

Making news...

Snippets from newspapers around Australia

'Funds marked to establish new library'

From the *Canberra Chronicle*, 7 April 1997

The ACT Government has set aside almost \$2 million for the establishment of a new library in Gungahlin. The new library is in response to the recent review of the ACT library service. There will be a feasibility study undertaken later this year to evaluate the needs of the community and the construction is likely to be completed by 1998-1999.

'Getting serious at lifting service'

From the *NT News*, 2 April 1997

Libraries, facing competitive times, have taken on entrepreneurial thinking to provide the highest level of information service to the public. With the advent of new technologies, libraries are looking for new solutions, new information products and services that will provide what customers want. Libraries are using many networked resources, the Internet and electronic information, multimedia CD-ROM, as economical ways to access and store information.

'Database vendors hit hard by the Internet'

From *The Financial Review* 1 April 1997

Kevin Shinkle reports that the Internet has really rocked the world of the large US database vendors who find articles they once charged \$20 to supply are now available free on the Internet. Online archives used to be the premier source for business publications and research, and charged steep rates for their services. Now on-line information outlets are sprouting as fast as companies can set up Internet sites.

However, it is expected that big clients will keep paying premium rates for somebody else to do their searching and the most likely solution for database companies will

be to cut prices and hope volume makes up the lost revenue. Some analysts also predict that librarians could become dinosaurs themselves, Mary Kennedy, corporate librarian at Digital Equipment Corp disagrees — she believes that information overload makes her role as a gatekeeper more valuable for cost-minded companies.

'The Internet a great promoter of books'

From *The Canberra Times*, 5 April 1997

Maurice Dunlevy argues that the Internet is no threat to the future of the book. The annual survey of world-wide book sales conducted by the London-based Euromonitor, showed that book sales increased in 1995 by eight per cent.

'VDL Co archive sale fury'

From *Launceston Examiner*, Tasmania, 9 April 1997

The 'priceless' archive of Tasmania's historic Van Diemen's Land Company is the centre of controversy with the New Zealand owners planning to sell the collection next month. Dating from the mid-1820s, the company owned collection is housed in the State Archive. It forms a unique record of white settlement in the far North-West of Tasmania. Despite talks between the State government and the company a government spokeswoman has said that Tasmania could not afford the \$1 million price tag put on the archive by the company.

The next day in a letter to the editor, Andrew Parsons, secretary, ALIA Northern Areas Regional Group, asked the company to reconsider its planned auction on the collection. He says in his letter 'Even today the collection is of national importance and is used by many researchers from around the State. The folly of losing it would be little understood or appreciated by future generations of Tasmanians'.



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4/6 Blackwell's technology evening. Overview and demonstrations of new WWW systems: Electronic Journal Navigator, Serials CONNECT and Collection Manager for Monographs. Rydges Capital Hill, Corner Canberra Avenue and National Circuit, Forrest, 4pm. Contact: Margaret Shoebridge or Rhonda Lelliott, ph (02) 9948 7300, 1800 251 699, shoebridge@blackwell.com.au, lelliott@blackwell.com.au. *RSVP by 30/5.*

• **27/6 ACT Branch.** *Cool Yule!* This is usually a good night so get in early! For further information contact: Edith Hackworthy, ph (06) 268 8120, e-hackworthy@adfa.oz.au.

NSW

1-28/5 Insearch/Knight-Ridder Information seminars. Introductory DI-ALOG (1/5), Pharmaceutical (27/5), Beyond the Basics (28/5). Sydney contact: (02) 9212 2867, krinfo.aus@uts.edu.au.

1-31/5 State Library of NSW — Technology Access Program. Excel (5/5), Health on the Net (12/5), Web Page Design (15-16/5, 29-30/5), Internet for Teachers (21/5), Internet for Reference (23/5). ABN Courses. For course information and bookings, ph (02) 9273 1550, tap@lanet.sl.nsw.gov.au.

• **7/5-5/11 ALIA NSW Schools section committee meeting dates.** Leichhardt Primary School, Joint Council Rooms. 7pm. (7/5; 2/6; 15/7; 6/8; 8/9; 14/10; 5/11). Contact: Andrew Barber, ph (02) 9519 1544, fax (02) 9519 1657.

• **14/5 NSW Health Libraries section: new members night.** *Consumer Health at the State Library.* Venue: State Library of NSW, McDonald Room, Level 8, 5:30pm for 6pm. Contact: Kaye Lee, ph (02) 9736 6936, fax (02) 9736 7630, klee@lib.crg.cs.nsw.gov.au.

14/5 Clients, services and quality. Uni of NSW, School of Information, Library and Archive Studies. Contact: Maureen Henninger, ph (02) 9385 3589, fax (02) 9385 3430, M.Henninger@unsw.edu.au.

• **15/5 ALIA One Person Australian Libraries SIG (NSW).** *State forum and library visit.* Australian Consumers Association Library, 57 Carrington Road, Marrickville, (across from Tempe Station, on-site parking available). 3-5pm. Contact: Maria Anthonasatos, ph (02) 9577 3367, fax (02) 9577 3377, n224300@lanet.sl.nsw.gov.au.

15/5 Doing research on the net (half day). Uni of NSW, School of Information, Library and Archive Studies. Contact: Maureen Henninger, ph (02) 9385 3589, fax (02) 9385 3430,

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