OUT AND ABOUT @ INFORMATION ONLINE

Out & About @ Information Online is a regular ALIA Information Science (SA) event, enabling those lucky enough to attend Information Online to share their impressions and highlights with library professionals unable to make it to Sydney for the conference. This year, four guest speakers shared their insights with an eager audience.

John Banbury, from Flinders University, summarised the presentation *Why Popeye is still right* about an eye tracking study conducted at the University of New South Wales Library. The study used the Tobii T60 XL eye tracking system to test the effectiveness of the library's new *SearchFirst* search interface by plotting what students were looking at on the website as they completed several activities. This study showed that eye tracking is a useful tool for usability testing when it is used as an iterative process for improving the design of websites.

Hayley Morton, from SA Water, provided an overview of three presentations. The first, *Revolutionising digital content ingest: building a newspaper clippings collection using practical automation to assist with selection and classification*, was about the Parliamentary Library's contract with SAIC to "revolutionise and automate" the labour intensive manual processes of selecting articles and categorising them using the Parliamentary Library Thesaurus.

Sink or Swim: the Water Corporation Library's experiences from diving into e-services outlined the effective use the library has made of blogs, podcasts, screen casts and free applications (including an Advent calendar for Christmas)

for promoting library services.

Mobile, social, digital collections was a standout presentation for many conference delegates. Exploring 'The Band Stand, Hyde Park' is a truly breath-taking must see in the Powerhouse Museum's Flickr collection and the Electronic Swatchbooks on the Powerhouse Museum's website are very impressive.

The third guest speaker on the night was Jenny Quilliam, from the University of South Australia, who spoke about four presentations. *Library space-Living space* provided an insight into the project to plan and build the new non-traditional library in the City of Ryde.

The actual importance of RDA elements in supporting key user tasks was about a study which used think-aloud usability testing techniques and sets of typical bibliographic tasks to gauge which of all the RDA (Resource Description & Access) elements are the most critical in a university library context.

Preparing library staff for research support services at QUT described a staff development program at the Queensland University of Technology, designed to help library staff develop expertise in new eresearch methods and technologies to provide the best possible research support services to the university.

Ebook readers: separating the hype from reality presented objective evidence and information about ebook readers and which ones are most suitable for a university library, based on research at the University of Queensland which involved both library staff and students.

Our fourth and final speaker, Tricia Genat from ALS Library Services, gave an overview of topics discussed at the Book Industry Strategy Group meeting, including how the Australian book industry can prosper in the digital marketplace and how print and electronic supply chains might be integrated through the development of various business models.

You can find these and other papers at **www.information-online.com.au/**

ALIA Information Science (SA) Committee
Tracy Gamlin
tracy.gamlin@ncver.edu.au

Connections:
The Road Ahead

The Victorian Association of TAFE Libraries (VATL) is proud to present the
2011 Australasian TAFE Library Conference

Connections: the road ahead
July 28 and 29, 2011
William Angliss Institute
Conference Centre
Melbourne

Connections: the road ahead will explore the current national issues facing Australian TAFE and Polytechnic libraries and library professionals.

- State TAFE differences and a national TAFE Library direction
- Issues for TAFE now, including higher education and consortia/collaboration

This two day conference will feature interstate keynote speakers, a facilitated Q&A session, library tours, entertainment and a trade exhibition for library industry and vocational education suppliers.

Register now at **www.talc.org.au**

2011 CONFERENCE Q&A

With planning well advanced, early bird registrations open and excitement building amongst attendees, exhibitors and sponsors alike, this month we're asking a few serious questions on your behalf of our Program Chairs. Here's the inside scoop.

ALIA NATIONAL LIBRARY & INFORMATION TECHNICIANS CONFERENCE

Registrations now open

The Organising Committee is pleased to announce registrations for the ALIA National Library & Information Technicians 2011 Conference are open. For more information, and to register for this exciting event, please visit the website: **conferences.alia.org.au/libtec2011/.**

Program Chair Michelle Coles on what's in store at Back to Basics
What excites you most about the upcoming ALIA National Library & Information Technicians Conference?
Michelle: I am really looking forward to seeing all our hard work develop into an exciting and dynamic technical program filled with wonderful speakers. We have really thought about how to do things differently from past conferences so that delegates will remember Perth 2011 as being the best conference they have ever attended.
What are some highlights of the Technical Program?
Michelle: Highlights include Rachel Green, who will present our opening keynote address – a truly inspirational speaker. I'm also looking forward to expert storyteller Andy Wright, who will mesmerize delegates with his interactive storytelling session.
As the Program Chair, what has been involved with organising the technical program for the Conference?
Michelle: One of the most satisfying moments was finally putting together all the pieces of our program puzzle together and aligning our fabulous speakers to the three exciting streams to formulate the Back to Basics technical program.
You just have to be there.

Keep informed

- conferences.alia.org.au/libtech2011
- www.flickr.com/photos/libtech2011
- Search - 'ALIA National Library & Information Technicians 2011 Conference'
- ALIALibtec, hashtag #ALIALibtec
  email libtech2011@iceaustralia.com.au

Metamorphosis: What will you become today?
5th New Librarians Symposium (2011)

THE ALIA 5TH NEW LIBRARIANS SYMPOSIUM (2011)

Early bird registrations now open: Make sure you get in with the Early Bird and register for the ALIA 5th New Librarians Symposium. This Symposium is one not to be missed! Visit the Symposium website **conferences.alia.org.au/nls5/register.html** to register and for detailed registration information.

Program Chair Gemma Lyon talks about NLS5
As the Program Coordinator, what has been involved with organising the program for this Symposium?
Gemma: I've had the pleasure of working with an amazing committee and sub-committee to devise themes and streams, review abstracts and papers, negotiate with speakers, and all things in between. It's been a great professional experience and I would recommend involvement with a conference committee to all new librarians. You can check out the program here: **conferences.alia.org.au/nls5/**
What excites you the most about the upcoming ALIA 5th New Librarians Symposium?
Gemma: We're excited to be including workshops as well as papers in the program this year. We hope this will give the delegates more opportunities to work together and get more out of their conference experience. This will be an enticing complement to the exciting satellite events in store.
What are some highlights of the Symposium program?
Gemma: The major highlight is our lineup of exciting keynote speakers. David Lee King will be joining us from the Topeka & Shawnee County Public Library in Kansas, USA. We also have Mal Booth, Kate Davis and WA's own Kathryn Greenhill. This lineup is already creating a lot of buzz amongst new librarians. Whoever you catch throughout the conference, our speakers will be sure to inspire, challenge your thinking, and perhaps be the catalyst for your own metamorphosis. See you there!

Keep informed

- ALIA NLS5 2011
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- **conferences.alia.org.au/nls5**
  alianls5.wordpress.com
  email nls5@iceaustralia.com

Conferences Secretariat

International Conferences & Events (ICE)
Suite 4, Level 2, 73 Hay Street
Subiaco, WA 6008
Phone: 08 9381 9281
Website: www.iceaustralia.com