



University of Zadar

and the information disciplines"; an entire session on modelling bibliographic data and FRBR; a paper on the administration of e-resources and staffing implications; a study of Danish children's use of the International Children's Digital Library; and this author's paper on archiving television in the digital age.

LIDA is a small but surprisingly high-powered conference that provides an opportunity to gain a perspective outside the usual UK/North American axis. I was the only Australian there I think but can recommend attendance – at 200 Euros, registration is a bargain! Currently only hard copies of the papers are available (I know, the irony isn't lost!) – but the digital versions will be available shortly.

Bob Pymm
Charles Sturt University
rpymm@csu.edu.au

Libero Consortia — An Italian success story

The LIBERO Consortia and Resource Sharing concept has been successfully executed in many regions throughout Australia and Europe. The latest LIBERO Consortia success story can be found in Padova, in the Veneto region of Northern Italy. The region consists of 104 communities which are grouped into five major regions covering over 2000 sq kilometers. These communities joined to form a consortium to service a combined 80+ branch libraries throughout the entire region.

Promoted by the Department of Culture of the Province of Padova an extensive process was undertaken to review all library policies. This process determined the necessity to create a unified catalogue in order to achieve a more complete and efficient research instrument. This would then allow searches to be far more comprehensive and effective thus improving the activities of circulation and acquisitions.

The Padova project not only involved the libraries; four additional parties were required to make this project possible. Given the enormous scale of the project it was necessary to roll it out over three stages. Phase one of the project was essentially the developmental stage which began in 2004. Phase two involved the implementation of the Federated Search module allowing members to search across one complete regional catalogue. Phase three saw the consolidation of individual LIBERO software to a unified system.

The benefits achieved are of considerable importance for both the library staff and its members. An overview of just some of

the many benefits achieved include the ability to do a single search on a unified catalogue and return a list of all materials available at each of the participating libraries in the province; uniformity of cataloguing; reduction of costs of cataloguing with data about a book catalogued within one network immediately available to other networks; guarantee of managerial autonomy for each individual network enabling individual library identity. With the unified catalogue it is now possible to know the lending availability of titles and thanks to one card per member in the Province of Padova members are able to borrow from any participating library within the region.

For further information on LIBERO or Consortia and Resource Sharing, please visit <http://www.libero.com.au>.

Michelle Bennett
Marketing & Communications Executive
Insight Informatics Pty Ltd
michelleb@libero.com.au

An Australian in Samoa: celebrating Library Week Samoa "weaving knowledge"

Samoa is known for its beautiful beaches, rugby players, coconuts, *fafaline*, friendly people, *siva ali*, harmonised singing, Christianity, and the year-round humidity of the tropics.

It is not known for its libraries. But the Library Association of Samoa (LAS) plans to change that.



Susanne is second from the left

As I write this we are in the midst of a really successful National Library Week. Our theme for the week is 'weaving knowledge', which relates to traditional Samoan woven fine mats that are valued highly and passed from generation to generation. We want Samoan stories, literature, and traditions to be similarly valued and shared, and for Samoans to have access to the information they need to gain knowledge.

For a tiny pacific island with only one public library serving the entire population, the response to Library Week Samoa has been incredible. This is only the second time Samoa has held a library week. The first was held in 1988, and was by all accounts a modest affair.

I have spent the last four days being overwhelmed by the interest in and passion Samoa has shown for libraries.

From having over five hundred Samoan children dressed as their favourite book character parade through town to the public library, to 106 original short stories and poems about Samoan life entered

INTERNATIONAL LIBRARIANSHIP



Two children celebrate Library Week

in our short story competition in a country that really only has a handful of published authors, to dozens of kids participate in a lively bilingual storytime in Samoan and English, the response has been amazing.

I will take home with me the memory of awarding a gorgeous Samoan Harry Potter — complete with glasses made of wire — the best costume prize at the parade, and of singing “Old Malolo has a farm” with forty Samoan children doing their best impressions of fish, “splash splash”, and mosquitoes, “buzz buzz”, and of discovering untapped talent in the short story competition.

I am lucky enough to be spending one year in Samoa as an Australian Youth Ambassador for Development (<http://www.ayad.com.au>) working at the National University of Samoa Library. As a newly graduated young librarian, I couldn't ask for a better experience, both professionally and personally.

Professionally, I have gone from being on the low rungs of a Melbourne public library hierarchy, a step or two above the shelvers, to playing a major role on a national library committee, being one of the three highest qualified librarians in the country, and lecturing on a course teaching young Samoans to work as school library assistants. I'm busy establishing a law collection within my university library, working with the Australian Law Libraries Twinning Program.

Personally, I've adapted to living in a new culture and have attempted, and failed, to adapt to living with Samoa's humidity! I've discovered outrigger canoeing, Samoan dancing, the Apia Hash, *koko Samoa*, the pleasure of drinking the juice of a fresh young coconut, the joy that comes with living near the water, and of living in a place where everyone knows you.

Despite the success of Library Week Samoa, there is a reason why I am here as an ambassador for development. The differences between Australian libraries and Samoan libraries couldn't be more marked. While Australia's physical collections get smaller as content becomes digitised and more and more web 2.0 devices are used by libraries and librarians, many Samoan libraries are effectively web 0.0, with the bulk of libraries still relying on a card catalogue and a physical collection of books made up largely of donations. There is a lack of Samoan language material. Internet is still for the privileged, and often slow and unreliable. The digital divide abounds.

Yet where there is passion for reading and learning and sharing knowledge, there is potential. I believe Samoa is on the way to being a developed country, and developing good libraries is an important part of that, for education, for community, for culture.

Susanne Newton
Library Management Officer
National University of Samoa Library
susannewton@hotmail.com

A large advertisement for SirsiDynix. The background is a black and white photograph of a man in a striped shirt and suspenders, lying on his stomach in a field of tall grass, looking at a laptop. The SirsiDynix logo is in the top left, with the tagline "Bringing knowledge to life" below it. A block of text is positioned to the left of the man, and the contact information is at the bottom right.

SirsiDynix
Bringing knowledge to life

SirsiDynix software products support libraries in their mission to assist people in discovering and using information, resources, expertise, and other valuable content for their educations, jobs, and even entertainment. It's really about bringing knowledge to people and helping them meet their needs and achieve their objectives. SirsiDynix supports this strategic role for libraries by offering a comprehensive integrated suite of technology solutions for improving the internal productivity of libraries and enhancing their individual capabilities for serving people and communities.

Make enquiries at sales-apac@sirsidynix.com