

ACT

• **12/4 Library Technicians online chat.** *Providing an opportunity for LTs to chat online with other LTs.* Time 7:00pm (AEDT) in the ALIA Technicians Chat Room. Contact: Kevin Dudeney, ph 02 9804 5448, kevin.dudeney@dcs.nsw.gov.au

• **26/4 ACTive ALIA/AGLIN.** *Information Sharing Session AIATSIS Language and Place Name Thesauri.* [http://lists.collectionsaustralia.net/archives/cantalk/2005-November/000150.html]. AIATSIS Library, Acton Peninsula, Acton, 4:00pm. PD points: 1. Contact: Sherrey Quinn, ph 02 6257 9177, sherrey.quinn@alianet.alia.org.au

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

• **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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• **26/4-29/11 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 (corner Harris and George Streets Railway Square Sydney). 26/4; 31/5; 28/6; 26/7; 30/8; 27/9; 25/10; 29/11. Contact: John Elias, ph 02 9463 9235, jeliass@mla.com.au

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NT

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• **26/4 Top End Group.** *Presentation and meeting.* Contact: Linda Marchesani, ph 08 8999 3929, linda.marchesani@nt.gov.au

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• **24/5 Top End Group.** *Presentation and meeting.* Contact: Linda Marchesani,

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News from the Washington File

State Department Documents, Washington File, 14 February 2006

An informed citizenry is one of the greatest forces for global peace and stability, said Jo-sette Shiner, under-secretary of state for economic, business and agricultural affairs, at a US State Department briefing on 14 February, announcing the formation of the Global Internet Freedom Task Force. The task force, which includes State Department officials in international communications policy, human rights, democracy, business advocacy and corporate responsibility, will work with US businesses, nongovernmental organisations, the European Union and other governments to address internet freedom issues.

Internet filtering and censorship by governments around the world is widespread, according to the OpenNet Initiative, a partnership between the Citizen Lab at the Munk Centre for International Studies at the University of Toronto, the Berkman Center for Internet and Society at Harvard Law School and the Advanced Network Research Group at the Cambridge Security Programme at the University of Cambridge in the United Kingdom. In repressive regimes where the government does not want people to have the ability to speak freely, the government blocks free access to the internet, usually requiring internet service providers (ISPs) to install 'censorware' to enforce the country's censorship laws.

Never too young to start

Messenger – East Torrens (South Australia), 15 February 2006

Jeremy Milne

Campbelltown Library officially launched its new campaign to encourage parents to read to their children last week. Parents with children aged 6-12 months can collect a start-up pack from the Campbelltown or Athelstone Libraries, or the Campbelltown office of Children and Youth Health. The pack includes a storytime DVD, a newly commissioned book by Phil Cummings and Greg Holdfield called

Baby Baby, advice for reading aloud, a growth chart and information about local library services. Children's librarian Anne Leske reads to groups of children four times a week at the Montacute Road library, and can get up to 30 eager listeners at a time.

Uni program gives students access to primary sources

ABC Premium News, 21 February 2006

The faculty of Arts at the University of Tasmania has launched a new program that will allow students to access original documents and artefacts for research. The program links cultural institutions, including the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, the Queen Victoria museum, State Library, and Port Arthur Historic site. The students will gain unmatched experience working alongside curators.

Indispensable skill

The Mercury (Tasmania), 28 February 2006
Christopher Bantick

World Book Day had its beginnings in a practice from Catalonia, Spain, in which books were given to loved ones on St George's Day. Some countries mark the day on April 23 but the primary date is March 2. UNESCO says a main aim of World Book Day is to 'encourage children to explore the pleasure of reading'. The article discusses these pleasures, citing recent research, and suggests using the Australian Reader's Challenge to promote reading as the basis of information literacy.

For trivia buffs, JK Rowling's Top 10 books are listed at the end of the article: *Wuthering Heights*, Emily Bronte; *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, Roald Dahl; *Robinson Crusoe*, Daniel Defoe; *David Copperfield*, Charles Dickens; *Catch-22*, Joseph Heller; *To Kill a Mockingbird*, Harper Lee; *Animal Farm*, George Orwell; *The Tale of Two Bad Mice*, Beatrix Potter; *The Catcher in the Rye*, J.D. Salinger and *Hamlet*, William Shakespeare.

Fact finding mission

Townsville Sun (Queensland), 1 March 2006
Kerri-Anne Mesner

The latest in computer game technology could be featured in Townsville libraries to complement existing services, along with other innovative ideas used in libraries to attract new membership. Townsville City Council's Lifestyle and Community Development chair Jack Wilson and Library Services manager Annette Pike are investigating such innovations in a tour of southern libraries.

ACT Public Library review

Canberra Times, 4 March 2006

The ACT Public Library is reviewing its collections and is encouraging both users and non-users in the community to participate. There is an online survey at www.library.act.gov.au.

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Tastes turn to violent crime

Sunday Tasmanian, 5 March 2006
Christopher Bantick

Does an individual's selection of what to read reflect movements in society? According to British public library lending figures, violent crime thrillers are taking the place of romantic fiction. Ten years ago, the sweeping historical romance dominated. The top choice with British borrowers was Patricia Cornwell's *Blow Fly* – a book that was also very popular in Tasmania.

Libraries Australia launch

Canberra Times, 5 March 2006

If you have an internet connection, hold onto your keyboard – you now have access to information about more than 40 million items held in 800 libraries across Australia. During the launch by the Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts, Senator Helen Coonan at Parliament House, assistant director-general, resource sharing division, Tony Boston, explained to the audience how Libraries Australia works. (See March *inCite* p9.) This item was picked up in many local papers across Australia.

Cl@ssmate Series 6: The story of books

Daily Telegraph (NSW), 7 March 2006
Troy Lennox

Reading is more than just a pastime, books are the way humanity stores its collective memory. Before the invention of books, knowledge and stories had to be passed on by word of mouth. Since writing was invented we have sought better ways to put things down in words and better ways to store those words. We have moved from clay tablets to handwritten scrolls, to printed books and soon we may be buying electronic books. The thing that never changes is our love of the written word. This article discusses the different forms books have taken over their history.

Around town

Northern Territory News, 14 March 2006

In celebration of Harmony Month, Darwin City Council libraries are pleased to present internet training for beginners in Tagalog, Indonesian and Japanese. The same article announces the launch of the Territory Author Awards 2006. This writing competition invites young Territorians (18 years and un-

der) to produce their own book. Entries close on June 30 and winners will be announced in August. Entry forms are available at all schools and public libraries in the Territory.

Governments not net-ready

The Australian, 14 March 2006
Kelly Mills

Almost half of technology executives in the government sector in Australia say their organisation is not making the most of the internet. The finding comes from a survey of 112 executives in the Asia-Pacific region. The Australian executives in the government sector say there are few systems and processes in place to enable their organisation to make full use of the internet. The number of legacy systems in Australian government organisations may be the hindering factor, the survey finds. Less than 20 per cent of Australian government IT executives say that most or all of their departmental processes are fully automated, the survey finds. Cost savings are identified as the main reason for going down the e-government path.

The survey finds there are concerns about the knowledge management aspects of enabling citizens to do transactions online. Nearly two-thirds of respondents say knowledge transfer is either an ad-hoc, informal process or is barely done. More than 56 per cent of respondents report that there are no records management systems in place to assist with the retrieval of information.

More choice for vision-impaired

The Sun (community newspaper), 15 March 2006

Thuringowa Library Service has introduced Audio Navigator devices to offer a better service to visually impaired patrons. The handheld gizmo, which works like an MP3 player, gives greater portability of files and flexibility to users. Articles from newspapers can be sent to the client by e-mail and heard using synthesised speech technology. More than 800 book titles are available for download at the Thuringowa library. Audio Navigator allows bookmarking and movement between paragraphs, pages and chapters. The devices cost between \$300 and \$500, and are available in Australia, though an initial stock have been bought to loan to individuals, retirement villages and nursing homes. ■



ph 08 8999 3929, linda.marchesani@nt.gov.au

• **28/6 Top End Group.** *Presentation and meeting.* Contact: Linda Marchesani, ph 08 8999 3929, linda.marchesani@nt.gov.au

QLD

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• **12/4 QLD OPALS.** *General meeting at Queensland Studies Authority (QSA),* 295 Ann Street, City, 12:30–2:00pm. Hosts: Kay Phillips/Gail Walker. Contact: Kay Phillips, ph 07 3864 0233, library@qsa.qld.edu.au

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4–7/6 Queensland Public Libraries Association Conference. *Libraries...A Lifestyle Experience* at the multi-award winning Cairns Convention Centre, comprehensive program and exciting Trade Exhibition. Contact: Marina Speziale, ph 07 4057 7755, m.speziale@cairns.qld.gov.au, <http://www.cairnslibrary.com.au/>

• **7/6 QLD OPALS.** *General meeting at Department of Corrective Services, Wacol,* 8:30–10:00am. Host: Robyn Sanders. Contact: Robyn Sanders, ph 07 3406 6429, tdc.library@dcs.qld.gov.au

• **1/8 QLD OPALS.** *General meeting at Resource Options, Unit 6/6 Qualtrough Street, Woolloongabba,* 7:30–8:30am. Host: Jenny Hale. Contact: Jenny Hale, ph 07 3391 3499, info@resource-options.com.au

SA

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TAS

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Are you interested in having a satisfying, stimulating career where the areas you can apply your knowledge are only limited by your imagination? Are you interested in working in diverse and dynamic workplaces? If you answered YES to both of these questions, then a career in Library and Information Services is for you:

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