

EVENTS

ACT

14/8 ALIA Asia Pacific Special Interest Group *Visit to ANU Centre for Arab and Islamic Studies*, Venue: CAIS, Ellery Crescent, ANU. Time: TBC. Contact: George Miller, ph 02 6295 1439, gmiller@grapevine.com.au

29–30/8 AGLIN Annual Forum 2007 Best Practice and Benchmarking, Venue: National Library, Parkes ACT. Time: from 9:00am each day. Contact: Mary Teague, ph 02 6246 9369, mary.teague@ga.gov.au, <https://wiki.nla.gov.au/display/AGLIN2/Events+and+Training>

18–19/9 Digital Futures International Forum *Presented by the National Archives of Australia*. Venue: Theatre of Parliament House. Time: from 9:00am each day. Contact: Kathleen Lazzari, ph 02 6212 3616, kathlazz@yahoo.com.au, <http://www.naa.gov.au/dfif.html>

NSW

2/8 Australian Copyright Council seminars, Sydney. Presented by ACC copyright law experts. A day of seminars on copyright topics for librarians, including the new provision for maintaining or operating a library or archive. Contact: ph 02 8815 9777, info@copyright.org.au, <http://www.copyright.org.au>

12/8 New Graduates Group Newcastle/Central Coast *visit to Avondale College Library*, Lake Macquarie Campus, 582 Freemans Drive, Cooranbong. Time: 2:00pm. Cost: Free, refreshments provided. Contact: Narelle Bell, ph 0408 271 791, narbell3@yahoo.com

17/8 Key Forums Master Class Marketing Your Library and its Services, led by Craig Anderson, Library Director: RMIT University. Venue: Harbour View Hotel, Sydney. Time: 8:30am – 5:15pm. Cost: ALIA member \$930.30, Non-member \$1094.50. Contact: Key Forums, ph 02 9436 4255, helen.lewis@keyforums.com.au, <http://www.keyforums.com.au>

18/8 ALIA Library Technicians NSW NeXt Revisited 2007: Technology workshop. Venue: Macquarie University. Time: 9:30am–2:45pm. Cost: ALIA member/Student \$25, Non-member \$35. Contact: Janette Telford, 02 9739 2386, janette.telford@acu.edu.au, <http://www.alia.org.au/groups/libtnsw/>

29/8 Mentoring NSW Library Folk In the Pub. The Madison Hotel, Surry Hills, upstairs Hippo Bar, 6:00pm. Contact: Julian Sortland, 0429 470 672, info@lfip.info, <http://www.lfip.info>

11/9 ALIA NSW National Advisory Congress (Wagga Wagga). The 2007 NAC regional meetings will focus on Professional Education and Workforce Planning. Venue: TBA. Contact: niki.kallenberger@alia.org.au

20/9 ALIA Children's & Youth Services (NSW) Meeting: Open to all ALIA members. West Ryde Library, 2 Graf Ave, West Ryde, 6:00pm. Contact: Alex Mills, alexanderm@ashfield.nsw.gov.au.

AustLII free legal database in crisis

One of the most popular legal research databases used by Australian libraries is suffering a funding crisis, has slashed its staff, and is becoming out of date.

Since 1995, the Australasian Legal Information Institute (AustLII), has provided free and timely online legal information, but development grants from one of its primary funding sources, the Australian Research Council (ARC), have ceased, and the service is now calling for its major users to provide financial support.

AustLII has reportedly reduced its staff by one-third, resulting in databases not being updated as regularly as specified by the service's own guidelines, and 20 new databases failing to go online at all because of lack of funds. Apart from the ARC, AustLII receives significant funds from universities, government departments, private companies and law firms, but the service has made pleas to stakeholders for long-term operating funding.

An independent internet rating agency states AustLII has been receiving an average of 637,000 hits per day — three times the combined hits on all commercial legal databases — but, under its establishment model, because the service gets its content free from the government, it cannot charge users, nor can it carry advertising.

In the face of the loss of free comprehensive legal information to libraries, community legal centres and ordinary Australians, barristers, individuals and associations have been making donations to sustain the service. The NSW Young Lawyers group is even holding a fundraising barbecue.

Sources

Australian Financial Review, 29/6/2007, p. 66.

Lawyers Weekly, 25/5/2007, pp. 14–15; 22/6/2007, p. 10.

<http://austlii.edu.au/>

a point of reference

ALIA National Office staff recently received a phone call asking this tricky question ...

I am looking for a picture, which was in a Melbourne or Canberra paper around 21/02/1951. My mother was on board the General Hahn when it shipped into the country on that date.

From what I remember, the ship arrived in either Melbourne or Canberra (more convinced it was Canberra) and a photograph was taken of their family

and put in the paper. Unfortunately we do not know what paper it was in.

Editor's note: Canberra is an inland city. Lake Burley Griffin was created in 1963. These factors make the prospect of a large ocean liner finding its way to our capital rather unlikely.

Do you have an 'interesting' reference question you'd like to share? Send it to <incite@alia.org.au> but please, do not include details that identify your client.

Who's where

Annette L. McGuinness, previously of the ADFA Library, is now the Library Manager (Canberra), at the Lewins Library, Signadou Campus, Australian Catholic University Ltd.

Janette Wright has been appointed as the new CEO of CAVAL. Janette, currently Director at RMIT Publishing, will commence on 20 August.

Journal Subscriptions and Claims

Journal claiming just became quicker and easier! ALIA has now set up the email address <journal.subscriptions@alia.org.au> to handle your claims. Subscription agents are being encouraged to use this email address rather than mail letters, which can often make the process more lengthy.

The new email address can also be used to arrange new journal subscriptions.