

Making news around Australia

Selected reprints from newspapers and magazines in recent months

Shake, rattle, and ... er ... read

Mercury (Hobart), 6 March,
by Alison Ribbon

The State Library of Tasmania at Glenorchy has created a 'Youth zone' to encourage teenagers to come to the library. The 'Youth zone' encourages teens to hang out, read comics, listen to music and have a bite to eat. The Glenorchy Youth Task Force was asked to purchase the CDs available in the library. The youth zone is a pilot project and may be extended to other branches of the library.

Use the web or lose it

Sunday Herald Sun (Melbourne)
3 March by Anthony Black

Leading IT consultants council business to take a look at their internet activities. The key to internet success is to be user-friendly, concise, and up-to-date. Graham Reid, of the Pango Group said that maintaining a useless site is a waste of money which could be better spent on effective marketing.

A job for an organised mind

Illawarra Mercury, 2 March
by Louise Turk

A profile of recently-retired librarian, Jan Keith. Talks about how libraries have changed over the past thirty years. Jan introduced a number of specialist services to the Wollongong City Library, including community information, local government information and corporate library, business information service, and an expanded local studies service. The article also gives a brief guide on how people can enter the library and information services sector.

Controls threaten internet innovation

Australian Financial Review,
28 February, by John Davidson

According to Stanford law professor Lawrence Lessig, large media companies are slowly strangling the internet and silencing competition and innovation. The internet began on the assumption that the network itself has no power to control innovation or content. Content providers are now exercising more control over the kinds of content and applications that are permitted. In his address to the World Congress on IT recently held in Adelaide, Lessig urged that instead of rushing into a legal regime designed to offer perfect protection to content providers, often at the

expense of long-held consumer rights such as fair use and free speech, legislators should wait and see how much protection copyright holders need.

Library on-line

Liverpool Leader, 27 February

Liverpool Library's catalogue will be placed online from April/May this year, allowing library patrons to access library services from the comfort of their own homes. Paul Scully, library manager, believes that the internet is not a threat to libraries, and that libraries can utilise technology to improve services.

Wireless makes a mobile comeback

The Australian, 27 February,
by Thea Williams

Delegates to the World Congress on IT were given a taste of the possibilities of wireless communication. With a hand-held computer, and the wireless network in the ceilings and walls of the convention centre, delegates could access their e-mail, the conference program, and local maps and directions. The network was developed by M.Net Corp, a federally funded consortium including Telstra, Alcatel, Motorola, Cisco and South Australia's three universities.

Access all areas denied

The Age, 27 February, by David Adams

The Victorian Department of Education has issued guidelines for internet use in schools. Schools will be expected to monitor student's use of the internet via filtering software and logging facilities. Victorian public schools are encouraged to use EduNet filtering software which blocks sites listed on a constantly updated database. The software has benefits over some other blocking software which frequently restrict access to sites that contain suitable educational material.

New standard helps web searchers

The Australian, 26 February,
by Simon Hayes

Standards Australia has released a draft meta-data standard designed to make searching faster and reduce irrelevant results. Developed in Australia, the standard defines nineteen elements that can be used to construct web-based descriptions of information. Elements include author, title, subject, audience and availability. The developers are not predicting a quick take-up by commer-

cial search engines, but are hoping that large organisations will use the system to improve website search facilities.

Internet founders want governments to help run the web

The Sydney Morning Herald,
26 February, by Kirsty Needham

The International Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN), the global body which controls the internet addressing system, and determines policy on technical standards on the web, has decided to restructure itself and wants to hand over responsibilities to national governments. The restructure calls for more direct involvement of governments, and there is hope that the move may also encourage business confidence in ICANN.

Treasures keep them queuing up until 11th hour

The Canberra Times, 25 February,
by Monika Boogs

Visitors were queuing right until the last minute to view the 'Treasures of the Worlds Great Libraries' exhibition at the National Library of Australia. The exhibition closed on 24 February. More than 110 000 people attended the exhibition.

Australia in a digital dilemma

Australian Financial Review,
25 February, by John Davidson

Davidson argues that legislators in Australia should think carefully before enacting digital laws before it is clear where the harmful effects of the digital era will be. While Australia is only a tiny player in the global IT game — we hold a two per cent share — according to Davidson we can choose whether we will lead the world with enlightened digital policy or trail it with bad law.

Turn those pages

Mordialloc Chelsea Leader, 25 February,
by Michelle Rafferty

Kingston councillor John Ronke has called on residents to join the temporary library and push for a permanent home for the Dingley library. The council has delivered approximately 4500 books, if this service is successful the council will look into investing \$100 000 to build a full-scale library.

Library expands services for visually impaired

Northern Daily Leader, 23 February

Services to the visually impaired were dramatically improved when Tamworth City Library took delivery of a new public access computer work station. The workstation has adaptive technology for visually impaired people and is stationed on a specially designed adjustable computer table to enable comfortable wheelchair access. The library received funding of \$11 776.40 through the State Government's library development grant.

Minister urged to retain mobile library service

Stawell Times News, 22 February

Victorian Shadow Minister for Education, Phil Honeywell, has called on the Victorian state government to help rural communities retain their mobile library services. The Wimmera Regional Library Corporation recently announced changes to its mobile library service, claiming that the service was no longer viable. This comes after the North Central Goldfields Regional Library Corporation cut its mobile service

last year. Mr Honeywell is calling on the government to provide funds for mobile library services from the state's education budget.

Reading program that has students queuing at the door

Armidale Express Extra, 20 February

Sandy Green, Masterton district's children's librarian, outlined some of the initiatives employed to encourage young people to attend libraries in New Zealand. The Reading Recovery Program offered by Masterton library is so successful that they have had to turn many interested patrons away. Participants in the program, targeted at two to eleven-year-olds, sign contracts to spend a specified time each day reading. After the children have finished a book they return to the library and discuss the book with one of the librarians and choose another. Ms Green said that the sessions gave the librarians the opportunity to assess the children's level of understanding and then steer them towards books that best suit their

needs. Ms Green was in Armidale on an exchange visit.

Libraries for life membership drive

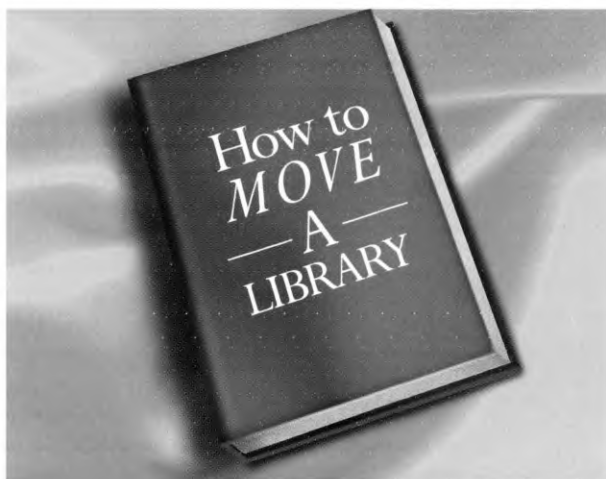
Bairnsdale Advertiser, 11 February

East Gippsland Shire library has launched a new membership drive titled 'Libraries for life'. The libraries will advertise in local papers and promote services through-out the region. Anna Cook, acting library co-ordinator, said that the initiative aimed at raising awareness of the services offered by the library.

Keeping digital documents alive

Image and Data Manager, 1 January, by Barbara Clay

Australian universities are set to take on the challenge of digital continuity. A recent forum held in Melbourne explored ways of ensuring the long-term survival of digital information, especially that produced by universities. Universities have long been major stakeholders in digital preservation, and now must consider ways to future-proof their information. ■



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