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Making news around Australia

Selected reprints from newspapers and magazines in recent months

• **30/10 ALIA Vic.** *Cross-sectoral panel discussion: Public access computers in the library — whither or wether?* Seminar Room 1, RMIT University Swanston Library, 5:30–7:45pm. All welcome. *RSVP by 24/10 to:* Cheryl Schauder, ph 03 9925 1940, fx 03 9557 1651, cheryll.schauder@rmit.edu.au

15–16/11 CAVAL training activities. *From Chaos to CARM:* a two-day hands on disaster recovery workshop, conducted by Jeavons Baillie and held at CAVAL's Disaster Simulation facility. CAVAL Collaborative Solutions, 4 Park Drive, Bundoora, 9–5pm. Cost: \$555 CAVAL/ALIA members, \$655 non-members. Register online at http://www.caval.edu.au/Services/rego_form.html

16/11 CAVAL training activities. *Effective internet searching:* half-day hands-on workshop offering tips and tricks for more effective internet searching. CAVAL Collaborative Solutions, 4 Park Drive, Bundoora, 9:30–12:30pm. Cost: \$88 CAVAL/ALIA members, \$110 non-members. Register online at http://www.caval.edu.au/Services/rego_form.html

16/11 CAVAL training activities. *Government information on the web:* half-day hands-on workshop covering state, federal and international legislation, government publications and legal resources. CAVAL Collaborative Solutions, 4 Park Drive, Bundoora, 1:30–4:30pm. Cost: \$88 CAVAL/ALIA members, \$110 non-members. Register online at http://www.caval.edu.au/Services/rego_form.html

• **17/11 Vic School Libraries.** *AGM.* Santa Maria College Resource Centre, 50 Separation Street, Northcote, 9:30am. All members are welcome.

WA

• **15/10 WA Library Technicians.** *General meeting.* Venue: tba, 5:45pm start. *RSVP contact:* Sandra Wilson, s.m.wilson@curtin.edu.au

• **17/10 WA Forum CPD Committee.** *Librarians moving out of libraries.* Hollywood Hospital Lecture Theatre, 5:30 for 6pm. Light refreshments served. \$8.80 ALIA members, \$11 non-members. *RSVP by 10/10 to:* Camille Peters, ph 08 9490 1730, ctpeters@zdnetwork.com

• **13/11 WA Library Technicians.** *Meeting and end of year dinner.* LISWA, 5:45pm start. *RSVP contact:* Sandra Wilson, s.m.wilson@curtin.edu.au

• **21/11 WA Forum CPD Committee.** *Leadership seminar: Managers do things right, leaders do the right things.* Cottesloe Beach Hotel, 1:30pm registration. Cost: TBA. Contact: Ruth Schofield, schofield.ruth@stirling.wa.gov.au

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\$6m libraries booked

Melbourne–Yarra Leader, 10 September, by Fiona O'Doherty

More than \$6 million will be spent on new libraries in Melbourne and East Melbourne. The Council of Adult Education has proposed a partnership with the Melbourne Council to establish a two floor, \$4.5 million city library. Under the proposal, the Melbourne Council would contribute just under \$3 million to establish the library, and would contribute a little less than half of the predicted \$2.4 million annual operating costs. The Council is also pushing ahead with a proposal for a new East Melbourne Library which is expected to cost about \$2.2 million.

Library books its place on the net

The Australian, 11 September, by Adrian Lynch

The State Library of Victoria has become the only government organisation in Australia to install a Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) telephone network. The new system positions the library to expand its links to schools, community centres and regional libraries. The move to VoIP complements the library's long-term plans to be more accessible to users regardless of their location.

Copyright law: facing its ice age?

The Age, 11 September, by Peter Eckersley

Peter Eckersley, a postgraduate student in the

department of computer science at the University of Melbourne says that copyright deserves to die. He believes that copyright is an inefficient and often destructive monopoly privilege, more often serving to bolster profits of large corporations, instead of the artists/creators. He suggests, as a possible alternative to the existing copyright provisions, an automatic system of direct payments to authors/creators to be publicly funded through the taxation system. While such a system could pose problems in regards to privacy and possible rorts on the system, he argues that it could be less likely to be rorted than the current system. He likens this system to 'building one big public library. Digital technology allows us now to build libraries with a degree of elegance and scale that was not possible in the past.'

Go online with the Yanks

Campion Post [Parkes], 29 August

An online book discussion club is being set up between residents of Parkes in New South Wales, and La Grange, a suburb of Chicago in the United States. Parkes Shire library service manager, Michal Barker, said the libraries in the respective areas will jointly host the project. The project gives readers the opportunity to be part of a book club, without trying to fit in the club activities in their busy schedules. It will also give patrons to share their reading experiences with people from the other side of the world.

Libraries in parliament

Senate Hansard, 29 August, p26507–9

[<http://www.aph.gov.au/hansard/senate/dailys/ds29081.pdf>]

On Wednesday 29 August, Senator Crowley addressed the Senate. She wanted to take the opportunity to talk about the opportunity she had to attend the IFLA conference in Boston. Senator Crowley was chosen to speak at the conference because of her role as a member of a parliamentary library committee and as a user of parliamentary libraries.

Senator Crowley was surprised to discover that many parliaments — not just in emerging democracies, but in well-established western countries — do not have parliamentary libraries.

Senator Crowley said that Australia had a right to be proud of its parliamentary library, saying that it was one of the best in the world. She said that not only should we be proud of the library, we should be concerned to make sure that the excellent library to assist parliamentarians continues.

She said 'A library's importance is based on it being not just a collection of information or access to information, not just a collection of books or online information, but also a research and analytical tool. That is one of the very precious things about our library: it does give you that research and analytical capacity to look at the information.'

She goes on to say, in answer to the argument that now that we all have computers and can surf the net, we do not need librarians: 'Indeed, my thought is that we need them more than ever before. We have an over-dose of information. Politicians — to say nothing of the school children I see in the gallery and, indeed, all members of the community — are being flooded with information, and it is very important that we have assistance to hone the important facts or arguments in a whole area of knowledge. So I think the case is made that librarians are needed more than ever before. Librarians do need to have research and analytical skills, and that is a very critical talent for our librarians.' ■

Tempting plan excites pupils

Daily Telegraph, 10 September,
by Rachel Rodda

Following on from reports in the last issue of *inCite*, Ermington Public School has received its first batch of books ordered under the Free Books for Schools program, supported by the *Daily Telegraph*. The small school expected to collect about 100 tokens, but were surprised when 120 tokens were collected in the first week. At the end of the second week, students had collected a further 520 tokens. At the end of five weeks, the school had enough tokens to order nineteen books.

Libraries turn to IT

The Advertiser [Adelaide], 8 September,
by Geoffrey Kenihan

The perception that librarians are a threatened species is challenged by Sandi Holmes, library services manager for the City of Marion. She said, 'The perception that we are mere managers of books belongs in a previous era ... Our people are IT savvy, customer-oriented and outward looking.'

She goes on to say that the traditional skills that librarians have used in the organisation of knowledge had, if anything, even more relevance now than ever.

Mobile librarian wins a 'Vera'

Bega District News, 28 August

Bega Valley Shire council mobile library service operator Joanne Clarke was named the New South Wales 'Rookie of the year' at the recent Public Libraries Conference in Orange. The award, named 'The Vera' after Vera Kirkness who initiated the award, recognises the achievements of a 'rookie' mobile service operator. This is the second time that the award has been received by a Bega District operator. Jeremy Brown took out the award in 1997, and went on to become New South Wales 'Operator of the year' in 2000.

Net book cartels buy up content

The Australian, 5 September,
by Sophie Morris

Australia's National Scholarly Communications Forum believes a handful of online publishers are holding research to ransom. Colin Steele, university librarian at the Australian National University, says that it is more than the weak Australian dollar that makes it difficult for libraries to provide comprehensive archives. He said 'Four or five firms around the world are buying up all the scholarly content. They buy up this information or get it free from universities and then universities have to buy it back.'

The Australian Vice-Chancellor's committee is negotiating with Reed Elsevier for a national site licence providing nation-wide access to its databases. There are also moves to establish an open-access database of Australian research. However, academic tenure and reputation depend on publication in leading journals, most of which are published by a few key outlets.

A little school in town finds the language of success

The Age, 5 September, by Misha Ketchell

St Joseph's Primary School in the suburb of Collingwood was one of three Victorian schools to win a \$10 000 national English literacy award. The school has a high proportion of English as a second language students. Principal Trish Taylor said the most children spoke little or no English when they arrived at the school. The school had set up a literacy program to focus on reading and writing skills in the first three years at school. As part of the program, students reading skills are regularly tested and their results sent to experts at Melbourne University for analysis so their weaknesses could be worked on. Seventeen awards were presented to Australian schools for work in either literacy or numeracy.

Partnership possible

Cooma-Monaro Express, 23 August

Snowy River Shire Council has given the go-ahead for an investigation into a partnership library for Jindabyne. The shire is investigating a partnership between the Department of Education, NSW Libraries and the council. Jindabyne Public School has been allocated \$500 000 for the construction of a new library, and a motion was raised at a recent council meeting to discuss the possibility of making the new library a joint school/public library.

Happy returns for library lady

Midland Reporter, 28 August

Marcia Maher, Kalamunda Shire Library Services manager, has received a Rotary International WA literacy and numeracy award. Marcia is credited with boosting Kalamunda children's reading and writing skills. The Kalamunda Shire Library Service has run workshops to help parents help their children with homework and literacy.

Chapter ends at library

Daily Liberal [Dubbo], 28 August,
by Patricia Cruzado

Fay Young, branch manager of Trangie library, has retired after twenty-six years of service. Fay believes that it is important for children to have a love of reading and the ability to use the library as it helps the to succeed in life. For this reason she has concentrated on children's programs. ■



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Conference

• **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. VUT Conference Centre, Melbourne. For more information please visit the Revelling in Reference website <http://raiss2001.monash.org/>

• **21-23/10 2001 National TAFE libraries conference.** *Passion power people — TAFE Libraries Leading the Way.* Sheraton Hotel, Brisbane Qld. Conference organiser: Organisers Australia, PO Box 1237, Milton, Qld 4064, ph 07 3369 7866, fx 07 3367 1471, vanessa@orgaus.com.au, <http://www.alia.org.au/sections/tafe/conferences/>

• **7-9/11 14th National ALIA Cataloguing conference.** *Seachange: cataloguing in a dot com world.* Deakin University, Geelong Waterfront Campus. Conference chair: Ebe Kartus, ph 03 5227 8228, kartus@deakin.edu.au

• **12-16/11 Public Libraries national conference.** *2001 The conference: Endless possibilities!* Melbourne Exhibition & Convention Centre Vic. Conference secretariat: Conference Consultants Australia, ph 03 9690 3933, fx 03 9690 3944, alia@conferenceconsultants.com.au, <http://www.conferenceconsultants.com.au/alia/>

International

10-12/12 4th International Conference of Asian Digital Libraries (ICADL 2001). *Digital Libraries: Dynamic Landscapes for Knowledge Creation, Dissemination and Management.* University of Mysore and Indian Institute of Information Technology, Bangalore, India. For further details contact: Secretariat ICADL2001, Department of Library and Information Science, University of Mysore, Manasagangotri, Mysore 570006, India, ph +91 821 514699, office@icadl2001.org, <http://www.icadl2001.org>

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