

ACT

• **14/4 ACTIVE ALIA.** *Recent developments at the British Library.* Lynne Brindley, CEO: a strategic repositioning and modernisation program has ensured that the British Library provides relevant services to users in the 21st century, and is recognised for its contribution to research, innovation and culture. NLA Theatre 12:30–1:30pm. Contact: Roxanne Missingham, ph 02 6262 1143, rmissingham@nla.gov.au

• **21/4 Digital amnesia — the challenges of government online:** *a one-day seminar to discuss the issues relating to access to government publications online.* National Library of Australia, Canberra. Presented by ALIA and sponsored by the National Library of Australia and the National Archives of Australia. Cost: \$100 ALIA members, \$135 non-members [GST incl]. Contact: Meredith Hinchliffe, ph 02 6215 8222, meredith.hinchliffe@alia.org.au

• **24/5 ACT Library Technicians.** *National Library Technicians Day.* Join ACT Techs for breakfast at Brindabella Restaurant, Crowne Plaza Hotel, 7:30am, full breakfast \$26, continental \$20, express \$13. RSVP by 20/5 to: Beth Clary, ph 02 6162 6225, beth.clary@radford.act.edu.au

• **29/6 ACTIVE ALIA.** *Devising an information management strategic framework for DEWR.* Speaker: David Williams (DEWR). AGLIN/ALIA Joint Information Sharing Session. National Library of Australia, Conference Room, 4:00–5:00pm. Contact: Karna O'Dea, ph 02 6121 6310, karna.odea@dewr.gov.au

• **26/10 ACTIVE ALIA.** *Jobs and skill gaps: what the market is looking for.* Panel discussion: Anna-Maria Sviatko (One Umbrella), Megan Curlewis (Informed Sources) and speaker tba (Zenith). AGLIN/ALIA Joint Information Sharing Session. National Library of Australia, Conference Room, 4:00–5:00pm. Contact: Karna O'Dea, ph 02 6121 6310, karna.odea@dewr.gov.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

NSW

• **7/4 New Grads Group.** *Paper presentation evening: ever wondered how to present a paper?* Come along and hear two new grads present papers, and receive feedback and tips from an audience of their peers. Bookings essential! McDonalds Room, State Library of NSW, 6:00–8:00pm. Contact: Alyson Dalby, alyson.dalby@racp.edu.au

• **27/4–30/11 NSW Mentoring Group.** *Library-folk in the pub, come and join us*

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Selected reprints from newspapers and magazines in recent months

Litany of crimes you wouldn't read about
Daily Telegraph, 10 March,
by Kate Murray and Mark Skelsey

A code of conduct has been introduced to deal with anti-social behaviour at Chatswood library in Sydney following a number of criminal incidents including theft, verbal abuse of staff and patrons, and two sex-related crimes. Willoughby Council has introduced the code of conduct to deal with problems such as disruptive behaviour, theft, loitering, intimidation and harassment. The rules will allow the suspension of patrons for up to one year, with a fine of \$220 if the exclusion order is breached.

Dreaming of the feature story
Canberra Times, 10 March

The National Library has acquired a pair of matching globes, one a terrestrial globe of the Earth and one of the heavens, made in 1731 by English globemaker and surveyor Richard Cushee. The terrestrial globe shows the earliest known British depiction of Australia with an east coast, 40 years before Captain Cook confirmed that such a coastline existed. On the globe the west and some of the north and south of Australia are recognisable. The globes are priceless objects and rest on fine mahogany stands of probably similar vintage to the globes.

\$1.25m for two old books
Herald Sun, 9 March, by Kate Rose

A Dutch book dealer has paid almost \$1.25 million for two rare books on the discovery of Australia. The first, published in 1701 and bought for \$768 900, is a 24-page book documenting the early exploration of the West Australian coast by Willem de Vlamingh. The second book, also from the 18th century and related to early Dutch exploration of Australia, fetched \$466 000. The books were part of the private collection of Rodney Davidson, former head of the National Trust, who started collecting rare books while still at school. More than 200 books and documents broke book auction records by selling for more than \$5 million.

UNSW ordered to reinstate casuals
The Australian, 9 March, by Brendan O'Keefe

The Australian Industrial Relations Commission has ordered the University of NSW to reinstate about fifteen casual library staff laid off as they neared a year in their jobs. The National Tertiary Education Union, which campaigned on behalf of the workers, claimed the university sacked the staff to avoid present industrial law, under which casuals employed for longer than twelve months can lodge a claim against unfair dismissal.

Former king's gift
Oakleigh Springvale Dandenong Times,
9 March

Monash University Library has been the recipient of a generous donation of rare resource

material from the personal collection of former Cambodian king Norodom Sihanouk, who abdicated last October after 63 years on the throne. Professor David Chandler, a research fellow at the Monash Asia Institute, said the material included 'invaluable' memorabilia and documentation of Sihanouk's life. The items will be housed in the university's Asian Studies Research Collection.

Book value
Boston Globe, 1 March

An idea for a community reading program, begun in 1998 by librarians in Seattle Public Library, has spread to libraries worldwide, including Australia. The idea goes by many names — 'One Town, One Book'; 'One Community, One Book'; 'On the Same Page' — and involves a community reading and discussing one book, akin to a huge book club. This coming together around books has the potential to break down the isolation of technology by allowing people to rediscover joy in the shared experience of a good read.

Techno takeover
Herald Sun, 1 March, by Jeanette Hill

The 'chalk and talk' days are over. Use of the internet is changing the nature of the teacher/student relationship. Schoolchildren are researching subjects using the internet, doing their school work electronically and in some cases sitting exams online. According to Eltham College of Education principal Dr David Warner, this focus on technology will serve only to strengthen the role of the educator in providing students with learning skills, rather than with facts and knowledge that will last only until exam time. He claims that learning to access and create knowledge by use of the internet and learning to self-manage will give students the disposition and skills for a lifetime.

Britain's buoyant book trade
Publishers Weekly, 28 February,
by John F Baker

Unlike their counterparts in the United States, British booksellers and publishers are optimistic about growth, with a 6.4 per cent increase in actual book sales in 2004 over the previous year, which had also showed strong growth, aided by a new Harry Potter novel. A recent analysis by *Bookseller* magazine showed that volume sales had increased too, by a solid 7.7 per cent, despite the fact that the average selling price of a book has been declining year by year, due to frenetic discounting. Bestseller sales continued to soar — eleven titles sold more than half a million copies in 2004, compared to only five the previous year. Even sales of backlist titles showed gain. Some attribute this healthy state to an active drive in Britain to promote reading — particularly focusing now on adult literacy — spearheaded by the Publishers Association but also aided by the BBC and with government support. In this review

John Baker looks at the current fortunes of the major British publishing houses.

Aussies donate books

PNG Post-Courier, 25 February, by Estella Cheung

Namatanai Secondary School in New Ireland Province is the proud recipient of library books donated by the Australian Government. The books range from novels, books written by Papua New Guinean authors, to science and social science texts, history and Papua New Guinea culture. The Member for Namatanai Byron Chan said the school had been in need of books for a long time and the donation would mean many New Ireland children will benefit in terms of improvement in learning and literacy.

Books may replace wreaths at Anzac Day services

Townsville Bulletin, 24 February, by Kylie Stockdale

Burdekin Shire Council will be encouraging schools in its jurisdiction to do away with laying wreaths as from Anzac Day 2006 and instead invest in a book, which would later be placed in the shire's library. The call for the council to consider the replacement of wreaths with books on Anzac Day came from Cr Mark Castelanelli, who had heard of Livingstone Shire's adoption of the idea. Local RSL members have voiced support for the change with one endorsing the idea of a book as 'an enduring symbol'.

University database a real work of art ...

The Guardian, 23 February, by S A Mathieson

A co-operative project in Bath, England, has produced an online database of the city's collections, which includes its museums, libraries and archives. Called 'Tap into Bath', the free service uses software that categorises collections using Library of Congress subject headings. The Bath database contains extensive details of 119 collections managed by 26 organisations including the local council, both of Bath's universities, the city's main hospital, charities and two companies, one of them the *Bath Chronicle*. The system, available at <http://www.bath.ac.uk/library/tapintobath/>, went live last December and by Easter the site will add an unstructured Google-style search facility. One project that is benefiting from the groundwork in Bath is the Southern Cross Resource Finder, a database of up to 200

UK-based collections relating to Australia and New Zealand, based in the Menzies Centre for Australian Studies at King's College London.

Starting babies on books early

Whitehorse Gazette, 23 February

Whitehorse Manningham Regional Library Corporation has begun a program of presenting new parents with literacy kits. Based on a British scheme called Bookstart, the library's baby book bags will contain library information, booklists on parenting topics and a book for each baby born in Whitehorse this year. With initial costs of \$7500, the project is designed to raise awareness of library services and the benefits of reading to young children.

Similar schemes are featured in: 'Book program gives babies a head start in literacy skills', *Canberra Times*, 19 February 2005 and 'More fun for babies booked in', *Lake Macquarie News*, 16 February 2005.

Work from anywhere

The West Australian, 23 February, by Ben Spencer

Rural communities throughout Western Australia are benefiting from the introduction of telecentres, which for some have become the new community information hub. From 100 telecentres throughout the state, residents can access computers, the internet, two-way video-conferencing, photocopiers, fax machines, printers, TV—video machines, scanners, decoders and more. The concept was developed initially to improve access to adult education in rural and remote WA. TAFE courses are run via the internet at the centres, as well as counselling sessions, business meetings and job interviews held by video-conference. Most telecentres open for 35 hours a week, with a variety of courses held at night. Towns with telecentres include Augusta, Bridgetown, Harvey, Northcliffe and Pemberton.

Collins chief to focus on retailing basics

Bookseller, 18 February, by Lorien Kaye

David Dean, the new CEO of Collins Booksellers, wants the chain to move away from library-style store presentations and to improve staff training in retailing rather than just bookselling. Dean, who has held senior positions in companies such as Mitre 10 and Myer, feels that the 55 stores in the Collins chain need to change their focus and upgrade their merchandising. Publishers will be watching developments with interest. ■



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for our regular informal gathering. Chat about work, the profession, or whatever, all library-types welcome! 1st floor bar, Agincourt Hotel, cnr Harris and George Streets at Railway Square, from 6:00pm. 27/4, 25/5, 29/6, 27/7, 31/8, 28/9, 26/10, 30/11. Contact: Alyson Dalby, ph 0404 655 319, libraryworld@exemail.com.au

9/6 Australian Copyright Council.

3 sessions: Introduction to copyright \$70; Libraries: text and images \$100; Libraries: internet and digital licensing \$100. Presented by experienced ACC lawyers; meet the people you speak to on our hotline! Contact: Customer service, ph 02 9699 3247, info@copyright.org.au, <http://www.copyright.org.au>

NT

• 27/4 ALIA Top End. *General meeting and dinner*. Charles Darwin University Library, Palmerston Campus. Meeting: 5:00–6:00pm, Dinner at Karawa Restaurant: 6:30pm. Contact: Jayshree Mamtara, ph 08 8946 7881, jayshree.mamtara@cdu.edu.au

• 25/5 ALIA Top End. *General meeting and tour*. NT Police, Fire and Emergency Services Library, Peter McAulay Centre, Berrimah. Tour: 5:00–6:00pm, Meeting: 6:00–7:00pm. Contact: Jayshree Mamtara, ph 08 8946 7881, jayshree.mamtara@cdu.edu.au

• 22/6–23/11 ALIA Top End. *General meeting*. Venue: tba. 5:00pm. 22/6, 27/7, 24/8, 28/9, 26/10, 23/11. Contact: Jayshree Mamtara, ph 08 8946 7881, jayshree.mamtara@cdu.edu.au

QLD

• 6/4 Qld OPAL. *General meeting*. Hosted by Helen Gambley, Hoopgood Ganim. Venue/time: tba. Contact: Helen Gambley, ph 07 3024 0391, h.gambley@hopgoodganim.com.au

• 14/4 ALIA Quorum. *NER*D — Queensland Public Libraries Association 2005*. Conference participants will talk about the key themes and ideas from the conference. Further details will be published on the ALIA QLD e-list closer to the date. Contact: Joy Goldsmith, ph 0410 723 975, joy_goldsmith@hotmail.com

7/5 Queensland Parliamentary Library.

Open Day: a unique opportunity to visit the heritage 19th century O'Donovan Library in Parliament House, George Street, 10:00am–4:00pm. Contact: Judith Barker, ph 07 3406 7920, judith.barker@parliament.qld.gov.au

• 23/5 ALIA Quorum. *Trivia night and Queensland Library Achiever of the Year Award*. Start preparing your team for the trivia night. The Library Achiever of the Year Award winner will also be announced at this event. Further details will be published on the ALIA QLD e-list closer to the

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Information Management in the digital age.

Are you interested in having a satisfying, stimulating career where the areas you can apply your knowledge are only limited by your imagination? Are you interested in working in diverse and dynamic workplaces, meeting a huge variety of people?

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