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Making news around Australia

Selected reprints from newspapers and magazines in recent months

• **30/10 ALIA Vic.** *Cross-sectoral panel discussion: Public access computers in the library — whither or wether?* Seminar Room 1, RMIT University Swanston Library, 5:30–7:45pm. All welcome. *RSVP by 24/10 to:* Cheryl Schauder, ph 03 9925 1940, fx 03 9557 1651, cheryll.schauder@rmit.edu.au

15–16/11 CAVAL training activities. *From Chaos to CARM:* a two-day hands on disaster recovery workshop, conducted by Jeavons Baillie and held at CAVAL's Disaster Simulation facility. CAVAL Collaborative Solutions, 4 Park Drive, Bundoora, 9–5pm. Cost: \$555 CAVAL/ALIA members, \$655 non-members. Register online at http://www.caval.edu.au/Services/rego_form.html

16/11 CAVAL training activities. *Effective internet searching:* half-day hands-on workshop offering tips and tricks for more effective internet searching. CAVAL Collaborative Solutions, 4 Park Drive, Bundoora, 9:30–12:30pm. Cost: \$88 CAVAL/ALIA members, \$110 non-members. Register online at http://www.caval.edu.au/Services/rego_form.html

16/11 CAVAL training activities. *Government information on the web:* half-day hands-on workshop covering state, federal and international legislation, government publications and legal resources. CAVAL Collaborative Solutions, 4 Park Drive, Bundoora, 1:30–4:30pm. Cost: \$88 CAVAL/ALIA members, \$110 non-members. Register online at http://www.caval.edu.au/Services/rego_form.html

• **17/11 Vic School Libraries.** *AGM.* Santa Maria College Resource Centre, 50 Separation Street, Northcote, 9:30am. All members are welcome.

WA

• **15/10 WA Library Technicians.** *General meeting.* Venue: tba, 5:45pm start. *RSVP contact:* Sandra Wilson, s.m.wilson@curtin.edu.au

• **17/10 WA Forum CPD Committee.** *Librarians moving out of libraries.* Hollywood Hospital Lecture Theatre, 5:30 for 6pm. Light refreshments served. \$8.80 ALIA members, \$11 non-members. *RSVP by 10/10 to:* Camille Peters, ph 08 9490 1730, ctpeters@zdnetwork.com

• **13/11 WA Library Technicians.** *Meeting and end of year dinner.* LISWA, 5:45pm start. *RSVP contact:* Sandra Wilson, s.m.wilson@curtin.edu.au

• **21/11 WA Forum CPD Committee.** *Leadership seminar: Managers do things right, leaders do the right things.* Cottesloe Beach Hotel, 1:30pm registration. Cost: TBA. Contact: Ruth Schofield, schofield.ruth@stirling.wa.gov.au

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\$6m libraries booked

Melbourne–Yarra Leader, 10 September, by Fiona O'Doherty

More than \$6 million will be spent on new libraries in Melbourne and East Melbourne. The Council of Adult Education has proposed a partnership with the Melbourne Council to establish a two floor, \$4.5 million city library. Under the proposal, the Melbourne Council would contribute just under \$3 million to establish the library, and would contribute a little less than half of the predicted \$2.4 million annual operating costs. The Council is also pushing ahead with a proposal for a new East Melbourne Library which is expected to cost about \$2.2 million.

Library books its place on the net

The Australian, 11 September, by Adrian Lynch

The State Library of Victoria has become the only government organisation in Australia to install a Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) telephone network. The new system positions the library to expand its links to schools, community centres and regional libraries. The move to VoIP complements the library's long-term plans to be more accessible to users regardless of their location.

Copyright law: facing its ice age?

The Age, 11 September, by Peter Eckersley

Peter Eckersley, a postgraduate student in the

department of computer science at the University of Melbourne says that copyright deserves to die. He believes that copyright is an inefficient and often destructive monopoly privilege, more often serving to bolster profits of large corporations, instead of the artists/creators. He suggests, as a possible alternative to the existing copyright provisions, an automatic system of direct payments to authors/creators to be publicly funded through the taxation system. While such a system could pose problems in regards to privacy and possible rorts on the system, he argues that it could be less likely to be rorted than the current system. He likens this system to 'building one big public library. Digital technology allows us now to build libraries with a degree of elegance and scale that was not possible in the past.'

Go online with the Yanks

Campion Post [Parkes], 29 August

An online book discussion club is being set up between residents of Parkes in New South Wales, and La Grange, a suburb of Chicago in the United States. Parkes Shire library service manager, Michal Barker, said the libraries in the respective areas will jointly host the project. The project gives readers the opportunity to be part of a book club, without trying to fit in the club activities in their busy schedules. It will also give patrons to share their reading experiences with people from the other side of the world.

Libraries in parliament

Senate Hansard, 29 August, p26507–9

[<http://www.aph.gov.au/hansard/senate/dailys/ds29081.pdf>]

On Wednesday 29 August, Senator Crowley addressed the Senate. She wanted to take the opportunity to talk about the opportunity she had to attend the IFLA conference in Boston. Senator Crowley was chosen to speak at the conference because of her role as a member of a parliamentary library committee and as a user of parliamentary libraries.

Senator Crowley was surprised to discover that many parliaments — not just in emerging democracies, but in well-established western countries — do not have parliamentary libraries.

Senator Crowley said that Australia had a right to be proud of its parliamentary library, saying that it was one of the best in the world. She said that not only should we be proud of the library, we should be concerned to make sure that the excellent library to assist parliamentarians continues.

She said 'A library's importance is based on it being not just a collection of information or access to information, not just a collection of books or online information, but also a research and analytical tool. That is one of the very precious things about our library: it does give you that research and analytical capacity to look at the information.'

She goes on to say, in answer to the argument that now that we all have computers and can surf the net, we do not need librarians: 'Indeed, my thought is that we need them more than ever before. We have an over-dose of information. Politicians — to say nothing of the school children I see in the gallery and, indeed, all members of the community — are being flooded with information, and it is very important that we have assistance to hone the important facts or arguments in a whole area of knowledge. So I think the case is made that librarians are needed more than ever before. Librarians do need to have research and analytical skills, and that is a very critical talent for our librarians.' ■