

# Making news

Selected reprints from newspapers and magazines in recent months

## Parliamentary books sail

*The Australian*, 14 February, by John Ellicott  
John Ellicott raises concern at how the historical collections of the NSW Parliamentary Library are being sold. Sydney book dealer Tim McCormick said that at least \$670 000 worth of rare books from the parliamentary library has been sold off over the past six years. A parliamentary office insider said that the collection has been sold off to help prop up the ailing bottom line of the NSW Parliament. In 1996 the NSW Parliament Joint Library Committee gave the power to the NSW parliamentary librarian the power to sell unwanted books and periodicals. The revenue from the sales was intended to be put back into the library to help with cataloging and preservation, but eventually nearly two-thirds of the money raised went into general revenue.

## Law library needs funds, says Dyson

*The Australian Financial Review*,  
by Chris Merritt

The newest member of the High Court, Justice Dyson Heydon, has used his farewell address to the NSW Court of Appeal to warn of a steady decline in the quality of the research library used by federal and state judges in Sydney. Justice Heydon said 'The library is fundamental to the role of the courts which use this building in maintaining ordered liberty in our society.'

## Libraries in call for a fair go for books

*Southern Highland News* (Bowral),  
by Joshua Grech

Libraries across New South Wales have begun a month-long campaign to raise more state funding. The campaign 'A fair go for libraries' has the aim of raising awareness of the increased costs associated with providing library services: as well as book stocks, libraries are expected to provide internet access, as well as access to non-book materials such as CDs and DVDs.

## National Library to cut 60 jobs

*Canberra Times*, 12 February

The National Library of Australia is expected

to cut up to sixty jobs by the end of the next financial year. Director-general, Jan Fullerton, said that the job losses would help the institution meet its salary budget. And they would be in the form of voluntary redundancies and natural attrition.

## Solar power for new library

*East Torrens Messenger*, 12 February,  
by Cameron England

The new library in Payneham will be partly solar-powered. The \$63 000 roof-top system will provide up to six per cent of the buildings power, and reduce the council's carbon dioxide production by about eight tonnes per year. The council's urban services general manager Peter Perilli said that it was an important message to send to citizens throughout the state. 'There's not point telling residents to practice environmentally friendly functions if the people who are telling them are not doing it' he said.

## Web weaning works

*The Australian*, 12 February,  
by Scott Carlson

A recent report published in the library journal Portal, shows that students have generally used fewer scholarly materials in their library research in the past six years. Philip Davis, author of 'Effect of the web on undergraduate citation behaviour', scrutinised the bibliographies of term papers in an undergraduate microeconomics course at Cornell University.

## Cybrarians bookmark their spot

*The Australian*, 11 February,  
by Adrian Lynch

Library futurist Steve Coffman believes that to survive, smart librarians are trying to reinvent themselves. This is leading them into new online roles which emphasise not only the value of a library's collection, but also the value of the library staff expertise.

## Our virtual library is a world leader

*The Australian*, 11 February,  
by Adrian Lynch

A review of the AskNow! service operated by the national and state libraries. Information

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## Conferences

• 24–27/8 10th Asia Pacific Special Health and Law Librarians conference. *celebrate the future*. Adelaide Convention Centre, Adelaide. Contact: Festival City Conventions, ph 08 8363 1307, fx 08 8363 1604, librarians@fconventions.com.au, <http://www.alia.org.au/conferences/shllc/2003/>

• 9–12/9 12th National Library Technicians conference. *Bridging services: embracing reality*. Brisbane Qld. Contact: Organisers Australia, PO Box 1237, Milton Qld 4064, ph 07 3369 7866, fx 07 3367 1471, mail@orgaus.com.au <http://www.alia.org.au/groups/libtnat/conferences/2003/>

## International

26/6–3/7 American Library Association Annual conference. Toronto. Contact: American Library Association, 50 E Huron, Chicago, IL 60611 USA, fx 0015 1 312 280 3224, <http://www.ala.org/cro/>

1–9/8 69th IFLA Council and general conference. *Access point library: media — information — culture*. Berlin, Germany. Contact: Mr Christoph Albers. Phone: 0011 49 302 655 8852, fx: 0015 49 302 655 8853, ifla2003secr@sbb.spk-berlin.de, <http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla69/>

22–26/9 IALSA Sixth Annual conference. *Tsoga o itirele: Libraries as agents of change*. Rustenburg Civic Centre, Rustenburg, North West Province, South Africa. Contact: Ms Naomi Haasbroek, fx 021 843 3525, naomi@tlabs.ac.za, <http://home.imagnet.co.za/iasa/index.html>

7–10/10 The Library and Information Association of New Zealand Aotearoa (LIANZA) Conference 2003. *Oceans of Opportunity: Whakawhitihia te Moana*. Napier Municipal Theatre, 119 Tennyson Street, Napier, Hawkes Bay, New Zealand. Contact: Conference secretariat: Conferences and Events Ltd, PO Box 1254, Nelson, New Zealand, ph 03 546 6022, fx 03 546 6020, [lianza@confer.co.nz](mailto:lianza@confer.co.nz), <http://www.confer.co.nz/lianza2003/>

All inCite Events are limited to 40 words maximum and must include: date, name of Group, title of event, theme and key speaker (if relevant), venue, time, costs, and a contact name with phone and fax numbers.

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of Australia, Fran Wilson, said that the service aims to provide quick and authoritative information. The average time for handling queries is fifteen minutes.

**Net data a 'health hazard'**

*The Australian*, 11 February, by Adrian Lynch

An online information system has been launched in South Australia in which health professionals can access two million public hospital patient records. The system contains links to medical drug databases, prescribing aids, medical dictionaries and links to journal articles.

**Library visits double average**

*Mudgee Guardian and Gulgong Advertiser*, 11 February, by Reid Jermyn

Mudgee Shire Libraries have twice the state average of visitors. Shire librarian, Simon Jones said that registered borrowers had increased by more than twelve per cent. Mr Jones said that the libraries children and youth programs have really helped to develop relationships with schools and youth groups. He believes this is a factor why the shire's libraries are continuing to do better.

**Carr accused of cover-up over libraries**

*Advocate* (Coffs Harbour, express), 11 February

An awareness campaign run by the Country Public Libraries Association included postcards addressed to the NSW premier and the minister for the arts. Councillor Shirley Wheatley, chairperson of the North East zone NSW Country Public Libraries Association, said that the director-general of the NSW Ministry for the Arts, Mr Roger Wilkins had totally misled the public in his reply to the postcards. Mr Wilkins said that per capita funding for libraries in NSW is \$31.77, but doesn't acknowledge the fact that ninety-one per cent of that funding comes from local government.

**Library protest escalates**

*Bendigo Advertiser*, 4 February

Industrial action taken by State Library of Victoria employees received state-wide attention at the beginning of February. Library employees are asking for pay increases. The protest was held to co-incide with the launch of the Melbourne Fashion Festival. Other articles about the dispute appeared in Mx-Melbourne, on Monday 3 February with the heading 'Staff strike shuts library'.

**Brown push for book money**

*Southern Highland News* (Bowral) 5 February

Former librarian, and Labor candidate Noeline Brown has joined the chorus of

Country Labor members urging the Carr government for more library funding.

**Country libraries funds call**

*Armidale Express*, 3 February

Senior country Labor MPs have met with the NSW treasurer, Michael Egan, to ask for more money for country public libraries in New South Wales. The meeting followed a concentrated lobbying campaign by the Country Public Libraries Association which saw letters to the editor and articles appearing in many regional daily papers. Country Labor MLC, Tony Kelly, said that the situation facing rural public libraries was too serious to be ignored. The story was also covered in the *Wellington Times*, 3 February under the heading 'Kelly seeks more funds for our libraries', and in the *Barrier Daily Truth* (Broken Hill) under the heading 'Call for more library funds'.

**Virtual world comes to the bush**

*The Australian*, 14 January

Roxanne Missingham is leading a project at the National Library of Australia which aims to make research papers more available. Roxanne is developing a tool to be used in a NLA research project designed to assess and measure the acceptance of digitisation and the needs of library users wanting access to digitised resources. The piece also heralded the launch of the *AskNow!* service, co-operatively provided by the national and state libraries. Mentions the Information Online 2003 conference.

**Beware dangers in online data goldmine, historian warns**

*The Australian*, 14 January

Anne Maree Whitaker warns that material found on the internet should be treated with caution. Dr Whitaker believes that while the availability of information on the internet is a good thing, researchers should always check the source and cross-check for other sources. Dr Whitaker is concerned that students are not being taught enough about the dangers of not checking the accuracy of online reference materials. Mentions the Information Online 2003 conference.

**Dealing with the data deluge**

*The Australian*, 14 January

Information overload is a common problem, according to Ross Dawson, author and keynote speaker at the 11th Information Online conference. He says that the use of standards by information professionals such as librarians and researchers is necessary to identify what is relevant and of value to an information seeker. This process, which he

calls syndication, will change the role of librarians.

**Our librarians are underrated: expert**

*The Australian*, 14 January

A review of some of the topics being covered at the Information Online 2003 conference. Conference convenor, Elizabeth Swan, says that the diversity and professionalism of librarianship in Australia is not fully recognised. She says that while librarians seems to be undervalued in the community the business community is beginning to recognise their value, demonstrated by the growing number of librarians being attracted to work in banks and law firms. Swan goes on to say that the public library should be engaging more with local communities by acting as local internet portals, hosting local business websites, and providing search facilities for business information.

**Info age comes late to the pacific**

*The Australian*, 14 January,

by Karen Dearne

The high costs of access and equipment are major barriers to increased use of information and communication technologies throughout the Pacific. The Pacific Island Forum is pushing for more affordable access to connect remote communities in the Pacific Rim.

**McManus urges library funds check**

*Goulburn Post*, 7 February

Country Labor candidate for Burrinjuck, Michael McManus joined senior country Labor MPs in urging the NSW Treasurer to re-examine funding to public libraries in New South Wales. Mr McManus said that the Carr Government had increased funding to public libraries by twenty per cent since 1995, but more needed to be done. Mr McManus said that an increased demand on the resources of public libraries in the local area had prompted him to ask for more funding.

**NSW State library boosts collection**

*The Koori Mail*, 29 January

The State Library of New South Wales has recently purchased three significant publications to add to its growing indigenous collection. The library purchased a copy of David Unaipon's *Aboriginal Legends* (c.1927), the first publication by an Aboriginal man; the only known Australian copy of the pamphlet 'Histoire Curieuse des Aborigenes d'Australie, Cannibales', by RA Cunningham which tells the story of the removal of nine Aboriginal people from Northern Queensland in 18 83 for exhibition in a circus in America and Europe; and a printed copy of the ballad about the Jimmy Governor murders. ■