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Any time, any place: virtual information services

A University, College and Research Libraries Section seminar

Library users increasingly expect twenty-four hour access to all the information they need, from wherever they happen to be — and to an extraordinary degree we are now able to meet this expectation. The resources we deliver electronically multiply in richness and complexity, but are the information services we provide to our users (who may never enter the library) appropriate?

The big move from the physical to the virtual library poses many questions for reference services. On Monday, 23 October the University, College and Research Libraries section of ALIA is running a pre-conference seminar — *Any time, any place: virtual information services*, which will demonstrate just what some Australian libraries and other information providers are doing to meet this challenge. This will be a practical (not blue skies!) seminar concentrating on what is being done now.

Speakers include Roxanne Missingham (National Library of Australia), Jenny Novak (National Electricity Market Management Company), Marie-Therese Van Dyk and Monika Raber (Monash University), Matilda Kolandasaimy (Macquarie University), and Karen Borchardt (University of Queensland). There will be opportunities for questions and discussion.

The seminar will be held at the National Convention Centre Canberra from 1:30 to 4:30 pm. Registration and coffee from 12:45pm.

Fee: ALIA members: \$55, non-members \$66, concessions \$33. To attend, please register on the conference registration form (or via the conference website at <http://www.alia.org.au/conferences/alia2000/>). Further information and inquiries to Nancy Clarke, UCRLS secretary: n.clarke@signadou.acu.edu.au ■

A \$38m boost for writers and publishers

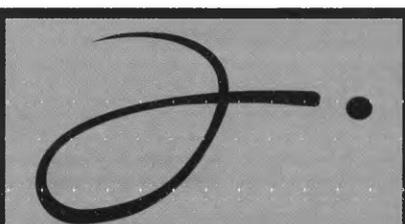
Australian creators and publishers, whose books are held in educational lending libraries, are now eligible to receive payments through the Educational Lending Right (ELR) program. As part of its Book Industry Assistance Plan, the Federal Government will provide \$38 million over four years for ELR.

The program recognises the literary gift to the nation by Australian creators and publishers and acknowledges that income is lost from the free multiple use of their books in educational libraries. ELR complements the existing Public Lending Right (PLR) scheme, which covers public lending libraries.

Former ALIA president current and chair of the PLR Committee, John Shipp, said 'in advising on the procedures to be used for ELR, the committee sought to mirror the PLR scheme where possible. This will make it easier for claimants. It may also facilitate the amalgamation of the schemes if ongoing funding for PLR can be obtained in the future.'

The 2000–01 program will cover books published between 1980 and 1999 that have been offered for sale and have an International Standard Book Number (ISBN). An extensive survey of a range of school, vocational education and university libraries will be conducted. Information on the holdings of these libraries will be used to determine the payments made to claimants.

The Australian Society of Authors has been lobbying for ERL for more than a decade. An attempt to introduce the program in 1995 was foiled by a change of government. Although there are fifteen other countries which recompense for public lending rights, Australia is unique in having an educational lending right scheme. Further information on ERL is available on <http://www.dcita.gov.au/elr.html> or from the Department of Communications Information Technology and the Arts 02 6271 1650 or Freecall 1800 672 842. ■



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