

# So much to LEARN



Kerry Webb

**L**EARN is the network of TAFE Learning Resource Centres in South Australia. The home page at <http://www.tafe.sa.edu.au/lsrc/learn/learn.html> points you to information about the organisation, virtual learning guides, learning materials and to many education resources.

## Well done, Emma

In an article in *The Australian* early in July, Emma Cameron, a library technician at Peter Long and Company was given credit for the Internet work associated with that firm's successful lawsuit against ICI on behalf of a number of cattle producers. The Net was used to provide a continuing summary of the progress on the case, so that people in rural communities could follow what was happening. It's good to see a member of the profession being recognised in this way.

## See for yourself

Many of us were very disappointed with the report of the Senate Select Committee on Community Standards Relevant to the Supply of Services Utilising Electronic Technologies. It appears that some members of the committee have a poor understanding of what the Internet can do for Australians and how impractical many of their recommendations are. You can make up your own mind by reading the report at <http://senate.aph.gov.au/committee/reports.html> to see the sort of information that they were given. The transcripts of the public hearings are available at <http://www.agps.gov.au/parl/committee/comsen.htm>.

## Safe surfing from ALA

In a more positive act, the American Library Association has compiled 'The librarian's guide to cyberspace for parents and kids' to provide an introduction to the Net. It starts with a few definitions and then covers safety tips, some information on what makes a good web site, and finally there's '50+ great sites for kids and parents'. The guide is at <http://www.ssdesign.com/parents/page/greatsites/index.html>.

## Search engines, and other things

Sandra Gorringer from ANSTO has pointed out that CSU Fullerton has a good page with links to many search engines and comments about each one. See <http://www.library.fullerton.edu/interws.htm/>. She also reports that INFOMINE at UC Riverside is a useful site for scientific and technical information. I agree, and the whole INFOMINE service, covering a whole range of information, is worth a visit. It's huge. The home page is at <http://lib-www.ucr.edu/>.

## And the winner is...

At the NetWorld + Interop 97 Trade Show,

*PC Computing* magazine conducted a contest to find the best Web search engine for business use?

The contenders were AltaVista, Excite, HotBot, and Infoseek, and questions included — In what year were the first faxes sent? Where can you find a radio-controlled watch that always displays the correct time? and What's the cost of a real Faberge egg? The result was a win to HotBot over Excite, AltaVista, and Infoseek. All the details are at <http://www4.zdnet.com/pccomp/srchoff/srchoff.html>.

## CheckLib

A recent study of perceptions of librarians suggested that one reason why some people don't like us is that their first memorable library experience comes when they are fined for overdue books. I don't know how we can correct that, but one way to make it less of a problem is to improve our procedures for chasing up overdue loans.

Some Computer Science postgraduates at Monash have developed CheckLib, a system to e-mail borrowers when returns are due, and also when a book on hold is ready to be picked up. Details are at <http://www.cs.monash.edu.au/~torsten/checklib/>.

## A List about filtering (although filtering the contents of lists is a good idea too)

There's a new list which discusses issues facing public access and content filtering methods. To subscribe send a message to [filt4ib@public.ci.escondido.ca.us](mailto:filt4ib@public.ci.escondido.ca.us) with subscribe in the subject field.

## BL on-line

At last, the collection of the British Library, amounting to more than 8.5 million titles dating back as far as 1450, is on-line at <http://opac97.bl.uk>. For Australian users though, be warned — it's not available until 4am GMT each day. Customers of the library's Document Supply Centre (<http://portico.bl.uk/dsc/>) will be able to check the Centre's holdings and then send orders for materials they want.

## ... and Hungary too

The Hungarian National Bibliography, Bibliography of Books is now available the Internet. Its title is 'Magyar Nemzeti Bibliografia, Konyvek Bibliografija — WWW', and three recent issues of the are available at <http://www.oszk.hu/mnbkb/>.

## Alternative views of the Net

If you're interested in the use of the Net by people who can't see well, there's a browser called pwWebSpeak which can output in speech or large print. Information on it is at

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*The 'What's happening?' page at on the PADI Web site provides current information on what is happening in the world of digital preservation and access.*

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<http://www.prodworks.com/pwwebspk.htm>.

The Trace Research and Development Center at the University of Wisconsin-Madison has a series of projects addressing access for people with disabilities. These are described at [http://www.trace.wisc.edu/trace/computer/comp\\_access.html](http://www.trace.wisc.edu/trace/computer/comp_access.html).

Meanwhile in Australia, New South Wales' Attorney General has produced guidelines for designing web pages that are accessible, in co-operation with the National Federation of Blind Citizens. The address is <http://www.agd.nsw.gov.au/standards.html> and its called 'Universal accessibility standards for web design'. The guidelines cater not only for people with disabilities, but also for those lacking multi-media computer functions or current Web browsers, and those from non-English speaking backgrounds.

### Bringing them home

The Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission's Community Guide to the Stolen Children Report is now available from AustLII's Reconciliation and Social Justice Library. The URL is [http://www.austlii.edu.au/rsjlibrary/hreoc/stolen\\_summary/](http://www.austlii.edu.au/rsjlibrary/hreoc/stolen_summary/).

### Electronic cataloguing

The Virtual Library of Virginia (VIVA) is a consortium of academic libraries in the American state of Virginia. The VIVA staff have developed guidelines for cataloguing electronic resources, with the introduction at <http://www.lib.odu.edu/~joyce/vivacat.htm>. The guidelines specify the MARC tags necessary for serials, monographs and holdings data. There are further links to documents from LC, OCLC and others providing additional information.

### Digital library news

The IEEE Task Force on Digital Libraries has established *Digital Library News* as a periodic electronic snapshot and alerting service for the field of digital libraries. It will feature notices of on-going events and new developments in one short, periodic publication. The articles will be brief (not more than two paragraphs) and will have URLs pointing to more information. It will be published three times a year, in June, October, and February, and is sponsored by the IEEE Task Force on Digital Libraries and by Advances in Digital Libraries, an annual conference now in its fourth year.

To subscribe to *Digital Library News*, send an e-mail message to [ieeedln@cimic.rutgers.edu](mailto:ieeedln@cimic.rutgers.edu) with `subscribe ieedln Firstname Lastname` in the body of the message. Further information is at <http://cimic.rutgers.edu/~ieeedln/>.

### Health resources

ACT Health Library at the Canberra Hospital has produced the disk called 'Health resources on the Internet'. This disk is an index of 3000 bookmarks professionally evaluated by medical librarians. It's organised into one-hundred health and medical subjects such as journals, full-text medical books, conferences, discussion lists, consumer information, and access to medline.

This disk can be imported into your own bookmarks and can be used as a tool for additions and deletions. It's available for a small fee from the ACT Health Library by phone on 06 244 2588 or by e-mail to [sxb553@anu.edu.au](mailto:sxb553@anu.edu.au). Further details are at <http://pride.anu.edu.au/library/>, where there are a number of links to general medical resources, including the recently-announced free Internet access to Medline.

### New in the PADI field

The Preserving Access to Digital Information (PADI) working group has announced a new service for people wanting to safeguard their investment in digital information. The 'What's happening?' page at <http://www.nla.gov.au/dnc/tf2001/padi/happen.html> on the PADI Web site provides current information on what is happening in the world of digital preservation and access. Entries include Web links and brief descriptions of each linked resource. The PADI folks are interested in hearing about related projects or links to the latest developments, conferences and news items, and can be contacted at [niac@nla.gov.au](mailto:niac@nla.gov.au).

### QLPC

Now that Australian Library Week is over (and it must be over — we've had the teleconference to review how it went), it's time to start planning for next year of course. In doing so, you should take a look at the Home Page of the Queensland Library Promotion Council at <http://www.slq.qld.gov.au/cwpp/qlpc/>. They've put together a comprehensive resource publicising the work of Queensland's libraries, and a few useful facts, figures and quotations. I particularly liked 'There are more libraries in Queensland than McDonald's restaurants.' Long may it remain so.

### Good scouts recognised

The Internet Scout Project at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, has received a grant for three years of continued funding from the National Science Foundation, which is good news for all of us who rely on the scout report (<http://scout.cs.wisc.edu/scout/report>) and net-happenings (<http://www.gi.net/NET/>). ■

The ALIA home pages and the ALIA web service, ALIANet, can be found at the following URL:  
<http://www.alia.org.au/>

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THE TROUBLE OF  
TYPING THESE  
URLS!**

This column (with associated hyperlinks) is on ALIANet, and has the URL of <http://www.alia.org.au/incite/www/>

[Please note that full-stops at the end of any URL or e-mail addresses, or underlines, appearing in *incite* should NOT be used]

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