

International conference on information behaviour comes to Sydney in July

The Information and Knowledge Management Program, University of Technology, Sydney will be hosting the 6th *Information Seeking in Context* conference, 19–21 July 2006. This is the first time the conference has been held outside Europe. This is a great opportunity for researchers and library and information management practitioners to hear and talk to leading researchers in the field of information behaviour in Australia and from around the world. The keynote speakers are two well-known scholars, Chun Wei Choo, Professor of the Faculty of Information Studies, University of Toronto, <http://choo.fis.utoronto.ca/ccw.text2.html> and Brenda Dervin, Professor of Communication at Ohio State University (<http://www.comm.ohio-state.edu/People/Faculty/BrendaDervin.aspx>).

Over the three days of the conference, there will be around 40 papers on a diverse range of topics related to

the conference themes. A preliminary list of speakers and papers is available at <http://www.hss.uts.edu.au/isic2006/conferenceprog/index.html>. There is much to interest practitioners working in specific contexts such as health, education and the corporate environment and with different communities of users. There are papers presenting research on information seeking, use and interaction and those exploring theory and conceptual understandings.

For current PhD students, a doctoral workshop is being held in conjunction with the conference on the 18th July. During the Workshop, doctoral students will be invited to share their current dissertation work-in-progress with their peers and with an international panel of academic staff.

For more information, see the conference website at <http://www.hss.uts.edu.au/isic2006/>.

A first timers view...

Jennifer Berryman, policy officer, State Library of New South Wales and PhD Candidate, University of Technology, Sydney attended the 2004 conference.

I attended my first ISIC conference in 2004. ISIC conferences grew from the need to understand about how people seek and use both information itself and the systems we put in place to organise and retrieve information.

The 2004 conference held plenty for the practitioner, especially a practitioner with an interest in research-informed practice. Particularly interesting: Fisher et al's work on the intriguing concept of information grounds, those places where people meet for a particular purpose but find themselves also sharing of information, and McInerney and Bird's report on using the Website Quality Evaluation Tool (WQET) to assess the credibility of websites (see 2004 papers at <http://informationr.net/ir/10-2/infras102.html>)



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