

ACT

• 6/8 National Policy Congress.

ACT regional meeting. Each ALIA group is asked to nominate one representative to attend the regional meeting. Other members may attend as observers. NLA Fourth Floor, Conference Room, 5:30pm. Contact: Helen Roberts, ph 02 6125 4068, helen.roberts@anu.edu.au, <http://alia.org.au/governance/npc/>

• **11/8 PEARLS.** *Bookplate at the National Library of Australia*, 2:30pm. Anyone with library connections who has retired (or is about to retire) is welcome to join our informal group to enjoy delicious refreshments and conversation. Contact: Eileen, ph 02 6262 4105, warndon@optusnet.com.au

• **13/8 ACTIVE ALIA.** *General meeting.* Doreen Mellor on *Cross-cultural protocols: enjoying both difference and common ground*, followed by a tour of the library. AIATSIS Library, Acton Peninsula, 5:30pm. Contact: Judy Brooker, ph 02 6230 2266, judith.brooker@alianet.alia.org.au.

26–28/8 Practising successful KM within Government — do you work with, against or around existing structures? Canberra. For free course details, and to be eligible for the special ALIA discount contact: Helen Hassan, ph 1300 550 662, hhassan@arkgroupasia.com quoting HH–ALIA as your reference.

• **13/9 Children's and YA (ACT, Southern NSW and Riverina).** *Young at heart:* inaugural one-day seminar: storytimes, bookstart, sharing excellence, Why YA's and Schools and Libraries working together. Queanbeyan Public Library, 9:30am–4:00pm. All welcome. Contact: Judy Brooker, ph 02 6207 5725, judy.brooker@act.gov.au

• **24/9 URLS ACT.** *Vic Elliott on An elusive quarry: information resource management in the academic library.* McDonald Room, Menzies Library, ANU, 12:30pm, all welcome. Contact: Nancy Clarke, URLs secretary, n.clarke@signadou.acu.edu.au

NSW

7–8/8 APESMA: short course. *Strategic marketing for technical people.* Sydney. Cost: members \$650, non-members \$750. Contact: ph 1300 853 377, short_courses@apesma-ed.com

• **12/8 Hunter Regional Group (NSW).** *Hunter library managers' forum.* Three Hunter library managers. Contact: Dianne Schofield, diane.schofield@hunterlink.net.au

20/8 ratio. *Innovation training.* Wentworth Hotel, Sydney. Cost \$495, ALIA members will receive a 10% discount. Contact: Catherine Menage, 02 9360 7899, catherine@ratio.net.au

21–21/8 APESMA: short course. *Writing winning technical documents.* Sydney. Cost: members \$350 non-members \$450. Contact: ph 1300 853 377, short_courses@apesma-ed.com

28/8 APESMA: short course. *Advanced technical writing skills.* Sydney.

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ABC to digitise significant media archive

The Australian Broadcasting Corporation's Archive is to take an important step into the digital future following the ABC's decision to convert its archived collections of television and radio programming from the analogue format to the digital format.

The ABC Archive is one of Australia's most significant historical media repositories with a collection stored predominantly in the analogue format. The analogue video and audio collections are under threat from the gradual deterioration of the analogue tapes as well as from the increasing lack of playback equipment which can handle these formats.

For long-term preservation and accessibility, the ABC has determined that its content collections must be retained in a format which will stand the test of time, will allow replicated quality to be as close as possible to that of original masters, and will allow desk-top access.

The conversion of the collections to digital format is essential to achieve these objectives.

The ABC's Archives and Library Services (ALS) will drive the three year project which will see an initial 60 000 hours of television and radio content preserved in the digital format.

This is the largest project of its kind undertaken in Australia.

The ABC is to work in partnership with IBM Global Services Australia (IBM GSA) Ltd who will provide a technological solution that will manage, deliver and implement the conversion of a proportion of the ABC analogue archive.

The technology is standard IT data storage equipment, used in thousands of organisations worldwide to manage ever-increasing data requirements. It puts in place systems that increase the ABC's ability to protect and maintain the content for future use. It will ultimately enable the conversion of the entire analogue archive as an ongoing ABC activity, extending beyond the initial scope of the project. The solution is based on open standards which means that in future the ABC will not be bound to one manufacturer for extensions and maintenance.

'The outcome of this project will mean that ALS Researchers will have the capacity to browse online, digitally store and digitally deliver content, offering an unprecedented level of service for our program-making clients,' said Mary Jane Stannus, head of Archives and Library Services. ■

Ordering items from other libraries has never been easier

Australian libraries have been able to request and supply material efficiently with other Australian libraries for many years using the Kinetica Document Delivery (KDD) service. A major milestone was achieved in June with the implementation of connections that enable interlibrary loan transactions to be sent from libraries using their own interlibrary loan system. End users will have fast access to information because libraries can now search and request information from international suppliers, such as the Canadian Institute for Scientific Information, using one system.

KDD is a powerful interlibrary loan system that uses Virtual Document Exchange (VDX) software produced by Fretwell-Downing Informatics. The VDX software now supports the ISO Interlibrary Loan Protocol (ISO ILL), which means that KDD can send and receive messages from other interlibrary loan systems and document suppliers whilst taking advantage of the Kinetica Document Delivery Payments Service.

The first libraries to take advantage of the new service were the Western Australian Group of University Librarians (WAGUL). Using their own interlibrary loan system (VDX), the WAGUL group can now send and receive

requests to KDD customers and other interlibrary loan suppliers.

The introduction of interoperability has dramatically reduced work for interlibrary loan staff who, up until now, have been using two different systems to create and action interlibrary loan requests. Libraries will now be more efficient in managing their internal requesting (for example, between campuses) and all other ILL transactions, as they will be working on a single system. ■

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