

Down and loaded



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Library and Information Week 2004

Down and loaded — the right information at the right time is a Library and Information Week (LIW) theme that lends itself to a wide range of advocacy opportunities across all library and information sectors, to showcase current and new services and products, and promote a career in the sector.

The new LIW posters promote the knowledge, skills and value the library and information professional brings to information services. The poster *sci-fi: down and loaded* in particular features this (the merchandising catalogue is at <http://alia.org.au/advocacy/alw/2004/catalogue.html>). The posters are not badged for LIW and so will not become outdated beyond the week's celebrations. They are also suitable for display in any workplace.

Valuable resources on public-access internet services, including guidelines on issues such as internet conditions of use policies and filtering, prepared by ALIA's Online Content and Regulation reference group are available at <http://alia.org.au/advocacy/internet.access/>. NetAlert, the federal government's Internet Safety Advisory Body 'helping children and families enjoy all the benefits of the internet in a safe and rewarding way' is participating in LIW by distributing their promotional materials. ALIA is delighted that NetAlert [<http://www.netalert.net.au>] has decided to partner with us for LIW 2004.

This year also happens to be the 21st anniversary of Mem Fox's iconic children's book *Possum Magic*. The ALIA Children's and Youth Services group picked up on this last year and the publisher Scholastic has responded enthusiastically to our proposal to celebrate the anniversary with our sector during LIW. Scholastic is providing promotional materials and Mem Fox has agreed to attend a children's and media event at a Sydney public library. Hopefully Mem will have time for some reading. I will long remember her talk at the 2003 Special, Health and Law conference dinner in which she embellished stories from her life with readings of her books. Why was a children's author speaking at a dinner for special, health and law librarians a number of delegates at

my table wondered? No-one was in doubt as the talk unfolded and I was not the only one who shed a few tears with *Koala Lou*. Having seen the media clips of Opposition Leader Mark Latham reading *Koala Lou* to children I was delighted to hear that Mem is going to give him some reading tips!

With this theme how could we not continue to raise the issue of copyright and the Australia/US trade agreement. (<http://alia.org.au/advocacy/inquiries/detail.php?ID=18>) If the agreement goes ahead as is proposed it will have a seriously detrimental impact on our ability to access 'the right information at the right time'. It is obvious that the government capitulated at the last minute to US demands on copyright and intellectual property, having said only a few weeks before the last frantic negotiations that the copyright term and related matters were not open for negotiation. As Helen Roberts, the convenor of ALIA's Copyright and IP committee, aptly said at its recent meeting 'the US has been focused on the new economies in its negotiations and the Australian government the old economies.' ALIA has been invited to make a submission to the Senate Treaties committee inquiry into the trade agreement and we expect to be appearing at the hearing on 14 May which provides a good opportunity for us to make our points and segue with LIW.

The federal government is yet to respond to the report *Libraries in the online environment* from the Senate Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts committee. ALIA will host a number of forums during LIW to discuss the outcomes of the report and future action.

Moyra McAllister, FALIA

Congratulations to Moyra McAllister on her Fellowship. Moyra is an outstanding practitioner held in high regard by those who have had the pleasure of working with her. Moyra's Fellowship was presented at a very successful and enjoyable function in March held by ALIA Victoria to celebrate the past, present and future.

Voting

The ballot for vice-president and directors closes at close of business on 14 April. Don't miss this opportunity to shape the future of your association. ■

