



ACT

10/5–13/9 6 steps to career sizzle. 5 monthly .60min teleconference program for librarians. PD points: 10. See *National events for additional information*.

• 24/5 **Active ALIA/AGLIN.** *Information Sharing Session.* Evidence based librarianship. NLA 4th Floor Conference Room, 4:30–5:30pm. RSVP please. PD points: 1. Contact: Karna O'Dea, ph 02 6121 6310, karna.odea@dewr.gov.au

• 19/7 **Active ALIA/AGLIN.** *Information Sharing Session.* Parliamentary Committees and their reports. Speaker: Roy Jordan, Australian Parliamentary Library, NLA, 4th Floor, Conference Room, 4:00pm. PD points: 1. Contact: Sherrey Quinn, ph 02 6257 9177, sherrey.quinn@alianet.alia.org.au

NSW

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• 18/5 **ALIA NSW Library Technicians** *Talk by Kathy Neilsen on Bankstown's Talking Oral History Project.* Bankstown City Library, 62 The Mall, Bankstown, 6:00pm. PD points: 2. Contact: Janette Telford, ph 02 9739 2386, j.telford@mackillop.acu.edu.au

• 31/5–29/11 **Mentoring NSW.** *Library Folk In the Pub.* Catch up with old friends or meet new ones at Library Folk In the Pub (LFIP) on last Wednesday monthly at the quiet upstairs bar, Agincourt Hotel (cnr Harris and George Sts, Railway Square, Sydney). 31/5; 28/6; 26/7; 30/8; 27/9; 25/10; 29/11. Contact: John Elias, ph 02 9463 9235, jelias@mfa.com.au

• 20/6 **Far North Coast.** *Dinner meeting: topic tba* Tale Nightcap restaurant (Wollongbar) at 6:00pm. \$25 per head. Numbers restricted so please RSVP. Contact: Lainey Furness, ph 02 6620 2445, laineyf@nrahs.nsw.gov.au

• 22/6 **NSW Children and Youth Services.** *Pre Book Week Extravaganza 2006.* Book Now this year's extravaganza is sure to be bigger and better than ever! Strathfield Library, 65–67 Rochester St, Homebush. Cost [GST incl]: \$15.00 ALIA members (one per Inst membership), \$18.00 non-members. Contact: Judy Drayton, ph 02 9735 1282, judy_drayton@auburn.nsw.gov.au, http://alia.org.au/groups/cysnsw/book.week/2006/

NT

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• 24/5 **Top End Group.** Presentation and meeting. Palmerston City Library, Palmerston, 5:00pm: tour of new library, 6:00pm: meeting. Contact: Linda Marchesani, ph 08 8999 3929, linda.marchesani@nt.gov.au

20/6 **Power searching with the pros goes North.** *Level one workshop focuses on introducing the main concepts that information professionals need to be familiar with.* Presenters: Mary Ellen Bates and Chris Sherman. Alice Springs, venue tbc, 9:00–5:00pm. Cost [incl GST]: \$395 ALIA members, \$455 non-members. PD points: 7. Contact: Elizabeth Swan, ph 02 9371 0300, e_swan@infoedge.com.au

22/6 **Power searching with the pros goes North.** *Level one workshop focuses on introducing the main concepts that information professionals need to be familiar with.* Presenters: Mary Ellen Bates and Chris Sherman. Darwin, venue tbc, 9:00–5:00pm. Cost [incl GST]: \$395 ALIA members, \$455 non-members. PD points: 7. Contact: Elizabeth Swan, ph 02 9371 0300, e_swan@infoedge.com.au

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Making news...

Selected reprints from newspapers and magazines in recent months

Beazley battles net porn

Herald Sun, 22 March 2006, Jason Frenkel (with AAP)

Internet service providers would have to filter out porn from international websites under a Labor plan to stop children accessing offensive material. Opposition leader Kim Beazley said nearly two-thirds of parents didn't have internet filters on their home computers, blaming the cost of filtering software and poor computer literacy for the small uptake. The plan is similar to one being pushed by Family First senator Steve Fielding, who has so far been unsuccessful in persuading the government of its merit. Internet Industry Association executive director Peter Coroneos said the current system in Australia, which involved three enforceable codes of practice, was world-class. The Australian Communications and Media Authority is auditing the top 25 ISPs, which cover about 95 per cent of internet users in Australia, for compliance with the codes of practice. ISPs found in breach of the codes could face fines of up to \$27 500 a day.

Safety net not needed

Courier Mail, 24 March 2006, Terry Sweetman

The web is the ultimate expression of the communications revolution that began with moveable type; humanity can share ideas, opinions and even perversions without the intervention of teachers, mentors, censors or librarians. This absolute freedom of expression remains anathema to some. The government, which had realistically opposed mandatory filtering, is buckling under the pressure of a Coalition push led by Liberal backbencher Guy Barnett. So should we lightly reverse a moral course that was set when then customs minister Don Chipp began taking government out of the censorship business back in 1971? Despite the shrill warnings of Family First and the serious concerns of parents, censorship is not an acceptable option in a free society.

Political pressure building for net censorship

The Australian, 28 March 2006, James Riley

Filtering of service providers could seriously slow the internet, but some politicians want it. The federal government is planning to bolster NetAlert, its online safety agency, and give the media regulator greater powers as pressure builds from Labor and its own backbench to curb online pornography. Communications and IT Minister Helen Coonan says, however, that calls from Labor and Coalition colleagues to force internet service providers to filter porn sites are misguided, as mandatory filtering by internet service providers was an expensive and ineffective way to limit children's access to online pornography. A government review of mandatory ISP filtering in 2004 found that such a scheme would cost \$45 million to set up, with annual ongoing maintenance costs of \$33 million annually. Three reviews had been done on ISP filtering. The first was in 1999 by the CSIRO,

the second as a department Online Content Scheme Review in 2003–04, and the final report is being prepared of a third review – including a trial of ISP filtering – which has been done in Launceston by NetAlert and Telstra. The latest study found that ISP filters continued to create network performance problems.

Similar articles: 'Debate grows on porn filters', *Canberra Times*, 17 April 2006; 'The evil trade', Greg Thom, *Herald Sun*, 15 April 2006.

Generation X-Box – missing out in the game of life

Sunday Star Times (NZ), 2 April 2006, Ruth Laugesen

A recent New Zealand study suggests that a variety of experience fits children for success in school and later in life. Enriching activities, especially reading, give children the opportunity to develop qualities useful both socially and academically, whereas electronic games as a major or sole interest, or no interests at all, are an indicator of low performance. *Competent Children* is a longitudinal study of 500 Wellington schoolchildren, by the New Zealand Council for Education Research's Dr Cathy Wylie.

Nothing but the truth

Courier Mail, 8 April 2006, Belinda Weaver

Google might get all the hype, but Libraries Australia might prove more helpful for many people. The facilities and options available on Libraries Australia are briefly and clearly described.

SJP says money talk is a bit rich

Mx (Melbourne newspaper), 10 April 2006

Sarah Jessica Parker says (sfgate.com) she's nowhere near as rich as she is rumoured to be – but if she was, she'd fund New York's closed-down libraries (and ballet companies).

Library closes the book on undies

Mx (Melbourne newspaper), 10 April 2006

A Swedish school library has refused to lend books to students whose hipsters are hanging low and displaying their underwear. Baseball cap and beanie wearers are also banned from using the library. The school has no uniform, but the librarians have fashion standards.

We're big on virtual presence

Canberra Times, 10 April 2006

Australia is a big country with an equally impressive virtual presence in cyberspace, according to the latest estimate of our national footprint on the World Wide Web. A 'harvest crawl' of Australian websites was recently undertaken by The Internet Archive for the National Library of Australia as part of a test of new software. The content of more than 185 million websites hosted in Australia was covered, gathering up 6.7 terabytes of data. Sweden, by comparison, has a comparatively measly 46 million websites, amounting to 1.6 terabytes of data. ■