of the sector categories came from a wide spectrum of library workplaces, with topics as diverse as 'The future stitched up' (a promotional brochure for Australian health libraries) to Job Tracker. The winner in each of the categories were:

## School libraries

**The Library and Information Centre at Methodist Ladies' College** — Suzette Boyd, Methodist Ladies' College

The Library and Information Centre at Methodist Ladies College in Melbourne is a benchmark for innovation and best practice. The library has focused heavily on involving staff, students and parents to embrace new methods for sharing and creating information through an extensive program of training, a comprehensive web-site and a physical location that enhances the users' library experience.

Suzette's many ideas and practices come together to produce a service which combines innovation in technology, innovation in leadership, innovation

in management and innovation in learning.

## Academic libraries

**Monash Lectures Online** — Georgina Binns and Andrew Harrison, Monash University

Monash Lectures Online is an initiative developed by Monash University Library to deliver audio lectures via the world wide web to Monash students. The project replaces a twenty year tradition of producing cumbersome and labour intensive audio taped lectures which could be borrowed by students.

## Public libraries

**Outlying Rural Library Service Enhancements**, Susan Orr, Campaspe Regional Library

The Campaspe Regional Library Service is faced with the problems of providing a quality service to users in small towns and outlying areas. As library manager, Susan has created a service of rural book depots to provide outlets for services such as book borrowing, interlibrary loans, story times and internet access.

By establishing quality and operating standards for community book depots, and tendering these services to a wide variety of organisations, including schools, bakeries, community rooms and plant nurseries, the Regional Library Service has been able to increase access to services and raise the visibility of the Library.

## Special libraries

**Job Tracker** — David Tan, Coles Myer Research-Resource Centre

David has designed, constructed and implemented a comprehensive job tracking system used by clients and staff of the Coles Myer Research-Resource Centre. The Job Tracker system allows users to

log their requests to the Resources Centre and to track all progress on the job. Requests for online searches, research and documents are all logged on the system.

Job Tracker facilitates more efficient communication between Resource Centre users and staff, enabling updates on progress to be logged and search results to be included for future reference. The system allows staff to closely monitor requests and share knowledge gained from each request.

## Law libraries

**Guide to researching international law** — Nicholas Pengelley, Monash University

Nicholas, as law librarian at Monash University, has built on the existing extensive web-based legal resources of the law library to develop a new site that provides students with valuable access to resources in the area of international law. A living document, the site addresses traditional print material and internet and online resources.

## Health libraries

**The future stitched up. Partnerships that work** — Stephen Due, Geelong Hospital, and Mellita Vertigan, The Alfred Hospital

Mellita and Stephen produced a brochure aimed at promoting health libraries and librarians to their client base in hospitals and health related organisations. The brochure is available to libraries throughout Australia and provides them with an ideal marketing resource.

Nominations for the ALIA Ltd Awards for Innovation, 2000 are now being accepted. If you or your workplace colleagues have an innovative practice to share with the broader library and information community, please refer to the advertisement on p17. ■

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