

21/10 AUSMARC/USMARC conversion. UNSW, School of Information, Library and Archive Studies. Contact: Maureen Henninger, ph 02 9385 3589, fx 02 9385 3430, M.Henninger@unsw.edu.au.

• 21/10-16/12 NSW Branch Council meeting. State Library of NSW, Mitchell Wing, Jean Garling room, 6pm. (Unless advised otherwise). (21/10; 18/11 — Mitchell Seminar room; 16/12). Observers always welcome. Contact: Jo-anne Fuller, ph 02 9906 6000, fx 02 9906 5987, jojo1@ozemail.com.au.

22/10 Thesaurus construction. UNSW, School of Information, Library and Archive Studies. Contact: Maureen Henninger, ph 02 9385 3589, fx 02 9385 3430, M.Henninger@unsw.edu.au.

27-30/10 ILANET courses — ILA-MAIL course (27/10), Document Delivery course (29/10), Searching Australian Databases (30/10), ILANET seminar (30/10 — free). Course outlines and bookings, ph 1800 801 659 or 02 9273 1424, ilanet@ilanet.slnsw.gov.au.

28 & 29/10 Dewey decimal classification, version 21. UNSW, School of Information, Library and Archive Studies. Contact: Maureen Henninger, ph 02 9385 3589, fx 02 9385 3430, M.Henninger@unsw.edu.au.

• 30/10 NSW TAFE and NSW Library Technician sections. *Promoting your library seminar/workshop*. Western Sydney Institute of TAFE, Blacktown College Library, Main Street, Blacktown 2148. 2-5pm, \$30 AUA members, \$40 non-members. Contact: Mary Tulloch or Dot Dawson (TAFE), ph 02 9830 4571; Michael Soo (Technicians), ph 02 9514 3350.

• Nov Hunter Regional group meeting. *Reports from the Library Technician conference*. Newcastle Campus Library — HIT. For further details contact: Mrs Judith McLean, ph 02 4926 7267, fx 02 4926 7324.

• 1/11 NSW School Libraries section. *Role on the Internet*. Monte Sant Angelo College, 128 Miller Street, North Sydney 2096. 9-3pm, \$60/\$85. Contact: Di Simpson, ph 02 9959 7128, fx 02 9956 5925, dsimpson@tpgi.com.au.

6-27/11 ILANET courses — Introductory course (6/11), Searching International Databases I (26/11), Searching International Databases II (27/11). Course outlines and bookings, ph 1800 801 659 or 02 9273 1424, ilanet@ilanet.slnsw.gov.au.

10-21/11 Library re-entry skills. UNSW, School of Information, Li-

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The future of public libraries explored

Earlier this year the Council of Australian State Libraries (CASL) hosted a meeting in Adelaide to consider the future of state and public libraries in Australia. Representatives of local, state, and federal governments were invited, as well as public and state librarians and representatives of professional organisations.

The meeting was organised to look at how partnerships between the different spheres of government can shape and position public and state libraries and information services at the forefront of the information age. *2020 vision: towards the libraries of the future*, published recently by the Libraries' Working Group of the Cultural Ministers' Council, together with CASL's leadership agenda was the stimulus for the meeting. Each delegate was sent a copy of the document to provide background to the meeting and engender ideas about the changing role of libraries in the Australian community and their integration into the global knowledge economy.

The day was highly interactive with many ideas being offered by delegates. Dr Liz Pattison from Western Australia was an excellent facilitator for the day and made sure that all views were heard, ideas recorded and summarised. While some background and issues papers were prepared, the essence of the day was discussion and workshops, to which everyone contributed enthusiastically.

Speakers during the conference included Dr Lynn Allen, chairperson of CASL; Mr Peter Wylie, chairman of the Libraries Board of South Australia and managing director of the Advertiser Newspaper Group; Eric Wainwright, then deputy directory-general of the National Library of Australia; Fran Awcock, state librarian of South Australia; Rob Palfreyman from the Department of Communications and the Arts; Lee Prince from the Department of Education, Community and Cultural Development;

and Annette Eiffe, the Mayor of the Prospect City Council in South Australia.

A number of themes emerged from the day. One of the most important was the critical support which state and public libraries provide to the education sector, and the lack of recognition from governments of this role. Other themes were:

- the need for resourcing of telecommunications links to regional and remote areas of Australia;
- the role libraries play in society and as a centre of their community;
- the important role local government plays in the delivery of library services and their desire to include all parties in planning for these services;
- the need to market library services to clients and non-clients, particularly to niche markets and to small business; and
- the need to develop the skills of librarians so that they can take advantage of technological and management changes.

At the end of the day a number of projects were identified from the themes which had emerged. The Council of Australian State Libraries met on the day after the conference and agreed to a set of actions to take the projects forward. These will be documented and distributed, along with papers and notes from the meeting, to all delegates.

Dr Lynn Allen was delighted at the response to the meeting, and the enthusiasm displayed by all. She hopes that similar events can be organised at State and Territory level to identify other projects which bring about a closer relationship between the different levels of government in the delivery of public library services, especially state and local government. ■

Award-winning library

Staff of the Industry Commission Library in Melbourne and Canberra were recently given the Chairman's Award for Excellence in Performance 'in recognition of their individual and collective efforts in providing library services to the Commission'. The award was presented at a Commission-wide staff

meeting in July by Bill Scales, chairman of the Industry Commission, and is only given to a workgroup or team every few years.

The Industry Commission Library has five staff in the head office in Melbourne and one staff member in Canberra. 'We are particularly happy to receive this

award as it is rarely offered and represents a vote of confidence not just from our chairman, but from our users', said Alison Wallace, library manager. When presenting the award the chairman noted the important role of the library and its staff in an organisation that is research and publication oriented. ■