

International news

Guidelines released for web-based information resources

The International Coalition of Library Consortia (ICOLC) has issued an update to its guidelines concerning the metrics used in evaluating electronic journal and database usage. ICOLC focuses primarily on defining what publishers need to report regarding the usage of electronic content and database searching. The updated *Guidelines for statistical measures of usage of web-based information resources* (Update: December 2001) clarifies these requirements for reporting library usage of vendor systems.

The complete original and updated Guidelines with endorsing library consortia and additional information about the ICOLC can be found at <http://www.library.yale.edu/consortia>. These guideline updates are each initially endorsed by seventy library consortia from around the world.

New standards committee

NISO, the National Information Standards Organization, has announced that a new standards committee is now being organised to develop standards that will enable interoperable, networked reference services. Digital reference services are a rapidly growing extension of the traditional 'behind the desk' reference service offered by virtually all libraries. Digital reference, whether delivered via real-time chat or asynchronous e-mail, allows library patrons to submit questions and receive answers via electronic means.

A NISO-sponsored Workshop on Networked Digital Reference Services was held in April 2001 (<http://www.niso.org/news/NISOinitiatives.html#digital>) to explore potential areas of standardisation. The workshop participants agreed that there are two general areas where standardisation should be explored to support networked digital reference and possibly collaborative networked digital reference. Following on this workshop, this new standards committee will explore stand-

ards development in these two areas. They will develop a question processing transaction protocol for interchange of messages between digital reference domains. This will support processing and routing of questions and responses and packaging of other information to be exchanged. They will also build a metadata element set to identify and describe key components of both question and answer data and institutional and personal data.

The Networked Reference Services Committee (Standards Committee AZ) will be chaired by Sally H McCallum (Library of Congress). Ms McCallum intends to form the committee into two teams to deal with question processing transaction protocol and networked reference metadata element sets.

White House proposes \$US10 million to address critical shortage of librarians

Laura Bush recently announced a proposed \$10 million initiative for 2003 to recruit a new generation of librarians. The initiative will be managed by the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

Research scheduled for publication in the March 2002 issue of *American Libraries* magazine will show that, based on 1990 Census data, almost fifty-eight per cent of professional librarians in the United States will reach the age of 65 between 2005 and 2019.

Funds will be used to invest in a variety of recruitment efforts such as scholarships and fellowships for master's programs; support for doctoral students who will train the next generation of librarians; leadership development; distance learning for underserved rural areas; and efforts to recruit librarians to serve increasingly diverse communities with diverse language skills.

The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) is an independent Federal agency that fosters leadership, innovation, and a lifetime of learning by supporting America's museums and libraries. For more information see <http://www.imls.gov>. ■

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Contact: Jeanine Fielding, ph 07 3236 2398, jeanine_fielding@health.qld.gov.au

• **End of Feb Pathways to CPD.** 2001 *Goodwill Games: From go to whoa: the information lifecycle in action*. Guest speaker: Jenny Hale, information manager. Brisbane City Council Theatre, 5:30pm \$5.50. Contact: Helen Laurelin, ph 07 3848 3908.

• **13/4 Qld Library Technicians.** *Mystery Bus Tour*. Details: tba. Contact: Marian Moyle, ph 07 3244 6446, marian.moyle@detir.qld.gov.au

• **16/4 ALIA Queensland OPALs.** *General meeting*. Fisher Adams Kelly, Level 13, AMP Place, 10 Eagle Street, Brisbane, 12-2pm. Contact host: Lynda Colquhoun, ph 07 3229 2655, icolquhoun@fak.com.au

• **14/5 ALIA Queensland OPALs.** *Kinetica meeting*. Brisbane Catholic Education, 243 Gladstone Road, Dutton Park, 3:30pm. Contact: Denise Cadman, ph 07 3840 0433, dcadman@bne.catholic.edu.au

5/6 Trimagic Software DB/TextWorks introductory training. One-day course covering, introduction of the graphical user interface, editing and creating records, searching a textbase, report forms, QBE (Query By Example), screen design, linking databases, managing textbase elements and exporting and importing data. To register please contact: Tara Lord, ph 02 9880 8666, tara.lord@trimagic.com.au

6/6 Trimagic Software DB/TextWorks advanced training. One-day course, introducing textbase structures, linking textbases, data entry screens, QBE (Query By Example) screen design, report forms, menus, introduction to managing images, exporting and importing data, interfacing with other applications and simple scripting. To register please contact: Tara Lord, ph 02 9880 8666, tara.lord@trimagic.com.au

7/6 Trimagic Software DB/TextWorks web-publisher training. One day course, in-depth class designed to give you a head start in mounting your DB/TextWorks databases on the Web. To register please contact: Tara Lord, ph 02 9880 8666, tara.lord@trimagic.com.au

• **13/6 ALIA Queensland OPALs.** *General meeting*. Domestic Violence Resource Centre, 187 Melbourne Street, South Brisbane, 12:30-2:30pm. Contact host: Elizabeth Hermanocski, ph 07 3217 2544, library@dvrc.org.au

TAS

• **1/3 ALIA Tasmania.** *Statewide conference*. Knowledge management: buzz word or reality? Keynote speaker: Dr Gray Southon, Honorary Research Associate, University of Technology, Sydney. The Grange, Campbell Town, 10-4pm. Cost: tba. Contact: Jane Jeppson, ph 03 6231 9511, alia@education.tas.gov.au

VIC

• **13/2 Victorian ALIA Library Technicians.** *Committee meeting*. State Library of Victoria, meet at entry n° 3 in LaTrobe Street Melbourne at 5:45pm. All welcome. RSVP: Tricia Murray, secretary, ph 03 9925 2063, patricia.murray@rmit.edu.au

• **13/2 Victorian ALIA Library Technicians.** *Australian Women's Archive Project*. Presenters: Patricia ni Ivor (project co-ordinator), and Anne Heywood. State Library of Victoria, entry n° 3, LaTrobe Street, Melbourne, 6:45pm. All welcome, no charge, supper provided. RSVP: Tricia Murray, ph 03 9925 2063, patricia.murray@rmit.edu.au

• **March ALIA Special Libraries (Vic).** *Trivia night*. Details: tba.

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