It's been a **bit wet** in **QLD**

A deluge of rain caused extensive flooding in Queensland earlier this year. Flood areas spread from the southern and western borders, to the northern Gulf and Cape region and including Townsville and Rockhampton on the east coast. In total, 2 500 people were evacuated and the region was declared a natural disaster zone. The Department of Communities has received more than 1700 applications for financial assistance and in excess of one million dollars in emergency assistance payments has already been distributed.

Typically, Queenslanders pulled together to get communities back to normal as fast as possible. Some public library staff were seconded by their local councils to help with emergency work – a far cry from their usual routines.

However, the news is not all doom and gloom. No damage to library buildings or book stock has been reported to the State Library and, luckily libraries in the worst hit areas including Emerald and Charleville were not directly threatened by rising flood levels.

After years of drought, most Queensland residents are happy to tell you the current capacity of their local water supplies. Many dams are now overflowing with Brisbane dam levels reaching 35% capacity—something to celebrate after months of level 6 water restrictions.

The swollen Nogoa River takes over the Coles carpark in Emerald. Picture: Paul Harris

Council libraries have been an ideal place to escape from the rain, the humidity and the sandflies with some libraries enjoying a surge of membership applications and borrowing statistics.

The worst is now over and the clean up of homes and businesses is well underway.

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ALIA Education and Workforce Summit 2008

The Education and Workforce Summit will be held on Friday 28 March 2008 at the State Library of Victoria. It will be informed by critical issues in library and information education and in the library workforce. All ALIA members and groups are invited to make submissions and comments to the Summit and view the background papers. Papers not marked confidential will be made available on the Summit website.

An open forum will be held on the 27th March at the Village Roadshow Theatrette, State Library of Victoria for those interested in a pre-summit discussion.

http://www.alia.org.au/ education/summit08