

Internet addiction

Western Australian Library Technician's Sundowner, 4 September 2001

On the evening of 4 September a break in the persistent rainy weather allowed a gathering of people to enjoy a balmy evening sunset on the Western Australian coastline at Cottesloe. A diverse gathering of IT professionals, librarians, university department heads and library technicians watched the sunset from the second-story balcony of the Ocean Beach Hotel as a prelude to the evenings presentation.

The decision to hold a Sundowner came from an article I read in the *Medical Journal of Australia*, 19 February 2000. The article discussed the 'newly fashionable ailment of internet addiction'. It was first proposed as a disorder by Ivan Goldberg in 1995 (according to the MJA, ... 'albeit not entirely seriously'). However a report in 1996 by Kimberly Young, executive director of the Center for On-Line Addiction at the University of Pittsburgh, reported that internet users were becoming dependent.

When internet use becomes a problem the psychological literature describes it as 'internet addiction' and 'pathological internet use'. Problems manifests in the form of

lack of control, distress, time spent on the internet causing or resulting in social, occupational and financial difficulties. Many of these symptoms are similar to alcohol and gambling addictions.

In libraries we have for years received instruction and training in dealing with difficult customers. Is internet addiction to be a factor in dealing with clients using libraries? This in itself was difficult to answer as the evidence is just emerging. Therefore, some background on this would be useful for a CPD event. I undertook to research the topic and Linda Welsh agreed to present an information evening.

Linda Welsh is the psychologist and coordinator of the Alcohol and Substance Addiction Treatment Program at the Hollywood Clinic, at Hollywood Private Hospital. She discussed the nature of addiction and then how internet addiction manifests. Linda then discussed strategies used to treat addictions and how staff in libraries could recognise symptoms and what could be done.

Lothar Retzlaff,
Western Australia Library Technicians Section

TAFE is a smart choice...

Fifty per cent of TAFE graduates who were unemployed before their training, found work after completing their training and of these, almost forty per cent were in their first full-time job. This is according to the findings of the 2000 *Student Outcomes Survey*. The study, undertaken by the National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER) surveyed more than 41 000 TAFE graduates and almost 8000 TAFE module completers (those who have successfully completed part of a course only).

Of all TAFE graduates, almost eight in ten were employed after completing their training while for module completers, the figure was more than seven out of ten.

Chris Robinson, managing director of NCVER described the survey results as very positive. 'The survey illustrates the range of positive employment outcomes for both TAFE graduates and students doing one or two subjects. Students who train at TAFE improve their chances of finding a job and advancing in their careers', she said.

The survey indicates that TAFE training improves peoples' ability to advance their career with almost twenty-two per cent of employed TAFE moving to a higher skilled occupation within six months of completing

their training. The survey also found that thirty-eight per cent of TAFE graduates go onto further study on completion of their training.

This survey provides the vocational education and training sector with valuable information about the performance of the TAFE system.

The 2000 *Student Outcomes Survey* covers the following areas relating to graduates and module completers:

- employment status after training;
- movement to higher-skilled occupations;
- average weekly earnings;
- satisfaction with training;
- reasons for undertaking training and achievement of these;
- reasons for not continuing studies (module completers only); and
- education and work before undertaking training.

The 2000 *Student Outcomes Survey* 'In summary' publication can be downloaded from the NCVER website at <http://www.ncver.edu.au/statistics/surveys/sos00/index.htm>.



ACT

• **1/12 ACT UCRLS section.** Brief AGM, then breakfast, at CHATS (Institute of the Arts Cafe, ANU), 7:30am, \$15. Dr Sue Stocklmayer on CPAS efforts to bring together scientists, science communicators and journalists to involve the public in discussion of science. RSVP for bookings (pre-payment please, cheques to ALIA) by 27/11 to: Nancy Clarke, ph 02 6209 1117, n.clarke@signadou.acu.edu.au

• **6/12 ACT APSIG.** Christmas lunch. Fig, Barker Street, Griffith Shops, \$20 per head. Bookings essential by 4/12 (cob). Contact: Jeanette Regan, ph 02 6286 2737, jeanette.regan@anu.edu.au

• **13/12 ACT Branch.** Christmas drinks and celebration. Discussion on market testing and outsourcing. ALIA House, 9-11 Napier Close, Deakin, 5 for 5:30pm. Contact: Sally-Anne Leigh, Branch secretary, ph 02 6249 3681, sally-anne.leigh@anu.edu.au

NSW

• **15/1 ASSIG.** Free seminar on the Digital revolution and serials. Guest speaker: Dr Richard Rowe. State Library of NSW, 1pm. Contact: Nathalie Schulz, ph 07 3875 5242, N.Schulz@mailbox.gu.edu.au

NT

• **8/12 NT Library Technicians section.** Christmas dinner. All Sort's Cafe, 7pm. BYO alcohol. RSVP: Ann Gray, ph 08 8927 9655.

QLD

• **13/12 QUT.** Kinetica Document Delivery training (hands-on), full-day course. QUT, Gardens Point Campus, Room V720, Brisbane. Cost: \$195 + GST. Contact: Chris Davies, ph 07 3864 1821, c2.davies@qut.edu.au or check <http://www.lib.qut.edu.au> for details.

• **31/1/2001 QUT.** Kinetica Web training (hands-on), half-day course. QUT, Gardens Point Campus, Room V720, Brisbane. Cost: \$90 + GST. Contact: Chris Davies, ph 07 3864 1821, c2.davies@qut.edu.au or check <http://www.lib.qut.edu.au> for details.

SA

• **11/12 SA Branch.** General meeting. PLAIN, 8 Milner Street, Hindmarsh, 4:45 for 5:00pm. Contact: Amanda Nixon, ph 08 8201 2577, amanda.nixon@flinders.edu.au

• **18/12-14/5/2001 SA Library Technician section.** Committee meeting dates for 2000-2001: 18/12, 15/1, 19/2, 19/3, 9/4, 14/5. Fleet Street Cafe, 162-170 Pulteney Street, Adelaide, 6 for 6:30pm meeting. Contact: SALT secretary, Jackie Williams, ph 08 8226 2890, fx 08 8226 2199, williams.jackie@saugov.sa.gov.au

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