

## ACT

**1/9 Power searching with the pros 1.** *Level one workshop* focuses on introducing the main concepts that information professionals need to be familiar with. Presenters: Mary Ellen Bates and Chris Sherman. Novotel, 65 Northbourne Avenue, Canberra. Cost [incl GST]: \$395 ALIA members, \$455 non-members. Contact: Elizabeth Swan, ph 02 9371 0300, e\_swan@infoedge.com.au

**2/9 Power searching with the pros 2.** *Level two* is a new advanced workshop for information professionals who have already attended previous Web Search Pacific workshops. Novotel, 65 Northbourne Avenue, Canberra. Cost [incl GST]: \$395 ALIA members, \$455 non-members. Contact: Elizabeth Swan, ph 02 9371 0300, e\_swan@infoedge.com.au

• **14/9 Active ALIA.** *ALIA dinner and prizegiving.* Guest speaker: Dagmar Schmidmaier AM, CEO and state librarian, State Library of NSW, vice-president and president-elect, ALIA; Chairman Aurora Foundation. Details: tba. Contact: Sherrey Quinn, ph 02 6257 9177, sherrey.quinn@alianet.alia.org.au

• **28/9 APSIG.** *Spring dinner.* Asian Mekong Delta Restaurant, corner of Alinga and Marcus Clarke Streets, Civic, 7:00pm. \$22 per head. BYO, tea/coffee included. Bookings essential. Contact: George Miller, ph 02 6295 1439, gmiller@cyberone.com.au

• **19/10 Active ALIA.** *Information management in the Parliamentary Library — Info Online 2005 Encore.* Guest speakers: Gaik Khong and Shirley White; and Digital media monitoring for Parliament, Catherine Gilbert. Moving right along: using RFID for collection management at the Parliamentary Library. NLA, Conference Room, 4:00–5:30pm. ALIA/AGLIN Info Sharing Session. Contact: Sherrey Quinn, ph 02 6257 9177, sherrey.quinn@alianet.alia.org.au

**26/10 2005 Clare Burton Memorial Lecture.** *Girls, schools and society: a generation of change.* Guest speaker: Professor Alison Mackinnon, Hawke Research Institute, University of SA. Hosted by Australian National University, Great Hall, University House, ANU, 6:00pm for 6:30pm dinner. Contact: Lesley Hayes, ph 02 6125 4649, lesley.hayes@anu.edu.au

**26–27/10 2005 actKM Conference.** *Managing Knowledge for Better Performance.* Rydges Lakeside in Canberra. Contact: David Williams, ph 02 6121 7022, david.williams@dewr.gov.au, [http://www.actkm.com/actkm\\_2005\\_conference.html](http://www.actkm.com/actkm_2005_conference.html)

• **4/11 Active ALIA.** *Jobs and skill gaps: what the market is looking for.* Panel discussion: Anna-Maria Sviatko (One Umbrella), Megan Cutler (Informed Sources) and speaker tba (Zenith). AGLIN/ALIA Joint Information Sharing Session. NLA, Conference Room, 4:00–5:00pm Contact: Karna O'Dea, ph 02 6121 6310, karna.odea@dewr.gov.au

• **24/11 Active ALIA.** *Risk management: theory and practical application in a library context.* Speakers Paul Longley (DEWR) and Margerita Moreno (NLA). AGLIN/ALIA Joint Information Sharing Session. NLA, Conference Room, 12:30–1:30pm. Bring your lunch, but RSVP for tea/coffee catering purposes to: Karna O'Dea, ph 02 6121 6310, karna.odea@dewr.gov.au

## NSW

• **5/9 ALIA Acquisitions National and ASSIG Seminar.** *New ways of publishing, printing and preservation: trade and library developments.* Parliamentary Theatre, Parliament House, Macquarie Street, 9:00–4:30pm.

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## Selected reprints from newspapers and magazines in recent months

### Hot speed reads available *Cairns Sun*, 3 August

Cairns libraries are trialling a new service making popular titles and new releases available more quickly.

The 'hot speed reads' collection will ensure that popular titles such as *The da Vinci code*, *CSIRO total diet* and *Eleven on top* are available immediately to library smart card holders, at a nominal \$4 fee for a seven-day loan.

The service will operate on a 'first in, best-dressed' basis. Library members can borrow the latest titles on a walk-in basis, while stocks last. Hot speed reads cannot be reserved, and are available strictly by visiting the library.

A council spokeswoman said once the demand for hot speed reads reduced, the books would be transferred into the normal library collection and replaced by other new releases, thus reducing the waiting time for borrowers who choose to remain in the reservation queue under normal borrowing rules. Funds raised through the service will fund the purchase of more new release titles.

### Too much info *Courier Mail*, 30 July, by Andy Sullivan

In an era of increased government surveillance, privacy watchdogs worry that Google's vast archive of internet activity could prove a tempting target for abuse.

Like many other online businesses, Google tracks how its search engine and other services are used, and who uses them. Unlike many other businesses, however, Google holds on to that information for years.

Some privacy experts who otherwise give Google high marks say the company's records could become a handy databank for US government investigators who rely on business records to circumvent Watergate-era laws that limit their own ability to track residents. At a time when libraries delete lending records as soon as a book is returned, Google should purge its records after a certain point to protect users, they say.

Google officials say their extensive log files help them improve service, fight fraud and develop new products. Unlike many other online companies, Google seems willing to pay for the enormous storage capacity needed to save the data.

Rivals such as Yahoo and internet service providers such as Time Warner's America Online also track user activity. But ISPs generally don't hold on to such information for more than a month.

### Muslim student says unfairly targeted by AFP *Canberra Times*, 26 July

A Melbourne university student studying terrorism for his degree claims he's been unfairly

targeted by federal police because he has a Muslim name.

The student, known only as Abraham, converted to Islam three years ago. He has been studying for an honours degree in politics at Monash University, specialising in martyrdom and terrorism.

Last week he was visited at home by an Australian Federal Police officer who quizzed him about books he purchased and borrowed from the library as part of his studies. Abraham said the books were on the recommended reading list for his course and that dozens of other students were studying the same subjects. He believes he was targeted because his name suggests he has a non-English-speaking background.

Abraham's lecturer, Dr David Wright-Neville, said he has warned his other students that they could also face scrutiny by security agencies.

### Incentives for bookworms through reading program *Advertiser* (Adelaide), 23 July,

by Andrew Hough

In a new scheme adopted by Charles Sturt Council in Adelaide's western suburbs, library users will be able to use their love of reading to earn rewards.

The 'frequent reading' program, still in its infancy, will introduce rewards such as book vouchers, movie passes, relaxed borrowing terms, first news on 'new releases' and priority choice to items.

In what is believed to be an Australian first, the council has introduced a community card that will be used to gauge how popular items are. Differing from a library card, it can also be used at the council's various community centres as a way of implementing popular programs. Membership types will include a children's 'book grub' and a film buff club. A 'gold card' would allow long-term and frequent users — who have also had no overdue items for 12 months — to have their borrowing limits doubled.

Acting CEO of the council, Sandie Starr, said that instead of fining people who do the wrong thing, council wants a positive system of rewarding people who do the right thing.

### Grocery bag ban on bus

*Herald Sun*, 21 July, by Geraldine Mitchell

Shopping bags and library books have been banned on a community bus service run for the elderly by Brimbank City Council, in Melbourne's western suburbs.

In a move that has stunned local residents and other neighbouring councils, Brimbank council claims it has been prompted by a fear that loose items in the bus could become dangerous missiles.

Passengers on Brimbank's community bus now have to pay to have their groceries delivered and only goods that can safely be stored in handbags are allowed on the bus.

A spokesperson for the Sunshine Residents and Ratepayers Association said that the decision would leave the most vulnerable in the community unsure of how they would continue to enjoy visiting the library and borrowing books, as well as how they would get their shopping home.

#### **Venerable encyclopedia seeks just the facts** *Boston Globe*, 21 July, by Eric Ferkenhoff

To respond to competitive challenges from Google, Yahoo and the popular online encyclopedia Wikipedia, Encyclopaedia Britannica will revert to its old practice of an advisory board to help reassert its authority in an age when the internet has challenged the definition of what is factual.

Librarians, teachers and scholars say they are increasingly alarmed at the way students pull information from anywhere online and accept it as valid, without much consideration of the source.

Encyclopaedia Britannica has put together a diverse mix of advisers including four Nobel laureates and two Pulitzer Prize winners. The new 15-member board will meet twice a year to plot the direction of the encyclopedia and to fine-tune its editorial content.

#### **Wikipedia's influence spreads across the web**

*Detroit Free Press*, 20 July, by Mike Wendland  
Unlike any other one-stop reference source, the popular website Wikipedia serves a huge and rapidly growing online encyclopedia.

Wiki is a shortened version of the Hawaiian word *wikiwiki*, which roughly means 'quick'. The service is fast, easy to use, and current. What's different about Wikipedia is that it's written by web users. Anyone can add to it, or edit what other people have entered.

There are almost 650 000 articles on Wikipedia alone, not counting the growing list of spin-off sites like Wiktionary, its dictionary and thesaurus; Wikiquote, a collection of pithy sayings; and Wikispecies, a directory of species.

The site is a trivia buff's dream come true, and every statement is hyperlinked. Professional researchers and some educators have cautioned that, because Wikipedia is open to anyone to write, some of the information may not be reliable. However, the site itself acknowledges that really egregious errors are quickly fixed by the thousands of people who read Wikipedia every day.

Wikipedia has become the standard for open-source information. The site is free of advertising and funded by donations.

#### **Click on the collections**

*Australian*, 14 July, by Rosalie Higson

Most Australian galleries at state or national level have an online collection, though many are far from the sophistication and functionality of overseas sites. Both the National Gallery of Australia and the Art Gallery of New South Wales have

well-designed sites, and the Queensland Art Gallery website is particularly comprehensive.

The Museum of Contemporary Art in Sydney has most of its permanent collection of 7000 items in a virtual library. It will go online next month to coincide with a makeover of the gallery that will allow more of the collection to be displayed for the first time.

Some innovative work in online arts has resulted in a number of new sites, including two developed by the National Library of Australia. MusicAustralia began as a pilot project in 2002 when there was little Australian music available online. Now it is a repository of more than 200 000 music scores, programs, posters, personal papers, film scores and more. The National Library is also developing a service called Australia Dancing, an online encyclopedia and directory to dance in Australia.

Another initiative, AusStage, grew out of a doctorate project by Flinders University drama lecturer Joh Hartog. The site, a co-production of Flinders and seven other Australian universities, with grants from the Australian Research Council, went online in January 2001. The project aims to log all performing arts events since white settlement.

The article ends with a useful browser's guide to Australian arts websites.

#### **Drawing power for reading: the art smart way to literacy** *Gold Coast Bulletin*, 2 July, by Claudia Parsons

Comic books are breaking down the stereotype of lightweight entertainment for teenage boys. 'Graphic novels' are one of the fastest-growing sectors in US publishing and are becoming increasingly respectable both as an art form and as a way to promote literacy.

With an increase in sales of graphic novels of around 25 per cent in 2004, Japanese comic books — known as manga — form the fastest-growing sector of this genre.

Doug Whiteman, president of the Penguin Young Readers Group, said graphic novels have been around for more than 20 years, but only in the past five years have librarians and booksellers started to take them seriously.

A similar article, 'Comics could be the key' by Christopher Bantick, appeared in the *Hobart Mercury*, 12 July 2005. ■

## NEWSPAPERS WANTED

- Bound volumes or long runs. All 19th and 20th century Australian and overseas newspapers
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Cost [GST incl]: \$88 ALIA members, \$110 non-members, \$66 student/concession. Contact: Bev Lindqvist, ph 08 8302 6734, beverley.lindqvist@unisa.edu.au

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**6/9 Power searching with the pros 2.** *Level two is a new advanced workshop* for information professionals who have already attended previous Web Search Pacific workshops. Quay West Suites, 98 Gloucester Street, The Rocks, Sydney. Cost [incl GST]: \$395 ALIA members, \$455 non-members. Contact: Elizabeth Swan, ph 02 9371 0300, e\_swan@infoedge.com.au

• **28/9-30/11 NSW Mentoring Group** *Library folk in the pub.* Come and join us for our regular informal gathering. Chat about work, the profession or whatever. All library-types welcome! 1st floor bar, Agincourt Hotel, corner Harris and George Streets, Railway Square, from 6:00pm. 28/9, 26/10, 30/11. Contact: John Elias, ph 02 9463 9235, jeliass@mia.com.au

**28-30/9 ETD2005:** *8th International Symposium on Electronic Theses and ... evolution through discovery...* Keynote: Stevan Harnad, The University of New South Wales, Sydney. Contact: Conference organisers, ph 02 9368 1200, ETD2005@iceaustralia.com, http://adt.caul.edu.au/etd2005/etd2005.html

**19/10 2005 Clare Burton Memorial Lecture.** *Girls, schools and society: a generation of change.* Guest speaker: Professor Alison Mackinnon, Hawke Research Institute, University of SA. Hosted by University of Technology, Sydney. Training Room 1, Level 6, Building 10, Jones Street, Broadway, 6:00pm. Contact: Kate Wilson, ph 02 9514 1081, kate.wilson@qut.edu.au

#### **NT**

• **28/9 Top End.** *General meeting.* Venue tba, 5:00pm. Contact: Jayshree Mamtara, ph 08 8946 7881, jayshree.mamtara@cdu.edu.au

• **7-8/10 3rd ALIA Top End Symposium Technology, Visions or nightmares: true stories in the Territory.** Come along and hear from some of those who have had dreams, nightmares and visions of failed technology projects but also have many triumphs to share and be proud of. Charles Darwin University, Palmerston Campus. Contact: Dianne Wilcox, ph 08 8988 2723, diwilcox@austarnet.com.au

• **11/10 ALIA Top End.** *Adapting or mutating? Future prospects for the librarian species.* Dinner with Andrew Booth at Tim's Surf and Turf Restaurant, 10 Litchfield Street, Darwin, 6:30pm. Contact: Jayshree Mamtara, ph 08 8946 7881, jayshree.mamtara@cdu.edu.au

• **23/11 Top End.** *Tour: Northern Territory Open College.* Chris Street, Rapid Creek, 5:00pm. General meeting: Asian Gateway Thai Restaurant, 58 Aralia Road, Nightcliff, 6:00pm. Contact: Jayshree Mamtara, ph 08 8946 7881, jayshree.mamtara@cdu.edu.au.

#### **QLD**

• **20/9 South East Queensland New Graduates Group.** *General meeting.* You are invited to

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