

Mentoring in New South Wales

Claire Hill, Alyson Dalby, Fiona Bradley and John Elias

Last year the ALIA Mentoring NSW Group was formed to provide a mentoring program for new ALIA members. ALIA Mentoring NSW aims to bring together new professionals with those who have had substantial experience working in the information sector to provide a supportive and informative environment for newcomers to the profession; an opportunity to network across all sectors and levels of the profession; a forum for discussion of current interest issues; and a mechanism for professional development of our future leaders. The group aims to fulfil the ALIA objective 'To ensure the high standard of personnel engaged in information provision and foster their professional interests and aspirations'.

Program for 2005

In the 2005 mentoring program we have eleven protégés and nine mentors. There are two strands to the program: individual partnership activities and group dinners. After partnerships are allocated, each mentor and protégé are encouraged to meet to discuss and document their expectations as well as to get to know

more about each other's positions and careers. Each partnership organises their own meetings in line with their expectations and commitments. So far we have hosted two group dinners, which provide the opportunity for the entire group to network and support each other. These nights have been a huge success.

Library folk in the pub

The library folk in the pub nights are held once a month at a pub in Sydney city. The aims of this event are to network in a casual environment and to promote the benefits of being involved in ALIA. We have had a group of around 10 people attending each month, but it is not always the same people who attend each time. Some just drop in for a quick drink and to say 'hello'; others stay for a few hours discussing everything from the profession to their personal lives. The nights are open to anyone who works/studies in the library or information management sector. We get a diverse crowd and newcomers are always welcome. The dates and venues are listed on the ALIANet events pages, <http://alia.org.au/events/>. ■

Electronic Theses and Dissertations Conference

Sydney, 28–30 September 2005

Stevan Harnad, founder and driving force behind the global Open Archives movement, heads an exciting range of innovative thinkers and experts at *ETD2005*, the 8th international conference on Electronic Theses and Dissertations. This is the first time the conference will be held in the southern hemisphere.

The Council of Australian University Librarians (CAUL) has been active in making electronic versions of theses and dissertations available since an Australian Research Grant was awarded in 1997. Known as the Australian Digital Theses (ADT) program, it is based at the University of New South Wales Library, with about 4000 theses now available at <http://adt.caul.edu.au>. This program is part of the

international Networked Digital Library of Theses and Dissertations.

Other keynote speakers at *ETD2005* include Hai Jin from the China Grid Project and Xiaolin Zhang who will speak on libraries and digital research space. Robyn Williams from the ABC Science Unit will discuss online communication and the media. Over 70 international and local speakers will consider new approaches to access and outreach issues. Strong regional participation promises delegates an invaluable update on the continuously growing movement in open access to scholarly research.

The conference theme *Evolution through discovery* will address topics such

as: future directions for scholarly publishing; online research, learning, collaboration, networking ventures and applications; inter-relationship and inter-operability between learning management systems, content management systems, and digital asset repositories; and thesis discovery — metadata aggregation, collaboration and the open source movement.

The conference venue is the award-winning Scientia complex at the University of New South Wales. View further information, including registration details, at <http://adt.caul.edu.au/etd2005/etd2005.html>.

Andrew Wells, University of New South Wales Library

Personalising your Kinetica access

Kinetica has introduced a new feature of Libraries Australia — personalisation.

Currently many existing Kinetica user-IDs for Libraries Australia are 'shared accounts', which means that the same settings apply to all users of that account. Libraries Australia now has the functionality to allow users to create their own personal logins within the shared account.

This will enable individual users, whether library patrons or library staff, to:

- create a personal login
- choose their own user-ID and password
- save records and queries into a personal folder
- specify which search screen will display at login
- customise default databases for searching
- choose up to three libraries as 'your library'.

Libraries can choose to let individuals use these logins to set up alerts for regular e-mailing of new records added to

the National Database in their favourite subject area, and to request interlibrary loans.

How do I activate personalisation?

Libraries wishing to offer personalisation should contact the Kinetica Help Desk, by e-mail (kinetica@nla.gov.au) or fax (02 6273 1180), with the following information:

1. A list of the Kinetica user-IDs that the library wants personal logins to be created from.
2. Specify whether personal logins should enable:
 - access to pay per search databases (RLG/OCLC/APAIS)
 - creating alerts
 - requesting interlibrary loans
 - access to Libraries Australia via the library's internal authentication system or from any internet-connected computer.

For more information about personalisation, go to <http://www.nla.gov.au/kinetica/librariesaustralia.html#releasenotes>. ■

