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ALIA CPD members \$360, non-members \$400. Contact: Sue Henczel, sueh@caval.edu.au.

5/3 CAVAL Kinetica web. Learn how to search the Kinetica database and add holdings using the web interface. CAVAL Collaborative Solutions, 4 Park Drive, Bundoora, 9:30–1pm. CAVAL/ALIA CPD members \$93.50, non-members \$115.50. Contact: Nicole Sinclair, nicoles@caval.edu.au.

• **6/3 Vic Library Technician section.** University library visit and committee meeting. Deakin University Library, Waterfront Campus, 3rd floor, 1 Gheringhoo Street, Geelong. RSVP: Pippa Read, ph 03 5227 8234, readp@deakin.edu.au.

7/3 CAVAL Competitive intelligence: an introduction for librarians. Conducted by David Tan. Topics include types of information sources, identifying CI needs, capturing and formatting information and using the web for CI. CAVAL Collaborative Solutions, 4 Park Drive, Bundoora, 9:30–12:30pm. CAVAL/ALIA CPD members \$148.50, non-members \$165. Contact: Nicole Sinclair, nicoles@caval.edu.au.

9/3 CAVAL MARC 21 for cataloguers. Covering the most frequently used MARC fields, with an emphasis on monograph cataloguing. CAVAL Collaborative Solutions, 4 Park Drive, Bundoora, 9:30–12:30pm. CAVAL/ALIA CPD members \$88, non-members \$110. Contact: Nicole Sinclair, nicoles@caval.edu.au.

15–16/3 CAVAL Kinetica cataloguing client. A two-day hands-on using the Cataloguing Client to search the Kinetica database, creating records, adding holdings, and authority work. CAVAL Collaborative Solutions, 4 Park Drive, Bundoora, 9:30–5pm. CAVAL/ALIA CPD members \$374, non-members \$308. Contact: Nicole Sinclair, nicoles@caval.edu.au.

23/3 CAVAL Kinetica document delivery. Hands-on course covering the inter-library loans system within Kinetica. CAVAL Collaborative Solutions, 4 Park Drive, Bundoora, 9:30–5pm. CAVAL/ALIA CPD members \$88, non-members \$110. Contact: Nicole Sinclair, nicoles@caval.edu.au.

30/3 CAVAL Introduction to metadata. A half-day information session designed to answer your questions about metadata: Sydney [venue tba]. CAVAL/ALIA CPD members \$88, non-members \$110. Contact: Nicole Sinclair, nicoles@caval.edu.au.

• **5/4 Vic Library Technicians section.** Committee meeting, everyone is welcome, State Library of Victoria 328 Swanston Street, meet in the Foyer at 6pm. For more information contact: Tricia Murray, ph 03 9925 2063, patricia.murray@rmit.edu.au.

• **17–21/4 Vic Library Technician section.** Canberra visit. This four-day bus trip includes visits to a number of unique libraries. For more information contact: Tricia Murray, secretary, ph 03 9925 2063, patricia.murray@rmit.edu.au.

WA

9/2 CAVAL Innovation for librarians. Presented by David Tan, this workshop combines innovation tools and models with practical advice. Curtin University, Perth. CAVAL/ALIA CPD members \$297, non-members \$330. Contact: Sue Henczel, sueh@caval.edu.au.

• **13/2 WA Library Technicians section.** General meeting. LISWA, Room 2.9 (tbc), 5:45pm start. RSVP contact: Sandra Wilson,

Making news around Australia

Selected reprints from newspapers and magazines in recent months

Preservation grant

Geraldton Guardian, 17 November 2000

Geraldton Regional Library has received a \$5500 Community Heritage grant to preserve valuable historical documents and collections. The money will be used for a significance assessment and preservation survey of the library's local studies collection.

A librarian in a million

The Advertiser (Adelaide), 17 November

Neil Weste, a computer chip designer who recently became a millionaire after Cisco bought his start-up company, commended librarian Diane Tillet. He said that Diane was instrumental in his success by encouraging him to read, and encouraging his love of electronics. In return, Dr Weste has helped the Barmera library become internet ready, and also donated a colour printer to the Riverland town's library this year.

Cuts make unpleasant reading

The Moreland Courier, 20 November

Moreland Council libraries have suffered a funding cut. The cut, while only equal to one per cent of the total library funding, will still be felt by the libraries. There will be \$6500 less to spend on books and services.

The final chapter?

Brimbank Advocate, 21 November, by Stella Tzombanaki

A Brimbank Council-commissioned report on the Sydenham Library project has recommended that either Keilor or Deer Park public libraries — or both — should shut in order to build a multi-million dollar regional library and cultural centre.

The consultants preferred option is to only shut one of the libraries, Keilor, but the option to close both could be taken if there are tight budgetary constraints.

Library continues negotiations

Wimmera Mail Times, 27 November, by Amy Bainbridge

West Wimmera and Hindmarsh Shire councils have given verbal commitment to support the Wimmera Regional Library Corporation. The corporation had asked for a 16.5 per cent funding increase, however the council is considering a contribution of only 12 per cent.

Gates helps libraries

The Australian, 28 November, by Samantha Zee

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation is to donate \$US5 million to help libraries in Chile. The funds will be used for the purchase of computers, internet access and training. A spokesperson for the Foundation said that Chile was chosen because of its efforts to provide free access to public libraries.

The internet's social revolution rolls on

The Age, 28 November, by Tony Hill

Internet technology has the potential to change our lives in many and varied ways. The social questions arising from the growth of the internet relate to people and organisations. A key issue is access: will you be part of the information haves or have-nots? The author argues that unless the social dimensions are kept clearly in focus when thinking about the internet, then the consequences may come back to bite us.

No library crisis: CEO

Bendigo Advertiser, 28 November

Dr Jan Penney, chief executive officer of the North Central Goldfields Regional Library fended off claims that the service was facing a crisis. While she acknowledged that the service would have to undergo substantial restructuring if additional funding was not found, she denied that a crisis was imminent.

E-kiosk maker seeks slice of American pie

The West Australian, 28 November, by Fran Spencer

pieNETWORKS has announced plans to push into the North American market. The company revealed its expansion plans at its annual meeting, where it also announced a deal with Caltex Australia to install and operate internet kiosks known as pieLINKS in retail outlets.

Online

Bunbury Mail, 29 November

The leader of the West Australian Labor Party launched the party's 'South West Online' policy in Bunbury recently. Labor leader, Geoff Gallop, promised that his party would work with local government, businesses and communities to meet the telecommunications challenge for the region. He said that the three key initiatives to be based in Bunbury were a new electronic library, a one-stop single number call-centre for State Government departments and agencies, and an e-commerce training centre. Mr Gallop said that the \$5.5 million funding for the program would come from a budget redistribution.

Libraries meet net challenge with site

The Mercury, 2 December

A group of public and private libraries from around the world is developing a free online reference service to answer research questions. The group was formed to fill a perceived gap in services offered over the net. The librarians believe that their expertise, research collections and specialised catalogues enable them to answer questions quickly and completely — for free. A reference enquiry must be lodged with a member of the consortium, and is then passed along through the network.

The Library of Congress is co-ordinating the project. Diane Nester Kresh, director of public

continued next page...

services at the Library of Congress, said she expects to offer the service through a public web page by June 2001.

More smart money for high-tech Queensland

Courier Mail, 5 December, by Dennis Gibson

The crucial role of universities in Queensland has been ignored by the Commonwealth government with the freezing for seven years of higher education funding. Professor Gibson argues that Queensland is a growth state — the economy is growing, the population is growing, the state has a well-defined strategy to be the smart state, industry is happy to invest there and new technologies are being adopted by traditional industries. Now what is needed is additional investment by the federal government in Queensland universities.

UQ staff feel the squeeze

The Australian, 6 December, by Dorothy Illing

Staff cuts are on the cards at the University of Queensland. The award-winning University of Queensland Library has been advised that at least ten staff members must go. In the faculty of biological and chemical sciences, twenty-two positions have been earmarked for voluntary separation. National Tertiary Education Union acting-branch president Di Zetlin said that the restructuring arose from budget decisions. She said that restructuring at the university has reached a point where the university's capacity to maintain its core functions had come into question.

University of Queensland vice-chancellor dismissed Ms Zetlin's claims as 'specious nonsense'. He said that the university was trying to shape its curriculum and research priorities; that ultimately meant re-direction of resources from salaries into new areas.

Guide for good libraries

The Australian, 6 December, by Vanda Carson

Benchmarking is a powerful tool for university libraries. The *Best practice handbook for Australian university libraries* [http://www.detya.gov.au/highered/eippubs/eip00_10/00_10.pdf] was written for staff who are interested in benchmarking but are not sure where to begin. Authors Anne Wilson and Leanne Pitman explain how to use bench-

marking to achieve cost savings.

Local library in so many good books

Weekend Courier (Rockingham), 8 December

A federal report on the future of higher education and multi-partner campuses has listed Rockingham Library as one of three examples of national and international best practice. The local library will be used as a basis for a new campus in South East Queensland, as will the Coffs Harbour and Nirimba campuses in New South Wales, and the Almere Campus in the Netherlands.

Are parents legally responsible for children's internet use?

The New York Times Online, 8 December

In a controversial ruling, an Illinois judge has declared a parent legally responsible for his child's alleged internet abuse. The judge determined that a woman could sue a parent because the child allegedly published defamatory statements and posted a digitally doctored pornographic image of her on a website. Some lawyers have claimed that the ruling essentially makes parents guilty for supplying their children with a writing instrument.

Council accused of discrimination

Illawarra Mercury, 14 December, by Jenny Dennis

Five librarians have taken Wollongong City Council to the NSW Anti-discrimination Board alleging sex discrimination. The librarians claim the council's policy on after-hours use of its vehicles discriminates against women. The council employs 48 assistant managers — 35 male, and 13 female — of the men, twenty-nine have a car allocated to them. But only six of the thirteen female assistant managers share that privilege.

\$290 000 go-ahead for resource centre

Pyrenees Advocate, 15 December

The Pyrenees Shire Council has won a \$290 000 state government grant to get its Beaufort Community Resource Centre off the ground. The centre will house a tourist information facility, meeting rooms, a library and an adult education and information technology area. The facility will also host the Direct Employment agency once a week. ■



wilsons@boris.curtin.edu.au.

• **14/3–13/11 WA Library Technicians section.** *General meeting.* Venues: tba, 5:45pm start. 14/3, 9/4, 13/6, 14/8, 12/9, 15/10, 13/11 (includes end of year dinner). *RSVP contact:* Sandra Wilson, wilsons@boris.curtin.edu.au.

• **20/3 WA Local Studies section.** *Visit to WA Genealogy Society, 6/48 May Street, Bayswater, 5:30pm.* Contact: Julie Zuvella, ph 08 9330 5537, jzuvella@ozemail.com.au.

• **15/5 WA Library Technicians section.** *National Library & Information Week.* Venue: tba, 5:45pm start. *RSVP contact:* Sandra Wilson, wilsons@boris.curtin.edu.au.

Conference

• **21–24/8 11th National Library Technicians conference.** *An information odyssey.* The Hotel Grand Chancellor, Hobart Tas. Conference organiser: Mures Convention Management, ph 03 6234 1424, fx 03 6234 4464, conventions@mures.com.au <http://www.alia.org.au/sections/libt/conferences/2001/>.

• **26–29/8 9th Special, Health & Law Libraries conference.** *Rivers of knowledge.* Melbourne Convention Centre, Melbourne Vic. Conference secretariat: The Meeting Planners, ph 03 9417 0888, fx 03 9417 0899, adocherty@meetingplanners.com.au, <http://www.alia.org.au/conferences/shllc/2001/>.

• **12–14/10 2001 RAISS conference.** *Revelling in reference 2001 — reference and information service section symposium.* Symposium themes: share the best; learn the new; make the difference. Venue: VUT Conference Centre, Melbourne. For more information please visit the Revelling in Reference web site <http://raiss2001.monash.org/>.

• **29–31/10 8th National TAFE libraries conference.** *Passion, power and people: TAFE libraries leading the way.* Brisbane Qld. Conference chair: Anne Floyd, ph 07 3215 1360, mobile 0408 762 547, anne.floyd@detir.qld.gov.au.

• **12–14/11 Public Libraries national conference.** Melbourne Vic. Conference chair: Julie Rae, jrae@bayside.vic.gov.au.

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