

The death of the book?

The National Scholarly Communications Forum invites you to attend *Death of the book? challenges and opportunities for scholarly publishing*, 7-8 March 2003, National Maritime Museum, Sydney

Scholarly publishing in its traditional form is in crisis. University presses throughout the world have in recent years either been closed down or face increasing financial pressures. Many presses in consequence have had to move to general publishing, moving away from their original purpose of disseminating the academic output of their institution.

How then is academic research to be disseminated globally in the twenty-first century? The number of outlets for Australian academic research publication has diminished while Australian libraries are paying more for overseas monographs.

The need to publish by Australian researchers has been exacerbated by governments and administrators using publications as performance measures. However many of these measures are simply based on quantitative rather than qualitative outputs.

Globally, many are now re-addressing the complex system of relationships and products known as scholarly communication. As an article in *Nature* has recently stated, 'new information technologies (digital formats, the internet, laptop and desktop computing, data and image

capture and manipulation) have created opportunities for communication that were unimaginable in an earlier, print-constrained era' (Walpert, *Nature*, 7 November 2002).

In 2002 the development of a number of university e-print repositories and e-press developments, allied to the international Open Archive Initiatives and the digital networked environment, offer the opportunity to implement and assess new models of scholarly communication. E-presses, with quality control of refereeing, allow wider distribution at potentially lower distribution costs for the Australian academic community.

Institutional repositories offer a strategic response both to the opportunities provided by the digital network environment and the systemic problems in today's scholarly communication system. Issues such as copyright, branding, refereeing, reward structures and the most effective dissemination patterns of knowledge will be addressed in this major conference.

Anyone interested in the creation and dissemination of Australia's research knowledge should attend. Hear leading speakers from Australia

and overseas and contribute to the discussions on what will be the role, function and format of the academic book in the twenty-first century.

Speakers include Roy Tennant, manager of California E-Scholarship at the California Digital Library; Dr Janet McCalman, head of History and Philosophy of Science at Melbourne University; Professor John Hartley, Dean of Creative Industries, Queensland University of Technology; Benjamin McKay, president of the Council of Australian Postgraduate Associations; Louise Adler, director of Melbourne University Press; Dr Bill Cope, managing director of Common Ground Publishing; Dr Robin Derricourt, managing director of the University of New South Wales Press; and Paul Reekie, general manager of CSIRO Publishing.

Further information, including the conference program and registration forms, can be found at <http://www.humanities.org.au>, or contact: Justine Molony, executive assistant, The Australian Academy of the Humanities, GPO Box 93, Canberra 2601, aah.office@anu.edu.au, phone 02 6125 9860, or fax 02 6248 6287. ■

RMIT custodian of a national treasure

AFI library finds new home

The Australian Film Institute Library will be housed at RMIT University from 2003. RMIT University will become the caretaker and custodian of the library, regarded as a national heritage collection.

In 2002 the future of the library was uncertain with the AFI no longer receiving funding to run this important resource of historical artefacts for the film and arts community, and the general public.

The *AFI Library@RMIT University* will be located within the School of Applied Communication at the city campus in Melbourne. RMIT University, which offers a number of programs in film and script writing, is delighted with this development and regard it as a superb asset to the organisation.

'RMIT University is honoured to be appointed custodian of a national treasure such as the AFI Library. We will be taking our newfound responsibility to the film industry, the screen education sector and specifically to AFI members very seriously. To this end all visitors to the AFI Library will enjoy free and extended access to its rich bank of resources. I also sincerely hope that RMIT's involvement in developing the library's assets and services will create new

opportunities and research initiatives for the benefit of the broader Australian film industries,' Lauren Murray, head of RMIT's School of Applied Communication said.

The AFI library is a non-lending library that specialises in screen history, criticism and theory and, in particular, the Australian screen industries. It includes 6000 books, over 750 journal titles and 300 unpublished scripts and more than 600 000 news clippings. The library also maintains a unique collection of film and personality clippings that form the basis of its research services to the media and public.

Admission to the *AFI Library@RMIT University* will be free to AFI members and the public when it reopens, and the library's opening hours will also be extended. Research and information services will continue to be offered and the library will remain a non-lending facility.

The AFI has operated a library since 1978. The library has a strong historical link to Melbourne as it was initially located in Cardigan Street, Carlton and began as a joint venture of the AFI and the Victorian Federation of Film Societies. ■