

## Broadband, libraries and the creation of Australian digital culture

With the new federal government establishing a Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy, maximising the potential of Australia's digital culture has become a new strategic focus. Libraries, archives and related information agencies have a central role to play in creating and exploiting these opportunities by helping communities and organisations – from the local to the national, and across sectors – come to grips with the possibilities that this focus on the digital world offers.

This seminar, the third in a series jointly supported by the National Library of Australia, Charles Sturt University and ALIA is intended to provide a broad overview of what this means for libraries and information agencies in strategy and in practice.

**Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2008, NLA Theatre.**

- 9.00am Welcome and introductions
- 9.15am **The digital economy: what the government is aiming to achieve** (Mia Garlick, Assistant Secretary, Digital Economy, Department of Broadband, Communications & Digital Economy)  
This presentation will outline the potential that the digital economy offers Australia and the Government's objectives and strategies for maximising this potential.
- 10.15am **The Broadband Tender: Five alternative outcomes** (Prof Trevor Barr, Swinburne University of Technology)  
This talk will outline possible outcomes of the National Broadband Tender (NBN) due to be announced early in 2009. This major national project will eventually involve a capital outlay of \$ 4.6 billion from the Rudd government and an additional \$5-9 billion from the preferred fibre network operator. A central issue is what services will be offered on the new broadband and will they justify the return on investment. The address will draw upon overseas experiences from study trips investigating broadband services, notably in Norway, France, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and Canada. The thrust will be how broadband fits into the need for greater diversification of the Australian economy, and how we ought to take advantage of the opportunities emerging from new economic and social practices.
- 11.00am **Morning Tea**
- 11.20am **Broadband in Australia – research into the uptake of broadband in Australian households** (Peter Adams, School of Mathematics and Computing, Charles Sturt University)  
This session presents an analysis of household perceptions about broadband adoption. It discusses household consumers' motivations for installing a broadband connection, the barriers, and their future intentions.

- 11.50am **Developing and maintaining super networks: the Libraries Australia experience** (Debbie Campbell, National Library of Australia)  
The National Library has provided a significant part of Australia's information infrastructure since 1981, in the form of a bibliographic network connecting libraries around the country. This talk will summarise the network as platform, its global context, and its bold new plans for the future.
- 12.30pm **Lunch**
- 1.15pm **The Mousebrain Project** (Derek Whitehead, president ALIA)  
This presentation is about the future of libraries. In particular, it starts with the great achievement of libraries in assembling organised collections and making them available in a unique way and with striking results. It asks: what next? And explores some of the ways libraries may build on this achievement in the years ahead, with a focus on repositories .
- 2.00pm **The PARADISEC model – e-research processes for managing a distributed ethnographic research repository** (Linda Barwick, USyd)  
PARADISEC (the Pacific and Regional Archive for Digital Source in Endangered Cultures) is a University-based collaborative project that aims to preserve and make accessible Australian researchers' field recordings of endangered languages and cultures in the Asia-Pacific region. This presentation will discuss the principles that have guided the establishment and development of PARADISEC, including piloting innovative ways of delivering materials out of our collections online.
- 2.40pm **Copyright in the digital age** (Laura Simes, Executive officer, Australian Digital Alliance)  
Copyright is frequently raised as a hurdle to preservation of and access to digital materials, as well as to other novel uses of digital materials. While copyright can present a substantial hurdle, there are a number of copyright provisions as well as non-legislative developments that enable diverse uses of digital materials. This presentation will look at recent copyright developments, exceptions to copyright (such as the relatively new flexible dealing provision, section 200AB) and non-legislative responses (such as creative commons licenses) and consider their effect upon the creation and use of digital materials.
- 3.10pm **Afternoon Tea**
- 3.25pm **Web based tools for libraries – getting something for nothing** (Kerry Webb, ALIA Columnist and blogger)  
Along with information on everything under the sun, you can also find plenty of tools and sites on the Web for professional librarians – so many in fact that some managers may question the need for libraries and librarians. Many of

these tools can help you do your job better, but despite the hype there is always a cost.

4.00pm **Public libraries and digital futures** (Christine Mackenzie, Yarra Plenty Regional Library)

4.45pm **Close** followed by complimentary drinks from CSU Winery