

Libraries, culture and technology



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The city of Perth recently hosted the annual conference of the International Association of Metropolitan City Libraries (INTAMEL). INTAMEL is the International body that focuses on the delivery of public library services in large metropolitan areas where there is a potential membership of 400 000 people. This is the first time that the conference has been held in the southern hemisphere, and the first time in the last twenty years that it has been held outside Europe and the Americas.

The conference theme was *Libraries, culture and technology*. These important issues face libraries around the world as they seek to integrate new technology and access to electronic information, with the important roles they have always played as a repository of much of the world's culture, as well as a meeting place for citizens.

The first theme of the conference was 'Public library services in Australia'. The diverse mix of relationships between state and public libraries in Australia was discussed and the advantages of each system and the reasons for the diversity was explored. There was also a paper on the report *2020 vision: towards the libraries of the future*, which has been the subject of an Australia-wide meeting of state, national and local government.

Day two focussed on reference services, marketing, electronic reference services, and the development of the concept of centres of

excellence which work closely with clients to deliver the range of services they demand.

In order to bring people into the library we need to market library services and compete with other activities and industries. 'Having fun!: community activities in Australia's state and national libraries' was the title of one paper which examined the many ways in which libraries can promote themselves to the community.

'Technology' was the theme for day three and the papers and demonstrations looked at how networks can link the city and the country (not to mention other countries around the world) in order to deliver better library and information services. Ways in which libraries can be innovative and use new interactive multimedia to make our precious collections more accessible provided another perspective.

The final day of the conference focussed on documentary heritage, its preservation and use. Much of our documentary heritage is in need of preservation and the way Australia co-ordinates this at a national level was examined. The way researchers and authors use library collections to turn original materials into new stories was the subject of talks by experts in these fields.

The conference was a great success with delegates from all over the world — United States, Great Britain, Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium, and Canada — attending. ■

ph 03 6232 5258, fx 03 6232 5103, newmandk@acslink.aone.net.au. RSVP by 2/10.

- 14/10–9/12 Tas Branch meetings dates. State Library, Morris Miller Room, 91 Murray Street, Hobart, 4:30pm. (14/10; 12/11; 9/12). Contact: Patsy Jones, ph 03 6233 7049, fx 03 6233 7845, Patsy.Jones@central.tased.edu.au.

- 21/10 Tas Northern Areas Regional group. *Talk on ALIA Local Studies conference*. Launceston Library, Phil Leonard Room. 5:30pm. Contact: Andrew Parsons, ph 03 6335 4738, fx 03 6335 4821, A.Parsons@corp.amc.edu.au.

VIC

- 8/10–10/12 Vic Branch Council meetings dates. State Library of Victoria, 4th floor seminar room, La Trobe Wing, (entrance from La Trobe Street). (8/10; 12/11; 10/12). Contact: Janette Gribble, ph 03 9669 9722, alia@slv.vic.gov.au.

- 13/10 ALIA Home Library Services Special Interest group meetings. 10am, Glenroy Library, 737 Pascoe Vale Road, Glenroy. RSVP: Sheena Daniel, ph 03 9817 4566.

- 13/10–8/12 Vic Special Libraries section committee meetings. Venue to be advised, 5:30pm. (13/10, 10/11; 8/12). For further information contact: Anne Sedgley, ph 03 9616 8011

14–15/10 Insearch/Knight-Ridder Information Seminars. Introductory DIALOG (14/10), DIALOG Web Workshop (15/10). Melbourne contact: 02 9212 2867, krinfo.uts@uts.edu.au.

- 16/10 Vic Branch/ACLIS. *Leadership development workshop, conducted by Dr Veronica Lunn, Nexus Learning Systems*. Full day. Contact: Christine Butler, ph 03 9669 9707, cbutler@slv.vic.gov.au.

- 17/10 VIC Branch and RAISS Seminar. *Know-how — New directions in information*. Overseas speaker: Sylvia Webb, a keynote speaker at the Specials, Health and Law Librarians Conference, Perth, on Knowledge Management. 5:30 for 6:00pm. A free activity for ALIA and ACLIS members only. RSVP: Janette Gribble, 03 9669 9722, alia@slv.vic.gov.au

- 17/10 Geelong Regional group. *Pub night at Lamby's*, (National Wool Centre) Moorabool St, Geelong. Join us for a drink/dinner, bring a colleague, friend or partner, 5pm. RSVP: Darren Ryan, ph 03 5227 2203 (bh), darrenr@deakin.edu.au.

20/10 Christian Librarians' Network. *A case of curiosities*. Speaker: Len

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Know-how: new directions in information

'Know-how' is the combination of personal knowledge and related work experience. This valuable information is part of knowledge management. What does it mean for you in terms of the work you do and the training you may need?

Sylvia Webb is a well known British consultant, author and lecturer. Along with her recent research into know-how ac-

tivities in British legal firms, Sylvia will draw on her extensive experience in information management, organisational structure and management skills, and identifying customer needs and expectations.

ALIA members in New South Wales and Victoria will have the opportunity to hear Sylvia, fresh from the Asian Pacific Specials, Health and Law Librarians conference in Perth. She

will be addressing the Victorian Branch in Melbourne on Friday 17 October and New South Wales Branch in Sydney on Tuesday 21 October. The seminars will be of interest to people working in a range of organisations and sectors.

Details for each seminar are included in the Events listing in this issue. ■