

Making news around Australia

Selected reprints from newspapers and magazines in recent months



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6/12 MARC 21 for cataloguers.

Covering the most frequently used MARC fields, with an emphasis on monograph cataloguing. A recommended pre-requisite for Kinetica cataloguers. 9:30–12:30pm. CAVAL Collaborative Solutions, 4 Park Drive, Bundooora. Cost: \$88 CAVAL/ALIA CPD members, \$110 non-members. Contact: Eve Cornish, evcc@caval.edu.au

7/12 Kinetica document delivery.

A full-day hands-on course covering the inter-library loans system within Kinetica. 9:30–5pm. CAVAL Collaborative Solutions, 4 Park Drive, Bundooora. Cost: \$165 CAVAL/ALIA CPD members, \$214.50 non-members. Contact: Eve Cornish, evcc@caval.edu.au

• **13/12 ALIA Special Libraries (Vic).** *Christmas drinks.* Join us for Christmas drinks and a library visit at the Brotherhood of St Laurence Library, 67 Brunswick Street, Fitzroy, 5:30 for 6pm. Charge will apply. *RSVP to:* Trish Newell, pnewell@bsl.org.au

13–14/12 Kinetica cataloguing client. A two-day hands-on using the *Cataloguing Client* to search the Kinetica database, creating records, adding holdings, and authority work. 9:30–5pm. CAVAL Collaborative Solutions, 4 Park Drive, Bundooora. Cost: \$374 CAVAL/ALIA CPD members, \$308 non-members. Contact: Eve Cornish, evcc@caval.edu.au

• **21/1/2002 ALIA Special Libraries (Vic).** *General meeting.* Swets Blackwell, 4 Bennetts Lane, Melbourne, 5.30pm. *RSVP:* Traci Webb, twebb@au.swetsblackwell.com

4–5/2/2002 State Library of Victoria. *The inside story: a practical forum covering all aspects of library interiors.* Sir William Angliss Centre, Melbourne. Cost: \$120. Contact: Nicole Wiseman, ph 03 8664 7044, fax 03 9639 4139, nwiseman@slv.vic.gov.au

WA

• **2/12 ALIA Local Studies WA Group.** *Christmas function at Heritage House, Armadale.* Meeting at 11am, tour of museum at 11:30am. Picnic lunch in Minawarra Park, Armadale at 12:30pm. For more details contact: Julie Zuvella, ph 08 9330 5537, jzuvella@ozemail.com.au

National

1–6/3/2002 Aurora Leadership Institute 2002. *Nominations open now — close 7 December 2001.* Ven-

Gender pay claim one for the books

Sydney Morning Herald, 7 November, by Geesche Jacobsen

The first case to compare female-dominated professions with male-dominated careers began on 7 November in the Industrial Relations Commission. More than 1000 workers will be affected by the case. The Public Service Association argues that the whole profession is undervalued because it has employed mainly women. It says the work value of librarians has never been properly assessed, and that librarian's pay fails to reflect the changes to information technology over the past decade.

Sandy Killick, the national chairwoman of the Women's Electoral Lobby, said the librarians' case would have national implications.

Peace protest sites snubbed

The Herald Sun (Melbourne), 3 November, by Danny Buttler, John Masanauskas and Fay Burstin

Anti-war protesters who had set up camp on State Library of Victoria's forecourt have agreed to move on. The protest ended after 22 days when a deal was struck with State Library management. The deal will allow an information tent to be erected at the site each day.

'Leaders' bow to blackmail

The Herald Sun (Melbourne), 5 November by Andrew Bolt

Fran Awcock, state librarian at the State Library of Victoria signed a treaty recently with the 'peace' protesters who had camped on the library forecourt. Under the deal the protesters agreed to move their camp in exchange for concessions. 'Everything about this farce highlights how feebly our cultural institutions now defend themselves from barbarism' said Mr Bolt. Ms Awcock says that she respected the protesters' right to free speech. Mr Bolt disagrees, stating that the protesters had effectively denied free speech to others.

Treasure trove

The Adelaide Advertiser, 3 November by Maria Moscaritolo

The National Library of Australia has collected some of the world's great cultural treasures together. The exhibition, 'Treasures from the world's great libraries' opens at the National Library on 7 December. It is remarkable that the library was able to gather together such an impressive range of material in such a short time — planning for the exhibition only began in 1998. In comparison, the Monet and Japan exhibition on earlier this year at the National Gallery of

Australia was seven years in the making. Items in the show will not be seen anywhere else because they are too valuable and fragile to travel.

Fears for library over staff cuts

The Age, 1 November, by Robin Usher

The State Library of Victoria is considering reducing the number of conservation staff, raising fears the multi-million dollar collection could be put at risk. A Community and Public Sector Union officer, Finbarr Dowling, warned the cuts could mean that priceless state treasures could be removed from public access without sufficient conservation staff. Catherine Harboe-Ree, the director of collections and services at the library, said that the number of conservation staff had been increased to deal with a preservation backlog, and that now a reduction of about ten jobs was being considered.

Library funds cut: purchasing power slashed by 32%

The Chronicle (Toowoomba), 31 October, by Daniel Franklin

The Toowoomba City Library's funding for the coming year has been cut again. The Public Library grant offered to the library is \$418 385, \$4876 less than the grant accepted last financial year. The library's funding has decreased \$37 413 since 1997/98. This reduction, combined with the low value of the Australian dollar, has led to a drop of thirty-two per cent in the purchasing power of the library.

Although the State Library of Queensland increased the amount of money for public libraries by \$137 000 this year, this was not enough to maintain the per capita funding.

The stewards of childhood

The Canberra Times, 29 October, by Christopher Bantick

Mr Bantick examines the report *Young Australians reading: from keen to reluctant readers, a national research report on the reading experience of 10–18 year-olds*, published in April this year.

He argues that there is 'no doubt that in any school the place where its information is stored is where its heart is. Libraries perform this role and librarians are key people in finding research information for projects.'

He goes on to say that 'the librarian is a strategic person in the development of strong literacy in schools because he/she gets to know children in different ways from the teacher. Librarians offer value-added dimensions in a curriculum where they can encourage reading and literacy on an individual basis.'

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The Net tightens

The Sydney Morning Herald, 27 October, by Bobbie Johnson

The United States Senate has passed a series of laws that could result in some of the most draconian surveillance regimes to hit the internet. Since 11 September, internet security is one of the many freedoms American citizens have had to give up in the name of national security. The *USA Act* gives the police a range of powerful options: one of the most controversial is the ability to conduct secret searches. Wire-tapping orders which allow authorities to record on-line activities, will be easier to obtain, and once information has been gathered, the *USA Act* allows investigators to pass on findings to other government departments.

Read it an cheer – but only if the nation's book industry can get its act together

The Sydney Morning Herald, 25 October, by Susan Wyndham

A report on the Australian book industry, funded by the Federal Government and conducted by Accenture consultants was launched recently. In launching the report, the Minister for Industry, Science and Resources, Senator Nick Minchin, said there was no evidence that the publishing industry had suffered from the introduction of the GST. Senator Minchin also defended the government's proposal to allow parallel importation of foreign books, despite industry fears that an open market would discourage local content.

A forum will be held in November to consider how to use the recommendations from the report.

Data SAVed by those who DAR

The Australian, 23 October

Every day, important parts of the world's intellectual record disappear — the recording format becomes obsolete, publishers go out of business, and there's the 'digital re-writing of history and the burning of records as political regimes come and go'.

Much effort is now going into designing digital archival repositories (DARs) as a way

to protect digital information from corruption or destruction. A project of the Stanford University, the Stanford Archival Vault (SAV), goes some way to addressing the problems involved with digital archiving.

The high cost of public libraries

Hepburn Shire Advocate, 17 October

At present, the cost of operating the public library service in the Hepburn Shire equates to \$6.28 a visit, according to figures released by Central Highlands Regional Library Service. The only way of reducing the per visit cost is to encourage more people to use the service. The operational costs of the library include staffing, book stocks and the provision of a mobile library. Daylesford librarian Rosemary Leonard said the service provided by libraries could not be measured purely in monetary terms, the benefits to the community are hard to calculate.

Murdoch's world view

The Australian Financial Review, 12 October, by Simon Evans

In a speech titled 'The human wealth of nations' News Corporation chief executive, Rupert Murdoch, said that the military action in response to the 11 September terrorist attacks was short sighted, and that the only long-term answer for the civilised world was to spread knowledge. Mr Murdoch also warned that without support for public libraries, schools, colleges and universities, Australia was at risk of 'becoming something worse than globally disadvantaged — it is no exaggeration to say we are threatened with global irrelevance.'

Mr Murdoch's comments were also reported in the *Adelaide Advertiser* and the *Herald Sun* (Melbourne) on 12 October.

Top websites fail privacy laws

The Australian Financial Review, 11 October, by Mandy Bryan

A study of Australia's top 100 websites has found that many are not up to scratch when it comes to consumer privacy. The study found that while the internet industry's readiness for the introduction of the new privacy laws has improved, there are still deficiencies. ■



ue: Thredbo Alpine Village, NSW, Fee: \$3 025 (includes GST). Refer to <http://www.alia.org.au/aurora/> for nomination details.

20-26/5/2002 Library and Information Week 2002. Theme: *Powering our future: contribute to the information agenda.* LIW 2002 will coincide with the ALIA 2002 biennial conference, being held in Sydney from 20-22 May. Contact alw@alia.org.au for further information.

Conference

• **4-5/2/2002 ALIA Distance Education Special Interest Group (DESIG) national conference.** *Your time, your place, your off-campus library.* Monash University, Caulfield Campus, Melbourne.

• **19-22/5/2002 7th ALIA Biennial Conference.** *Powering our future: contribute to the information agenda.* Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre, Sydney. Conference organiser: Tour Hosts Pty Ltd, ph 02 9262 2277, fx 02 9262 3135, alia2002@alia.org.au

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 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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