

ACT

1/12 2006 Best practice library and knowledge management Key Forums Australia one-day master class. ALIA members 10% discount. Novotel, Canberra. Contact: ph 02 9436 4255, enquiries@keyforums.com.au

- **12/12** APSIG Christmas lunch Mamak Corner, Shop 4, Garran Place, Garran Shops, 12:30pm. Asian/Malay banquet, BYO, \$27pp. Corkage \$3 per bottle. Acceptances essential by Friday 8 December. George Miller, ph 02 6295 1439, gmiller@grapevine.com.au

- **13/12** Library Technicians Online Chat See National events for more details.

NSW

- **1-2/12** ALIA New Librarians' Symposium 2006 Pathways and possibilities See National events for more details.

- **13/12** Library Technicians Online Chat See National events for more details.

- **31/1** 2007 Library Folk In the Pub The Madison Hotel is the new home for LFIP. If you work in the library industry, are studying, or even just thinking about it, come along. 6:00pm. Contact Julian Sortland, ph 0429 470 672, julian@sortland.co.uk

16/3 Best practice library and knowledge management Key Forums Australia one-day master class. ALIA members 10% discount. Harbourview Hotel, Sydney. Full rate: \$1095, ALIA members 10% discount. Contact: ph 02 9436 4255, enquiries@keyforums.com.au

NT

- **1/12** Soiree in memory of Lyn McIntosh Including donation of artwork to Palmerston City Council by the NT Library Community. Palmerston City Library, The Boulevard in Goyder Square, Palmerston, 5:30-7:00 pm. Contact Linda Marchesani, ph 08 8999 3929, linda.marchesani@nt.gov.au

- **13/12** Library Technicians Online Chat See National events for more details.

Menzies rated alongside Hitler in high school book

Gold Coast Bulletin, 25 October, Tanya Kirkbride and AAP

The Queensland Opposition has criticised a school library book which paints Australia's longest-serving prime minister as a tyrant as 'blatantly incorrect'. The reference book is used by students at a Mount Isa high school. Despite demands from a Liberal senator, school principal Bernard Durie refused to remove the book, which he said generated debate and critical thinking skills. According to British author Andrew Langley, Menzies' most tyrannical act was his attempt to suppress the Communist party within Australia in 1951. Queensland Premier Peter Beattie labelled Menzies' inclusion in the book 'outrageous' but said he believed in free speech and accused the senator of overreacting.

A bigger and better bible

The Australian, 27 October, Sebastian Smees

The new McCulloch's Encyclopedia of Australian Art is a mammoth achievement and a must-have. For decades, anyone who has wanted to know, on a whim, where Betty Churcher studied or how many times Ivor Hele won the Archibald Prize has reached, without a second thought, for the nearest Encyclopedia of Australian Art. Now we have the fourth edition. The reissue of a book such as this offers the chance to register some of the changes in the Australian art world during the past 12 years. The two biggest have been the explosion of activity in Aboriginal art and the dramatic expansion of interest in contemporary art generally. Both changes are duly reflected in the new volume's shifts in emphasis.

Treasures under threat

The Australian, 1 November, Brendan O'Keefe

The nation's storehouse of knowledge in museums, galleries, archives and libraries is under threat because of a shortfall in the number of qualified conservators, a new report warns. Collections Council of Australia development officer Veronica Bullock says heritage conservation is short by hundreds of workers. Also, funding policies favour exhibiting collections rather than caring for them. Only one university-Melbourne - supplies graduates in the field. Melbourne has offered a Masters course in conservation science since 2005 after the University of Canberra dropped its three-year Bachelor degree in 2003.

Australia moving to toughen copyright rules

Washington Internet Daily, 3 November

An Australian measure like the US DMCA is riding the legislative fast track, said digital rights activists and legal experts. The Copyright Amendment Bill 2006, a bid to align Australian law with the recently signed Australia-US Free Trade Agreement (AUSFTA), contains other contentious provisions, including criminal penalties for infringement and narrower fair dealing exceptions.

Found: Patrick White's treasure trove

The Canberra Times, 3 November

Thousands of papers, including two unpublished novels, belonging to Australia's only Nobel laureate for literature, Patrick White, have been acquired by the National Library. White, who died in 1990, was supposed to have destroyed almost all his manuscripts and papers. This enormously rich collection is a personal archive ranging from notebooks from the 1930s to recipes reflecting an interest in international cuisine, through to annotated speeches about favourite causes and his often-worn beret. Most importantly it contains the research for and beginnings of all White's novels, including the historical works *Voss* and *Fringe of Leaves*; every draft of his autobiography *Flaws in the Glass*; two unpublished novels; an unpublished novella; complete versions of several late plays and drafts of previously unknown plays; correspondence kept by White, including a letter from Salman Rushdie and hand-painted postcards from Sir Sidney Nolan; and nearly 200 condolences sent to Manoly Lascaris, White's partner of 49 years. Library director-general Jan Fullerton said the addition greatly enhanced the library's already pre-eminent collection of White material.

High court to hear one for library books

Detroit Free Press, 7 November, Emilia Askari <http://www.freep.com>

Librarians throughout the state are watching the case of a book-loving attorney from Bloomfield Hills versus the Bloomfield Township Public Library makes its way through the state Supreme Court. The justices signalled that they, too, think this is an important case, which will decide whether any citizen of Michigan can check out books from any library in the state. If the argument that the Michigan Constitution gives all residents equal access to any public library is upheld by the court, librarians fear that the local taxes some communities now assess to enhance their libraries will

disappear. For more information about the case from the perspective of the Michigan Library Association, go to <http://www.mla.lib.mi.us/>

Australia risks outlawing the Internet's core functions

Washington Internet Daily, 8 November

Australia risks outlawing the Internet's core functions with proposed copyright law changes, Google warned. The proposals miss the point of 'back-end' digital copies, which have no value and thus no need for licensing, Senior Counsel Andrew McLaughlin told the US Senate Legal & Constitutional Affairs Committee in a letter. 'Limiting front-end fair dealing [fair use] to the hard-copy world is to condemn the Australian public to the pre-Internet era and will place them at a serious competitive disadvantage with those in other countries who have such access,' he said.

Australian copyright plans could hobble Google

The Canberra Times, 8 November

The internet search engine which has revolutionised the way we work could be crippled under planned changes to Australian copyright law, a leading academic has warned. Google has also criticised federal government plans to change copyright laws. Australian National University copyright expert Matthew Rimmer said the 219-page Bill was complex, unwieldy, and the limited range of exemptions had the potential to damage commercial entities, Google included. Dr Rimmer said the exemptions for libraries, archives and research purposes were valid, but did not extend to commercial interests that archived, indexed or cached material.

IIPA says Australian copyright amendments not FTA-compliant

Inside US Trade, 10 November

The International Intellectual Property Alliance (IIPA) claims that some proposed exemptions to a copyright law in Australia are not compliant with the terms of the US–Australia free trade agreement, and therefore should not be carried forward into law. The US–Australia FTA required Australia to adopt legal prohibitions against the circumvention of technological protection measures (TPMs). These TPMs help ensure intellectual property is protected, and can be a password or encryption software that copyright owners use to prevent their copyright material from being copied or accessed. While Australia's Copyright Act of 1968 deals with the manufacture and commercial supply of devices or services

that circumvent TPMs, the FTA requires Australia to implement new penalties for circumventing TPMs that did not exist in Australia previously, the IIPA source said.

Copyright proposals fail test of brevity, simplicity and fairness

The Canberra Times, 13 November

There have been a number of inquiries into the defence of fair dealing under Australian copyright law. The current Australian Copyright Act 1968 has a defence of fair dealing, which provides protection against claims of copyright infringement. The defence is limited to particular purposes, such as research and study, criticism and review, reporting the news and use for judicial proceedings. The defence of fair dealing has been questioned for lacking clarity and certainty famously, judges of the Federal Court of Australia could not agree on whether The Panel's use of Channel Nine segments constituted a fair dealing in particular cases. The Attorney-General, Philip Ruddock, has introduced the hefty 219-page Copyright Amendment Bill 2006 into Parliament, with three main features. It introduces a range of miscellaneous exceptions to copyright infringement, provides for the stronger protection of digital copy protection and access codes demanded by the Australia–United States Free Trade Agreement, and will provide a wider array of civil and criminal remedies for copyright owners. Unfortunately, the legislation is drafted in a highly convoluted way, which will make it difficult for judges and lawyers to understand, let alone everyday consumers, technology developers, and capitalists. It will certainly provide copyright owners with a wide range of civil and criminal remedies in respect of infringement of economic rights and circumvention of technological protection measures, but it does not fix the manifold problems with the defence of fair dealing.

Programming for the future

The Canberra Times, 14 November

The national shortage in information technology (IT) skills and a decline in the number of high school and college graduates enrolling in IT courses has encouraged the University of Canberra (UC) to reach out and inspire future IT professionals. Year 12 students from Canberra schools competed in the first Informatics Day at the UC. Student teams competed in a range of interactive and fun activities that also gave them an insight into the type of skills and knowledge required for an IT career.

QLD

4/12 Attracting and Retaining Talent workshop Pacific International Apartments, 570 Queen St, Brisbane, 8:30am registrations, 9:00am to 5:00pm. For more information, contact Lita Somogyi, ph 07 8267 3001, national@ipwea.org.au

- **13/12** Library Technicians Online Chat See National events for more details.

- **21/2** 2007 QOPAL Meeting 4:30pm at Softlink, Level 1, Garden Square, Macgregor St, Upper Mt Gravatt. Contact John Scott/Paul Watt, ph 07 31246111, jscott@softlinkint.com

SA

- **6/12** ALIA Information Science SA presents Bits and Books: A quiz with a difference! UniSA City East Library, Brookman Building. 5:30 for 6:00 – 7:45pm \$3 ALIA/VALLG members, \$5 others. RSVP Chris Moore, Chris. Moore@flinders.edu.au by 1 Dec. Contact Fiona Mariner, ph 08 8303 5248, fiona.mariner@adelaide.edu.au

- **13/12** Library Technicians Online Chat See National events for more details.

9–10/3 2007 Learning Futures Public libraries for the new generations in Australia and New Zealand Auslib Conferences, contact Judith Bundy, ph 08 8278 4363, info@auslib.com.au

TAS

- **13/12** Library Technicians Online Chat See National events for more details.

VIC

- **7/12** ALIA Victoria End of year celebration. Celebrate the end of another year and mark the start of the holiday season with ALIA Victoria! Join us at the Hume Global Learning Centre's Age Library for a great party and tour of this wonderful facility. Contact: Jenelle Cleary, ph 03 9651 8389, jenelle.cleary@parliament.vic.gov.au