



Making news

ACT

- 14/2 Library Technicians Online Chat See National events for more details.
- 28/3 Asia Pacific Special Interest Group. Library Visit – United Nations Information Centre, Barton. Contact Toni Smith, ph 02 6273 8200, msexton@netspeed.com.au
- 18/4 ALIA PD Workshop in partnership with CAVAL. Negotiating e-licences. One-day workshop, ALIA House, Deakin. Register online, http://training.caval.edu.au/pdt/show_course.php?CID=217. For further information email training@caval.edu.au, ph 03 9450 5508 or email pd@alia.org.au, ph 02 6215 8216

NSW

- 6/2 The future of professional associations A talk by Tony McSean, Chair of CILIP(UK). NSW Leagues Club, 165 Philip Street, Sydney, 6:00pm. Cost: \$25 ALIA Members, non-members \$35. Book now, pay at the door. Contact Niki Kallenberger, ph 02 9799 5992, niki.kallenberger@alia.org.au
 - 14/2 Library Technicians Online Chat See National events for more details.
 - 28/2 Mentoring NSW. Library Folk In the Pub. The Madison Hotel, 6:00pm. Contact Julian Sortland, ph 0429 470 672, julian@sortland.co.uk
 - 15/2 Far North Coast Regional Group A special visit by three ALIA officers: Ms Sue Hutley (Executive Director, ALIA), Ms Helen Partridge (ALIA Board Director), and Ms Claudia Davies (ALIA QLD Liaison officer). Contact Lainey Furness, ph 02 6620 2445, LAINHEYF@nrhs.nsw.gov.au
- 16/3 Best practice library and knowledge management Key Forums Australia one-day master class. Harbourview Hotel, Sydney. Full rate: \$1095, ALIA members 10% discount. Contact: ph 02 9436 4255, enquiries@keyforums.com.au
- 18/3 New Graduates Pam Whalan, an authority on Jane Austen, on Genre. Toronto Library, 2:00pm. Gold coin donation. Contact Narelle Bell, ph 0408 271 791, narbell3@yahoo.com
 - 30/3 ALIA PD Workshop in partnership with CAVAL. Negotiating e-licences. One-day workshop, Cliftons, Sydney. Register online, http://training.caval.edu.au/pdt/show_course.php?CID=217. For further information email training@caval.edu.au, ph 03 9450 5508 or email pd@alia.org.au, ph 02 6215 8216

NT

- 14/2 Library Technicians Online Chat See National events for more details.
- 21/2 Top End. Peter Spillet Library, Museum and Art Galleries of NT. 5:30 tour, 6:30pm Dinner/drinks, Conacher Road Fannie Bay. Contact Sarah White, ph 08 8935 9991, sarah.white@palmerston.nt.gov.au
- 21/3 Top End. Meeting. Cool Spot, East Point Road, Fannie Bay, 5:30pm. Contact Sarah White, ph 08 8935 9991, sarah.white@

Career mums wary of jobs in regional cities

The Australian, 13 December, Caroline Overington

Regional Australia is in danger of becoming free of professional women because of an acute shortage of childcare. Kay Morrison, president of Business and Professional Women, which has more than 1000 members, mostly in smaller cities such as Perth, Bunbury, Darwin and Alice Springs, said professional women were reluctant to take jobs in centres where childcare was scarce, and found it difficult to work even in cities because childcare was difficult to manage. She backed calls for tax breaks for working women, saying: 'Professional women at the start of their careers often find themselves paying hundreds of dollars a week for childcare. They want to be productive, they want to keep their skills, but they can't.'

Authors showcase talents to children

Westside News, 13 December

A government-sponsored book to promote Queensland authors and illustrators will place local talent under the noses of the state's school children. 'Books from our Backyard' highlights the work of 100 of Queensland's top authors and illustrators. The free resource will help teachers and librarians purchase suitable books for their classrooms and libraries. Experienced senior English teacher Jean Yates chose the featured works in consultation with an independent Queensland industry reference group. 'Books from our Backyard' provides a synopsis of the stories as well as information on accessing teaching notes and booking authors and illustrators for visits. It will be supplemented with online resources and updates.

Malouf presses for novel reprints

The Australian, 12 December, Rosemary Neill

It is a 'national disgrace' that so many Australian novels, from classics to recent prize-winners, are out of print, says eminent novelist David Malouf; a large body of what we used to think of as essential reading in Australian literature was no longer readily available. Novels that have won the Miles Franklin, the country's most prestigious literary award, but are now out of print, include Thea Astley's *The Acolyte*, David Ireland's *The Glass Canoe*, Peter Mathers's *Trap* and Tom Flood's *Oceana Fine*. Malouf added that classic works by

Randolph Stow, Christina Stead and the poets Douglas Stewart and Francis Webb were also out of print. Many works by authors as well-known as Helen Garner, Thea Astley, Frank Moorhouse, Roger McDonald and Patrick White are also out of print.

Mixed reaction to new Civic Library

The Canberra Times, 9 December

The opening of the \$14 million Civic Library was met with mixed emotions, as members of the Save the Griffith Library Group clashed with supporters and politicians over the complex. The new state-of-the-art library in Civic Square has caused unrest among local residents from the time of its proposed construction in 2004, and more recently with the closure of the Griffith Library. Griffith Library supporters heckled the Chief Minister over the library's closure at the launch and also over the amount of community consultation before the closure. Griffith Library supporter Christine Aldred said that while no one could deny the prestige of the new library complex, many residents would find accessing the services difficult. Insufficient parking in Civic and the general busyness of the area would make reaching the library difficult for elderly and young residents.

The end of the paper trail

The Australian, 9 December, Rosemary Neill

University publishing houses are fighting for survival, either turning electronic or going mainstream. Pandanus Press, at ANU, is a case in point. Its demise underlines the state of flux academic presses are in here and overseas. Despite a consensus that university presses cannot survive without subsidies, cash-starved universities are increasingly reluctant to provide them. And with the rise of journals, digital copying and photocopying, students and university libraries are buying far fewer scholarly books than they did 20 years ago. Aus-

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tralia's most prominent university presses, the University of Queensland Press and Melbourne University Press, have undergone radical restructures in recent times, including drastic staff cuts. In 2003, MUP shed most of its staff as part of a commercial overhaul; UQP has survived an exodus of senior staff and a \$3.5 million debt burden. The ANU's vice-chancellor Ian Chubb said earlier this year the university could no longer afford to subsidise the loss-making Pandanus as it fell outside the core activities of teaching and research.

Fatigue from information overload has a remedy, expert says
Network World, 6 December,
John Fontana

Knowledge management is old hat. Now we need attention management. Given the avalanche of information from numerous avenues including e-mail, instant message and syndication feeds, corporate users could start to feel attention fatigue and companies may need to institute a strategy for attention management. Attention fatigue has a negative impact on information workers and is caused by the limited amount of attention they have to spend on an ever-increasing amount of information that demands their attention. Fatigue also leads to resistance to new communications technologies. Processes, cultural changes and even technology are lumped under something called 'attention management' (AM) to help users cope. AM applies concepts from psychology, physiology, and economics.

Digital divide: still there for the poorest
FT.com, 4 December, Alan Cane

Less than 10 per cent of the world's population had basic internet access in 2003, Paul Mountford told the Silicon Valley Challenge Summit last month, vividly illustrating the size of the 'digital divide' which separates the information rich from the information poor. This Summit,

inspired by UN secretary-general Kofi Annan's lead, is the latest in a string of organisations and events formed to provide help and encouragement to developing countries as they grapple with the practicalities of digital communications. The new Digital Opportunity Index, or DOI, offers the prospect of measuring the digital divide and monitoring progress in building the information society. It is a composite index created from 11 internationally agreed ICT indicators divided into three categories: opportunity, which measures the basic access and affordability needed to participate in the information society; infrastructure which looks at networks and devices; and utilisation which focuses on who is using what.

Fine way to collect money
Moreland Leader (Melbourne),
4 December

Melbourne University philosophy student Greg McPherson says Brunswick Library's policy of not sending overdue book notices is a money-making venture. It was revealed last week that Moreland's five libraries make a combined total of \$92,000 in overdue book fines. But Moreland Council social development director Jenny Merkus said most customers were happy with the existing systems at the five libraries across Moreland. A \$5 cap ensured customers were not left in financial ruin if they forgot to return a book. The \$92,000 that the fines raise per annum is reinvested back into the libraries.

The cashed up councils that cry poor – infrastructure suffers as the bureaucrats sit on \$600m in unspent funds
Sunday Telegraph, 3 December,
Linda Silmalis

Sydney councils are sitting on more than half a billion dollars in developer fees that should have been spent on new infrastructure and fixing roads and parks. Figures compiled by the Property Council of Australia (PCA) show Sydney councils have amassed \$603 million in unspent Section 94 funds. Councils are meant to use the funds to build infrastructure such as roads, libraries and child-care services. PCA executive director Ken Morrison said councils should be forced to hand back unspent funds.



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- 6/8 ALIA PD Workshop in partnership with CAVAL. Negotiating e-licences. One-day workshop, Palmerston Campus, CDU. Register online, http://training.caval.edu.au/pdt/show_course.php?CID=217. For further information email training@caval.edu.au, ph 03 9450 5508 or email pd@alia.org.au, ph 02 6215 8216

QLD

5/2 Tony McSean at the University of Queensland. 'Are our professional Associations falling to bits or am I just a grumpy old man?' UQ Social Sciences and Humanities Library, 3:00-4:00pm. Contact Jennifer Hall, ph 07 3240 5350, j.hall@library.uq.edu.au

5/2 Carol Lefebvre at the University of Queensland. 'Supporting Systematic Reviews and the role filled by the Cochrane Trials Search Co-ordinators'. UQ Biological Sciences Library, 5:00-7:00pm. Contact Jennifer Hall, ph 07 3240 5350, j.hall@library.uq.edu.au

- 5/2 Quorum QLD. Expanding Horizons: Information Professionals in the Digital World. Angela Bell, TFPL (London), workshop on roles and skills for effective information management in the e-landscape. OJ Wordsworth Room, L12, S Block, QUT, Gardens Point. Cost: \$20 ALIA Members, non-members \$30. Contact Merindi Derrick, ph 0402 080 031, merindi.derrick@det.qld.gov.au

6/2 Carol Lefebvre at the Princess Alexandra Hospital. 'Identifying trials for inclusion in Systematic Reviews'. 2:00-4:00pm. Contact Jennifer Hall, ph 07 3240 5350, j.hall@library.uq.edu.au

- 14/2 Library Technicians Online Chat See National events for more details.
- 15/2 Quorum QLD. Copyright: update on recent legislative changes. Moyra McAllister, ALIA Copyright Adviser. How recent changes to copyright legislation may affect your organisation's practices. Level 11 Brisbane Square, 266 Queen St. Members \$5 Non-members \$10. Contact Merindi Derrick, ph 0402 080 031, merindi.derrick@det.qld.gov.au
- 20/2 QLD Library Technicians General meeting, location TBA, 5pm for a 5:30pm start. Contact Trish D'Arcy, ph 073623 7404, p.darcy@mcauley.acu.edu.au

13/3 Conference for Librarians, Teachers et al. Active Reading! Active Learning! Somerset College. 'Re-affirming the Thirst for Knowledge'. Radisson Resort Gold Coast. Contact Somerset College Library, ph 07 5530 5458, library@somerset.qld.edu.au

- 17/3 Library Technicians QLD Workshop@ ACU, details to come. Contact Trish D'Arcy, ph 073623 7404, p.darcy@mcauley.acu.edu.au
- 28/3 ALIA PD Workshop in partnership with CAVAL. Negotiating e-licences. One-day workshop, Cliftons, Brisbane. Register online, http://training.caval.edu.au/pdt/show_course.php?CID=217. For further

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