

## ACT

• **1/4 ACT Special Libraries section.** *Librarians Libations.* Network with colleagues at the Yacht Club, at 5:30pm. A great way to find out what is happening in the library community in Canberra. Contact Julie Philips, ph 02 6208 5112, j.philips@nma.gov.au

• **7/4 ACT Library Technician section.** *Tracy Barralet on How can we change libraries for the benefit of disabled users?* Visit to NICAN, Unit 4, 2 Phipps Close, Deakin. 5:30–7pm. *Acceptances by 6/4* to Marion Boyd, ph 02 6270 6912, mboyd@hcourt.gov.au

• **13/4 APSIG.** *Burmese libraries move ahead* U Thaw Kaung, formerly librarian, Universities' Central Libraries, Yangon, Myanmar: *Burmese libraries today, their networking and co-operation with overseas libraries.* Conference Room, 4th floor, NLA, 12:30–1:30pm. Contact: Marie Sexton, ph 02 6262 1519, msexton@nla.gov.au

• **14/4 ACT Branch Council meeting.** Jennefer Nicholson, ALIA Acting-executive director will attend, with a visitor from ALA. 4th Floor Conference Room of the NLA, 5:30pm. Contact Branch Secretary: Sally-Anne Leigh, ph 02 6201 5522, sal@isd.canberra.edu.au

• **15/4 ACT Special Libraries section.** *Celebrate the International special librarians day in fine style* with breakfast at Regatta Point Restaurant, 7:15 for 7:30am. Guest speaker. Lavish breakfast buffet only \$20 per person. All welcome. RSVP to David Bradley, ph 02 6265 9393, fx 02 6265 9052, by 12/4.

• **18/4 COLUG.** *The MIDAS lunch.* Katie Blake and another speaker. Joseph Banks Building, Australian National Botanic Gardens, 11:30 for 12pm, \$25.00 per head for a buffet lunch (and parking vouchers). *RSVP (vital)* to Susan White, ph 02 6205 0391, susan\_white@dpa.act.gov.au or Peter Sinfeld, ph 02 6203 7564, peter.sinfeld@anao.gov.au

• **20/4 ACT Special Libraries section** visits the *National Gallery of Australia Research Library.* Assemble in the Gallery Foyer at 4:30pm — doors close at 4:55pm. *RSVP by 19/4* to Margaret Shaw. If you can't get there by 4:55pm contact Margaret on MargaretS@nga.gov.au by 16/4.

• **28/4 ACT Health Libraries meeting.** *Guest speaker: Steve McDonald on the Cochrane Library and evidence-based health care.* 12:30–1:30pm, Seminar Room, National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health, ANU (Building 62). Contact: Sandra Henderson, ph 02 6262 1523, shenders@nla.gov.au

• **28/4 ACT UCRLS section.** *Why we still need books, OR Bad news for trees* Professor Roy Mersky, Director of the Uni of Texas Law Library and a visiting professor at ANU, in the McDonald Room at Menzies Library 12:30pm BYO lunch — tea and coffee provided. Contact Nancy Clarke, ph 02 6209 1117, n.clarke@signadou.acu.edu.au

• **5/5 ACT Library Technician section.** *General meeting discussion on final preparations for the reunion and networking for the Perth conference.* CIT Reid, D Block, 5:30–7pm. Contact Marion Boyd, ph 02 6270 6912, mboyd@hcourt.gov.au

• **13/5 ACT Special Libraries section.** *Pre-Library Week drinks at Duntroon House* 5:30pm. Relax and chat to colleagues in front of a log fire. Bar will be open and nibbles provided. *RSVP* to Karyn Hall, ph 02 6265 9694 or fx 02 6265 9052 by 10/5.

• **15/5 ACT Library Technician section.** *Celebrating 20 years, 1979–1999.* A celebration dinner will be held at the start of Library Week for all who ever participated in the course, as teachers or students. 7 for 7:30pm, at the Hellenic Club, cost \$26. *RSVP by 30/4* to Beth Clary, ph 02 6234 2225, beth.clary@radford.com.au or Marion Boyd, ph 02 6270 6912, mboyd@hcourt.gov.au

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# American expert visits the National Library of Australia

The National Library of Australia recently invited Laura Campbell, the director of the American National Digital Library Program to visit Australia.

Laura's busy schedule included a public lecture, discussions with the National Library staff and the National Library Council, and on Thursday 4 February, the delivery of the keynote address at the *Digital Library Forum*.

Laura's visit enabled many librarians, information technology professionals and administrators to gain an excellent understanding of the National Digital Library Program, and its 'secrets of success'.

## National Digital Library Federation

The National Digital Library Federation is a group of sixteen organisations that have come together to create and support a national digital collection. Federation participants manage and operate digital libraries, including twelve university libraries, the National Archives and Records Administration, the New York Public Library, and the Commission on Preservation and Access. The Federation supports collective action, in recognition that no one institution can store the entire nation's resources in digital form, and that a distributed approach requires co-ordination in order to ensure standards.

The Federation is concerned with:

- the discovery and retrieval of digital information;
- intellectual property rights and the identification of appropriate economic models; and,
- the archiving of digital information.

Members contribute to the Federation in many ways — they contribute the time of key individuals in their organisations, they fund activities such as travel and meetings, and provide financial support for a small staff. Further information about the Federation is available at <http://www.clir.org/diglib/dlfor.htm>.

## National Digital Library Program

The goals of the National Digital Library Program are to convert Library of Congress collections to digital form, to build a national program incorporating the collections of other institutions, and to make these collections available to the widest possible audience. Within the Library of Congress, the program aims to digitise five million items, including non-book materials such as photo-



Laura Campbell at the National Library of Australia

graphs, motion pictures, and sound recordings that tell the multi-media story of America. The program involves a staff of more than fifty people, most of whom identify and prepare collections for digitisation. Much of the processing work, including scanning, is out-sourced.

In addition to creating a core of digital materials, and establishing formal collaborations with other repositories, the program includes other institutions with unique American history collections. Access to these materials will be through the internet, CD-ROM, or other delivery modes as appropriate. The program works closely with end-users, such as teachers and researchers, to ensure that the most useful collections and material are digitised.

The National Digital Library Program has successfully run a number of initiatives to increase involvement, awareness, and support of the program. For example, a national digital library competition, sponsored by Ameritech, has provided funding for community organisations to create digital collections of primary resources. As well, the program annually invites fifty educators to participate in a week-long program to investigate the National Digital Library's resources, and formulate ways in which these resources can be used in classrooms.

The National Digital Library Program can be visited at: <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/dli2/html/lcndlp.html#Vision>