



Biblia

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NEWSLETTER OF ALIA WEST

The online version of Biblia is available at
<http://alia.org.au/members-only/groups/aliawest/biblia/>

November 2004

This month we dip into the past in more ways than one. We explore the old pumping station at the Mundaring Weir, take a trip with Roberta Cowan through some of the libraries she visited during her time in Europe in 2003 and catch up with a former Sharr Medal winner, Kim Grace. We also learn of the link between Curtin University and a former United States President. There are a lot of events in the Diary Dates so make sure you check it out. We have another informative piece by Lorraine Bradshaw on employment issues, and a very thoughtful reply to last month's letter to the editor. Christmas is just around the corner, so if you are planning any activities or events, please send your copy in early so it is sure to get into the December issue. I will be trying very hard to get the next issue of Biblia out by the 1st December, so will be sticking to the deadline.

Those of you involved in ALIA groups may find the following information from Sharon Cunningham at National Office useful.

A lot of group events for WA seems to be missing from the events database on ALIANet. Can you let people know in WA for more publicity to complete the form at: <http://alia.org.au/events/add/>.

The event is then listed not only on the WA events pages but in their respective group activities pages as well - all events listed are also cross-checked for inclusion in upcoming issues of inCite.

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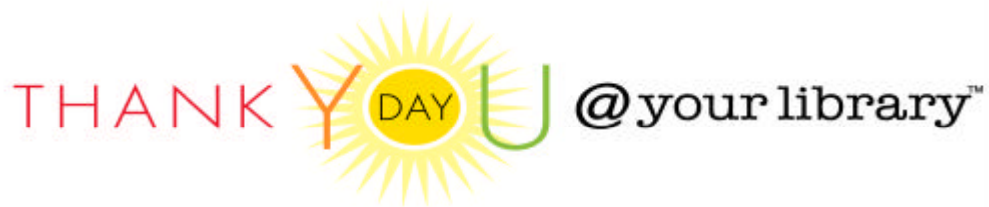
Happy Reading!

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ACN 090 953 236

Australian Library and Information Association



November 18th is 'Thank-You' day and we are asking all libraries to participate in the day.

A TV commercial has been made and will be shown on Channel 9 and WIN TV from the 1st to the 18th November. You may know some of the faces; especially check-out the crowd scene outside the State Library.

Thank-You day is designed to be a special day for libraries, a day on which to celebrate the past and showcase the future. Libraries have the opportunity of thanking their patrons including Local, State & Commonwealth governments, volunteers and Friends of Library groups and your customers. Libraries, public, academic and corporate, throughout the state are encouraged to open their doors wide and welcome all their past, present and future customers to join the celebrations with activities, large or small, such as:

- Have a party; make the library warm, festive, open and fun.
- Give out thank you day invites at your local shopping centre; ask local retailers to have invites on their counters
- Lucky dip for children and adults – ask local retailers to supply vouchers (dinner for two, cd voucher)
- Invite local bands, choirs etc in for a lunchtime or evening jam
- Invite local radio station to do an inside (outside) broadcast
- Have brunch, lunch or morning tea
- Have refreshments on hand
- Look at events that you've run before that customers enjoyed and participated in and run them again.
- Special acknowledgements, e.g. youngest library member, 100th customer – give them a prize.
- Sausage sizzle – sponsorship by local butcher?
- Introduce new councillors
- Involve friends groups/book clubs etc
- Send a thank you card as an invite
- Balloons, streamers, banner (display in Council, shopping centre and library)
- Design a calico bag for 2004@your library thank you
- Local heroes, e.g. emergency services
- Celebrities @ desk
- Thank you cake @ the desk
- Bring along a can of food to thank Salvation Army or similar group instead of enforcing fines
- Invite school and aged care visits at same time
- Involve your local businesses; invite them in for a morning/afternoon tea or cocktail hour, encourage local businesses to network with each other.
- Book clubs – bring them all together for a chat and refreshments
- Bring schools and aged care groups together for refreshments and stories

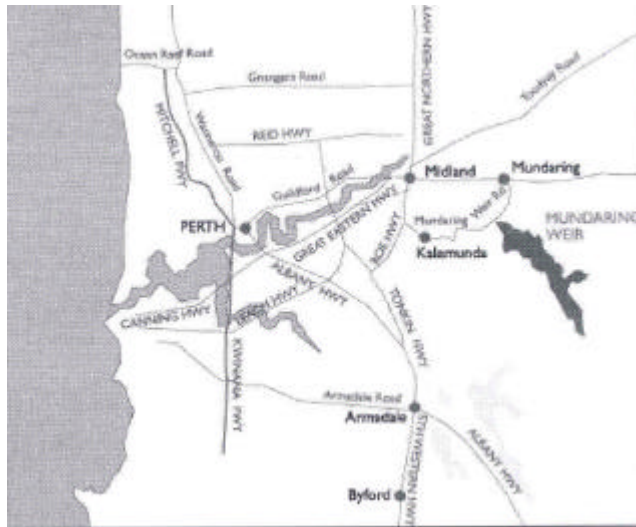
So whatever is your sector or budget, remember the 18th and have some fun. I'm going all out and putting lollies on the reading desk in my very small public sector library. But, hey, I'm sure you'll have some better ideas.

Maureen Cooper
@Your Library Steering Committee Member – Special Libraries.

**ALIA Local Studies W.A. Group's visit to Mundaring Weir (Perth) and
Number One Pumping Station of the "Golden Pipeline"**

by ALIA Local Studies W.A. Group

A tour of the *Number One Pumping Station* of the Water Corporation's Mundaring (Perth)-Kalgoorlie water pipeline, "*The Golden Pipeline*", was arranged by the ALIA Local Studies W.A. Group for Friday 15th October (see map for location of Weir). Nine interested people associated with the group participated in what was a thoroughly enjoyable, historically informative session.



Map: Location of Mundaring Weir – site of Number One Pumping Station of *The Golden Pipeline* to Kalgoorlie
Source: Water Corporation website: www.watercorporation.com.au/dams/dams_mundaring.cfm
accessed 13.10.2004.

The group was welcomed at the pumping station by National Trust educator, Diane Frylinck (diana.frylinck@ntwa.com.au) who provided an interesting history of the station and pipeline.

The pipeline's long history began in the mid-1890s when the State's goldrush around Kalgoorlie and Coolgardie commenced. Conditions on the goldfields were inhospitable – dry, dusty and with a severe shortage of water. The State's Engineer-in-Chief, C.Y. O'Connor, proposed an ambitious solution to the water problem; the construction of a pipeline from a storage reservoir (now the Mundaring Weir, 40km east of Perth) to the goldfields. The water was to be pumped along the pipeline by a series of eight steam-powered pumping stations to the goldfields 500km away. Many of O'Connor's contemporaries, even the parliament of the day, were sceptical of the scheme but in January 1903 O'Connor was vindicated when the pumped water arrived at the Mount Charlotte Reservoir, Kalgoorlie. Unfortunately, O'Connor did not live to see his dream realised - he committed suicide just prior to the pumps being activated. His suicide note gave no clue as to why he chose to end his life – it does indicate that he was optimistic of the pipeline's success however.

After the fascinating introduction to the pipeline's history and explanations of the workings of the pumps, the group was guided through the museum on the site of the original pumping station. The museum at that stage had not been opened to the public – our group was privileged to receive a pre-emptive look through.



The museum consists of two main rooms.

- ❖ In the first, visitors are able to see the structures, pipes, etc. which produced the steam that powered the pumps. At strategic locations in the room there are information plaques and diagrams explaining the functioning of the various pump components.
- ❖ The second room also contains pumping equipment as well as many interactive, educational displays and information panels with images of the pipeline's history. The interactive displays will be highly popular with school groups which might visit the museum – one in particular, where a team of visitors can pump water along a simulated “pipeline” via “pumping stations” to demonstrate the engineering involved in moving water from Mundaring to Kalgoorlie, will provide an ideal opportunity for learning in an applied and enjoyable way.

A visit to the Mundaring Weir and tour of the museum is high recommended to all those interested in the history and development of Western Australia. The ALIA Group certainly found its visit to be highly enjoyable and informative.

For those wishing to further their knowledge, why not take a tour of the entire length of the pipeline and investigate the many heritage sites along its length? The National Trust has published a guidebook, “The Golden Pipeline Heritage Trail Guide”, which will assist those deciding to undertake this adventure.

Today, Mundaring Weir still provides fresh water to the goldfield regions and agricultural locations along its route. Quite a significant achievement considering the initial opposition to the pipeline's construction at all!

New Galvin Medical Library at the University of Notre Dame.

The University of Notre Dame Australia is due to open the new Galvin Medical Library in February 2004. The new library is being developed to service the College of Health students and academic staff and will be situated in the new School of Medicine in the old Fremantle Furniture Factory. Our first group of medical students is due to commence study in Semester One 2004, and so, the race begins to have the Medical Library ready in time.

It has been an exciting year planning and working towards opening a new library for the College of Health. The process has been fraught with frustrations, challenges, mixed with an overriding sense of satisfaction. What have been some of the most interesting moments?

- Convincing people that the library action plan was now five months behind schedule and we needed staff and a budget urgently;
- Experiencing the difficulties involved in obtaining the human resources required in order to fulfill the project;
- Developing collaborative relationships with other organisations such as Curtin University and St John of God Hospital Libraries (Subiaco and Murdoch);
- Reclassifying the existing health collection from Dewey to the National Library of Medicine Classification Scheme.

What has been achieved for the Galvin Medical Library to date has been done through dedication, devotion and a lot of hard work. It will be interesting to see if we can maintain the momentum until February, or will the planning and development of the library break us?

Virginia Dickson
College of Health Liaison Librarian
University of Notre Dame Australia

Curtin explores a presidential link

In 1897 a young American engineer arrived in Western Australia and was sent to Coolgardie and Kalgoorlie, the centre of mining operations. His name was Herbert Clark Hoover and many years later he became the 31st President of the United States.

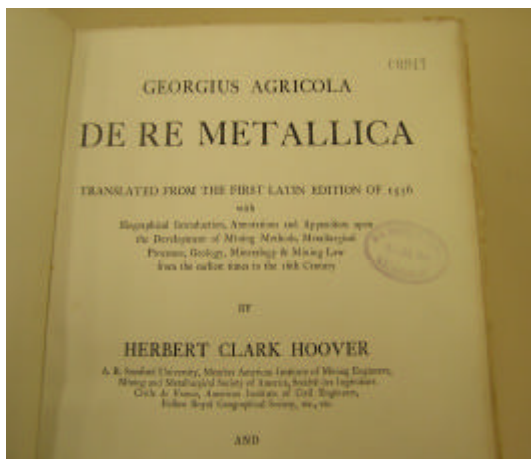
In recognition of President Hoover's connection with the area, the Hoover Institution donated to the Western Australian School of Mines at Kalgoorlie a 637-page, limited edition copy of the 1912 edition of Georgius Agricola's *De Re Metallica*. It is one of the treasures of the Kalgoorlie Campus Library at Curtin University of Technology.

This first English translation was a labour of love by Herbert Hoover and his wife, Lou Henry Hoover, who added footnotes and researched many of the engineering methods detailed in the book. Originally published in Latin in 1556, *De Re Metallica* was the first book on mining to be based on field research and observation - what we today would call the "scientific approach."

During his stay in Western Australia, Herbert Hoover would travel to outlying mines by camel. On one of his trips he made an inspection of a new mine which he recommended his company buy. It was the Sons of Gwalia mine which proved to be one of the richest gold mines in the world and, as the mine manager, he commissioned a house to be built on the site at Leonora.

This building, known as Hoover House, has recently been restored to its former glory with help from many local volunteers and at a cost of \$500,000. It now provides a bed and breakfast for travellers to Leonora as well as operating as tearooms and providing function facilities.

The Hoover Foundation continues to give a grant every year to the WA School of Mines (WASM) with which to buy books. WASM is the oldest constituent part of Curtin University of Technology and celebrated its centenary in 2002. The Kalgoorlie campus is part of Curtin Library and Information Service and covers students studying a range of courses from mining geology to extractive metallurgy and environmental engineering. It is the only institution of its kind in Western Australia.



The title page of De Re Metallica



An image of one of its intricate wood engravings which were used to demonstrate field techniques

Letter to the editor

I would like to make a couple of points in response to Barbara Boulton's letter in the October issue of *Biblia*.

Firstly, not all employed library staff have employers who are willing to pay the cost of seminars, conferences, and short courses. Some employers will not pay for training because they consider only the cost of training and not the increased productivity, effect on staff morale, improvement to customer service, and other possible benefits. Often staff who are on casual or short-term contracts will not have access to training, even if permanent staff do. The repercussions of employers not providing training affect not just individual staff, clients, and the employing institution but the national economy. The lack of training and experience caused by a highly casualised workforce leads to a measurable decline in productivity, as discussed by Phil Teece in his *Workwatch* column (see *Incite* November 2003).

Even where employers are willing to pay for staff training, the limited funds and high cost of some courses, not to mention the need to share out funds between a number of staff, mean that individuals may have to pay for some courses themselves. Whether or not you are in paid employment you will have to invest some money in your continuing professional development. The trick is to pick the courses and events that offer the most benefit to you and the least impact on your wallet.

My second point is that you don't have to focus on library related short courses. There are many generic skills which will be of benefit such as budgeting, dealing with difficult customers, time management, computer skills, and public speaking. These generic skills, especially communication skills, do get mentioned in selection criteria. Some of the courses offered in these skills will be expensive but often there are cheaper options. ALIA's CPD scheme recognises a variety of forms of professional development, including relatively cheap options such as professional reading.

Training opportunities in WA include:

Library related short courses

This includes CAVAL, Dialog, and Kinetica courses which are generally a half day to two days long. They are quite expensive, in part because the presenters often come from the Eastern states. In the case of software training I would only recommend doing the course if you are currently using or soon will be using the software as otherwise you will quickly forget what you learned.

UWA Extension

<http://www.extension.uwa.edu.au/>

Courses are offered year round, not just during the Summer School. A wide variety of courses are available during the day, evening and on weekends. Some courses are available online. Many of the courses are in the \$100 - \$200 range.

TAFE

TAFE courses are a relatively cheap way of learning or improving skills. There are two main options: enrolling in Adult Community Education (ACE) units which are run during the four terms or enrolling in one of the full-time or part-time courses. I have noticed that ACE units tend to be more expensive than the equivalent units in the certificates and diplomas so enrolling in a certificate or diploma is cheaper (you don't have to do the entire course – just pick the units you want to do). Computing units offered as part of a certificate will probably cost around \$50 or so versus \$100 - \$150 for ACE units. Those are quite rough figures but it is obvious which is cheaper. TAFE units are available in the evening and some are offered on Saturdays. It is also possible to do some units online or via flexible delivery.

Information on training packages offered by TAFE and some commercial providers is available from the National Training Information Service website: <http://www.ntis.gov.au/>

Computing

Having done a university graduate diploma in this subject as well as a TAFE certificate I would recommend studying computing at TAFE because it is much cheaper, focuses on teaching hands on skills, and offers a greater variety of subjects.

Networking, programming, software applications, and website design are among the courses offered. The units offered range from the very basic to advanced so whatever your skills, you should be able to find something at your current level. The certificates and diplomas are also available through commercial providers, as well as a plethora of short courses (1 or 2 days) but it is much cheaper to do it through TAFE.

Public speaking

There are three organisations that will give you practice and feedback on your public speaking skills. Costs include a joining fee and fees for meetings. Each organisation has a number of groups so it should be possible to find one near where you live or work.

The Penguin Club of Australia

<http://www.thepenguinclub.asn.au/>

Rostrum

<http://www.rostrum.asn.au/>

Toastmasters

<http://www.toastmasters.org/>

(NB: When searching "Find a club", look under "Pacific Rim" for Australia)

Train the Trainer

This course is known as (BSZ40198) Certificate IV in Assessment and Workplace Training on the NTIS website. I have not done the course as the price tag is beyond my budget but it is offered fairly regularly by commercial providers and some not for profit organisations. It will cost at least \$1000 and takes at least a week to complete. There is also a diploma available for those with deep pockets or with a generous employer.

E-lists

E-lists give you the opportunity to tap into the collective wisdom of the group by asking questions about professional issues or by reading the postings in response to the queries posed by others. They are quite educational, especially if you are new to the field, and provide access to information that may not be written down anywhere else. If you are considering joining an e-list, have a look through the archives, if it is available, to see whether it is of interest to you and remember that digest mode is advisable for any list which receives lots of postings.

Professional reading

Read *Incite* and the *Australian Library Journal* at least. The other journals to read depend on where you work/what you are interested in. Many journals are available in libraries or on the internet so cost should not be an issue, it is really a matter of deciding which journals you want to read and finding the time to do so.

ALIA events

Functions run by ALIA groups generally offer a good opportunity to network or learn something new, and are usually very cheap. Some will only be of interest to a particular group, but there should be at least a couple of events of interest to you during the year.

Being on ALIA committees will give you experience in organising events, handling money, taking minutes, public speaking, negotiation, or other skills.

As you can see from this less than comprehensive list, there are a number of training options available. Don't be put off by the price of individual courses. Analyse your training needs first, and then consider the ways in which you can get that training. For example, if you feel that you need to learn DB/Textworks you could investigate what training courses are available but you could also offer to do volunteer work at a library which uses it, look for user groups that you could join, and see whether any websites have training manuals or cheat sheets for the software. Work out what you want and then work out ways to achieve it. The ALIA Career Development Kit will help you to analyse your training needs and plan how to meet those needs. If you are in the CPD scheme, completion of the kit counts towards your CPD hours.

Camille Peters

What's Hot and What's Not?

We are often asked what are the hot skills to have. What do I need to be able to do, to get the job that I want? Good question. However, the answer may surprise you. The hottest skills to have at any time are the ones that most people take for granted. These hot skills are what we call Core Competencies.

Core competencies remain the same regardless of the season, or the cyclical nature of the information world. If you have a look at the selection criteria of most positions you will notice that the same core competencies keep coming up. And that is no surprise. What was important to a potential employer a year ago is going to be just as relevant and important today. Whilst some job specific requirements will need to be addressed, for example – whether or not you have experience of a particular piece of software, or whether you are a member of the Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA) or not, the core competencies are exactly that. They are central to who we are and what we do. However, one of the problems we have found is that the core competencies are usually the ones that new graduates lack. Why? Well core competencies are those skills that are gained by experience, whilst some of them can be taught, most of them are gained through working and exposure.

For instance:

Good customer service skills – if you do not like people, and do not want to help them then I would suggest you are in the wrong profession. If you are unsure of what good customer service is, then a quick walk to the local shopping centre will give you some clues. I'm sure you have all seen shop assistants who look bored, don't engage their customers in dialogue, are rude to the point of ignoring the people who pay their wages, or point a vague hand in the direction of whatever it is they are looking for. I'm sure you can add a few more of your own. The important thing to note is that we are all in the customer service business.

Good Written and Verbal Communication Skills – I am sure the educators who read this will be saying – of course we teach this competency, and I would have to agree, to a certain point. Who was taught how to put together a business proposal? A report? A well constructed business case or letter? Who was taught how to write an application letter or how to answer selection criteria, who was taught how to construct a CV and a resume? These are all important skills, but few people are taught the right way to write these important documents. I, like most of my fellow students learnt by experience and the comments from our tutors, but formally taught? The answer is no. However, a friend who decided to do a business course was taught these skills. So a question to our educators – should we incorporate these competencies into our courses? If we want to give our graduates every opportunity perhaps we should. Before you make up your mind, one final point with regards to this competency. Did you know that a potential employer looks at your job application as evidence of good written communication skills? Well they do. Whilst the interview will test the quality of your verbal communication skills, the quality of your written word will get you one stage closer to getting to the interview stage. If you cannot prove that you are the best person for the position – on paper, then you will not be doing it in person.

So how do new graduates get the experience they need? Are practicums the answer or should we be looking at alternatives?

Every student of the information profession who undertakes formal study in Australia has to do "Prac". This intensive training period in a library setting is designed to expose us to what it would be like to work in a "real library" or two. The question is – does it? Is it realistic to expect a student to know everything about an organisation from a short period of work experience? Or would they benefit from a longer placement? I have to say that it is unrealistic to expect our new graduates to be well versed in library management from such limited exposure and I would like to see a closer cooperation between the educators and those people who already work in our industry to find the right balance between theory and practical., would our industry benefit from a formal apprenticeship policy, or are we doing enough?

As a final note, I would like to express my thanks to those institutions and organisations who offer their staff, time and therefore money, knowledge and experience to offer new graduates the chance to experience life in a practical rather than theoretical way, and to the mentoring groups who assist new graduates find work.

Lorraine Bradshaw works for Information Enterprises Australia (IEA) <<http://www.iea.com.au>>, a specialist library and records management recruitment agency, consultants and trainers in Western Australia. For permanent staff placements and short-term labour hire solutions.



Where are they now? A peek into the life of former ALIA award winners.



Kim Grace 2001 ALIA Sharr
Medal winner

This month we catch up with 2001 Sharr Medal winner Kim Grace. Kim very kindly agreed to be interviewed by email and has provided a very interesting snapshot of his life since the Sharr medal.

Q. What have you been up to since winning the Medal?

For the past two years, and since leaving Maylands Public Library, I have been working as an environmental field officer with Bennett Brook Environmental Services. We do training, management plans, flora/fauna surveys, bush and wetland rehabilitation, anything-involving environmental projects, big and small. I love it, but it is hard yakka, especially for an old bloke like me!

I am also a TAFE lecturer in landcare currently running two off-campus courses for Challenger TAFE, one at Lakelands Senior High, the other at Boola Wongin Nursery. Once again, it is not work when you love doing it.

Ironically, I had just been appointed to a library position when I received these questions, and will hopefully start with the State Library in November.

Q. What impact (if any) did winning the Sharr medal have on you as a person, and professionally speaking?

Personally, it was a huge thrill for my family, and myself. I was very proud to win it, and to be presented with the medal by Ali Sharr before his sad passing. Sometimes I cannot believe I actually won it until I look up on the wall and see it. It has been one of the big thrills of my life.

Professionally, to be perfectly honest (which can be a fault of mine I have been told!) it did not seem to help me at all and may even have been somewhat of a hindrance in obtaining library work. Either that or they did not like the colour of my ties at the interviews! Whatever, I got very few interviews let alone job offers and I admit to becoming very despondent about the whole profession and my place in it. But life goes on, bills have to be paid, and I loved every moment in the environmental field and the people I worked with. They made me feel valued, and part of the team.

Q. Given that the Sharr Medal is awarded to the candidate who displays the most potential to have a positive impact on their preferred stream of librarianship, do you feel you have achieved your potential (or are on track to do so?)

Definitely not, nowhere near it!

In fact, I was embarrassed when asked to help judge the Sharr Medal recipient last year because I felt that I should have been in libraries doing what I was trained to do. I also felt that I had let a lot of people down, in particular those who had chosen me as a recipient because I could not find a library job, not even as a casual librarian. In the end, I accepted the role because for me the award is not just about librarianship, it is about wanting to help people in their search for knowledge, and wanting to make a difference to both the people we serve and to the profession.



Q. In your acceptance speech [<http://alia.org.au/publishing/orana/38.2/grace.html>] you alluded to the potential that librarians have to change the perceptions of those they encounter. (I am thinking of your story about the bush fire) Do you still feel that way? Has your career so far borne out that perception?

My own (few) experiences with clients in public libraries has definitely reinforced that belief, strengthened it in fact. Good librarians - and I include all those hard working library clerks I have worked with - are more than just custodians of a collection, they can also become gateways through which people - and not always your 'normal' person - communicate with the mainstream world as well as gain access to the worlds of imagination and knowledge. This is particularly important with kids, the elderly and the disenfranchised.

Many of the clients I dealt with on a daily basis became more than clients and that was a great thing to be part of, to be able to change their perceptions of libraries, other people and sometimes the world itself. People skills are not taught enough in librarianship and yet they are the one attribute most often required, and I don't mean just conflict resolution.

Q. Where to now? What are your plans for the future?

Continue environmental work in a voluntary capacity, finish off the children's books I am working on, try and regain the passion I had for librarianship and use it to make that positive impact Ali Sharr would have wanted all librarians to have, not just the ones lucky and privileged enough to be awarded with his medal.



Kim in the field as an environmental officer.

Meet the Committee (part 2)

This issue we introduce Rose Hockley and Jeanette Hill

Rose Hockley ALIAWest Secretary

Born in Adelaide, I then married and moved to Canberra where I spent most of my early working life operating the computers that used to fill huge rooms. We moved to Perth in the early 80's, and while the children were little, studied at Curtin, finally completing my degree in Library and Information Studies in the early 90's. I began working with WMC Resources soon after and having been through stages of being casual, contract, permanent part-time, retrenched, contract, and currently permanent part-time, hope to remain with them for the foreseeable future. In between, I've also had stints at the environmental, engineering and agricultural libraries within WesfarmersCSBP. I enjoy swimming, skiing walking, gardening, and socialising/ networking. I joined the ALIAWest committee as a means of giving back to the profession a little of what I had enjoyed with the Specials Group activities in the past and would urge anyone interested in becoming part of a friendly, supportive and stimulating group of like-minded professionals to do the same.

Jeanette Hill ALIA West Treasurer 2005

Jeanette Hill has been actively involved in ALIA West and two of its predecessor groups, KISWA and Special Librarians, since starting work in the Perth CBD in 1999/00. Before that time she attended various ALIA functions as time permitted and spent an interesting couple of years on a committee involved in the 1997 Specials, Health and Law Librarians Conference held in Perth.

Jeanette started formal library work in the public library system, many years ago, before computers, firstly for LISWA then the City of Wanneroo/Joondalup. She is currently the Information Services Officer for LandCorp, a government authority for whom she has worked since it was formed in 1992.

During 2004 Jeanette was involved as ALIA's representative in the inaugural ECU Early Career Award - Information Services. The Awards will be held again in 2005, so watch out for the launch announcements in March.

Jeanette says she is thankful to Judy Allan for continuing as Treasurer until the end of 2004 as it gives her time to come to terms with the intricacies of the ALIA financial procedures. She has a feeling 'GST' will often feature in her talks with Judy next year.

Jeanette's contact details at work are:
Jeanette Hill, Information Services Officer
LandCorp. (08)9486 7466
jeanette.hill@landcorp.com.au
Home: jjak.hill@bigpond.com.au

INDEXING MEDAL - Australian Society of Indexers (AusSI)

AusSI is again offering its annual Medal for the most outstanding index to a book or periodical compiled in Australia or New Zealand.

The Medal will be presented to the indexer responsible for the best work submitted and the publisher will be presented with a certificate.

To be eligible for the award, the index must be in print and must have been first published after 2001. It must have been compiled in Australia or New Zealand even though the text to which it refers may have originated elsewhere.

For the award, indexes are judged at the level of outstanding professional achievement, thus sufficient material is required, both in quality and quantity, for appraisal. The index should be substantial in size, the subject matter should be complex, and the language, form and structure of the index should demonstrate the indexer's expertise as well as serving the needs of the text and the reader.

Publishers, indexers and all interested persons are invited to nominate indexes which meet the above criteria, and which they regard as worthy of consideration. Indexers are encouraged to nominate their own works. Please send recommendations, with bibliographic details, together with a copy of the book (which will be returned if requested) to :

John Simkin
Australian Society of Indexers Medal Competition
PO Box 680
Belgrave, Victoria, 3160

as soon as possible but no later than Monday 13 December 2004 For further information, please contact John Simkin on the above address or by e-mail: simmo27au@yahoo.com.au



Six months on - a view from Perth (Oct 2004)

Some of you may remember the articles in Biblia 2003 by Roberta Cowan about her experiences in Europe in 2003. Roberta went to London as Australian Botanical Liaison Officer (ABLO) at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew (London) for 12 months. She was the first librarian, the first marine botanist, the first person from a university and the seventh woman ever to take up the role. During the twelve months at RBGKew, she started work on a 25-year project - Taxonomic Literature Cryptogamia (TLC) a bibliographic database of non-flowering plant information. TLC will provide short biographies on all authors, information on their plant collections and a descriptive bibliography of their works.

Roberta has kindly written a short description of some of the Libraries she visited in 2003 [ed.]

Iceland

National Library of Iceland

Herbarium Library Iceland

At the end of March 2003 I travelled to Iceland as a 4-day package tourist. Although a lot of travelling and time has occurred since the 'holiday' in south west Iceland this trip remains one of the highlights of my 12 months away from Perth. Iceland is one of the places on the planet where you can stand on the American plate and walk a short distance and stand on the European plate. The site of the first parliament of Iceland in the ninth century was held at Thingvellir, where the plates meet. The summer residence of the president can be seen beside the river.

On the last free day I spent time at the small library associated with the Herbarium of Iceland. The herbarium is part of the Institute of Natural History of Iceland. Like all the librarians I met throughout my travels, Palina was very helpful and arranged meetings with botanists who were working on the lower plants, both terrestrial and aquatic, of Iceland. Iceland has provided for all citizens internet access to all the major databases via the National Library of Iceland. The building houses both the national library and the university library.

Croatia

National Library, Zagreb

Herbarium Library, Zagreb

Central Library, Zagreb

Ten years ago librarians from the herbaria and horticultural institutions in Europe met in London at the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew. Each year the European Botanical and Horticultural Libraries (EBHL) meet for 3-5 days. In 2003 the meeting was held in Zagreb, Croatia. I gave a seminar on the bibliographic work I am involved in and had the opportunity of meeting librarians from both eastern and western Europe. The meeting was arranged by the Grodzana, the librarian from the Botanical Institute, University of Croatia. The meeting consisted of talk sessions, workshops and visits to Zagreb libraries, including the new National Library of Zagreb and the Central Library of Zagreb as well as a walking tour of old Zagreb and the botanic garden.

The National Library building is a modern library complex, which provides access to the national collection. The Central Library building was the former home of the national collection. At the time of our visit the reading room was being refurbished. From the peak we were given it will be magnificent when completed. The Central Library now houses a very large and important theological collection. We were treated to a 'show and tell' session by the rare book librarian of some of the treasures held in this library. The book being handled by the librarian dates from 1200 and was in incredible condition. Remember this area of Europe was at war very few years ago. The two librarians standing behind the rare book librarian are both from Sarajevo. The trip from London to Zagreb took 5 hours door-to-door. The librarians from Bosnia had an 8 hour bus trip across the mountains from Sarajevo to Zagreb. It was obvious that the siege and the loss of the libraries in that city had taken a great toll on these women. The library at the university in Sarajevo lost much of its collection during the war.

I will be returning to London to work from December to February. If you need information from London collections please contact me by email: roberta.cowan@cbs.curtin.edu.au.



Photos.



Thingvellir, where the plates meet and the site of the first parliament of Iceland in the ninth century



National Library of Iceland



Central Library, Zagreb



Rare book display, Central Library Zagreb



National Library Zagreb



Blogging and Libraries



Blogs, blogging, blogger, blogosphere ??
Do you know what we are talking about?
Should you know? Should you know more?
Does any of this matter anyway?

A public lecture by
Professor Anne Clyde

Wednesday, 17 November 2004

5:30 pm – 6:30 pm

\$10.00 (GST incl.), \$7.00 ALIA members

Alexander Library Building, Perth Cultural Centre

Registration will begin at 5.00 pm.

Tea and coffee will be provided.

Please register my/our name(s) for the Lecture. I enclose a cheque for the required amount, payable to Edith Cowan University – SCIS or I hereby authorise Edith Cowan University to charge this transaction on my behalf to the credit or charge card(s) listed below:

Name: _____ Organisation: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Amount: _____ Card Type: _____ Expiry: ____/____

Card Number: _____

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Please return to Judy Clayden, SCIS, Edith Cowan University, 2 Bradford Street MOUNT LAWLEY 6050.

For further details, email j.clayden@ecu.edu.au (if possible) or phone (08) 9370 6298

Diary Dates

NOVEMBER

DATE: 2ND (TUES)

EVENT: Pub Mentoring

VENUE: Queens Hotel, Mount Lawley

TIME: 5:30pm

DATE: 2ND (TUES)

EVENT: WA Health Libraries meeting

SPEAKER: Charmian St John

VENUE: Shenton Park campus of Royal Perth Hospital
6 Selby Street, Shenton Park

TIME: 5:30pm

RSVP to David Dawson 9224 2395
9224 2295

DATE: 3RD (WED)

EVENT: ASA (WA Branch) General meeting
"The Italian Jobs"

SPEAKERS: Josette Mathers, Martin Fordham

VENUE: Executive Boardroom, 4th floor

Building 408, Curtin Business School

Curtin University

TIME: 5 for 5:30pm

COST: \$1 members, \$2 non-members

RSVP by 1/11 to Martin Fordham
mfordham@sro.wa.gov.au 9427 3363

DATE: 4TH (THURS)

EVENT: Kinetica Document Delivery training

VENUE: PC training room, State Library

TIME: 9:15am - 4:30pm

COST: \$258.50

CONTACT: Jane Jones 9427 3256
jjones@liswa.wa.gov.au

DATE: 6TH (SAT)

EVENT: Oral History Association of Australia
Annual Conference 2004

Capturing the Missing Voice

VENUE: UWA - Albany Centre

Stirling Terrace, Albany

TIME: 8:30am - 5pm

COST: Early bird: \$55 member, \$65 non-member

After 20/9/04: \$75 member, \$85 non-member

ENQUIRIES: Judith Jacobs 9410 7455 (AH) judith.

jacobs@joondalup.wa.gov.au

Registration form and cheque to Treasurer, OHAA WA

Branch PO Box 1065

Nedlands WA 6909

DATE: 9TH (TUES)

EVENT: ALIA West meeting

VENUE: Room 2.9

Alexander Library Building

TIME: 5:30pm

DATE: 10TH (WED)

EVENT: WALTGuMP meeting

VENUE: Meeting room

Morley Public Library

Dewar Street, Morley

TIME: 5:45 for 6pm

RSVP to Judy Allan allan@arach.net.au

DATE: 18TH (THURS)

EVENT: Local Government Records Management Group
conference "Record Keeping:

Putting Plans into Practice" Training workshops Concur-

rent courses:

1) Retention and disposal

2) Using Keywords for Councils

VENUE: Esplanade Hotel, Fremantle

TIME: 1 - 4:30pm

COST: \$55

Registration form and payment to:

LGMA WA Division

Suite 14/4 Ventnor Avenue

West Perth WA 6005

Registration due by 11/11

DATE: 19TH (FRI)

EVENT: Local Government Records Management Group
conference "Record Keeping:

Putting Plans into Practice"

VENUE: Esplanade Hotel, Fremantle

TIME: 8:30am - 4:30pm

COST: \$143

Registration form and payment to:

LGMA WA Division

Suite 14/4 Ventnor Avenue

West Perth WA 6005

Registration due by 11/11

DATE: 23RD (TUES)

EVENT: Multicultural Documentary Heritage Workshop

VENUE: Great Southern Room

Alexander Library Building

TIME: 9am - 4:30pm

ENQUIRIES: Sue Sondalini 9427 3275

David Whiteford 9427 3420

RSVP to Kelly Boxall 9427 3334

DECEMBER

DATE: 1ST (WED)

EVENT: ALIA West breakfast

VENUE: Chifley Hotel

TIME: 7:30am



DATE: 3RD (FRI)
EVENT: RMAA 2004 Christmas Function
SPEAKER: Judith Ellis
"Stakeholder Engagement in Archives and Records"
VENUE: 4th floor Boardroom
Alexander Library Building
TIME: 2:30 - 5pm
COST: members free, \$10 non-members

RSVP by 26/11 to Trissa Dent Trissa.
dent@watercorporation.com.au
9420 3242

DATE: 5TH (SUN)
EVENT: Australian Society of Archivists (WA Branch)
Christmas Breakfast
VENUE: Red Herring Restaurant
26 Riverside Drive, East Fremantle
TIME: 8:30am
RSVP by 2/12 to Martin Fordham
mfordham@sro.wa.gov.au 9427 3363

DATE: 7TH (TUES)
EVENT: Pub Mentoring
VENUE: Little Creatures Brewery, Fremantle
TIME: 5:30pm

DATE: 8TH (WED)
EVENT: IIM WA Branch Christmas party
VENUE: Hotel Grand Chancellor
TIME: 12 - 3pm
COST: \$20 members
\$29.50 non-members
Payment required by 31/10
RSVP by 31/10 to Celia Chesney 9368 3948
cchesney@agric.wa.gov.au



From the Editors

The deadline for copy is the 25th of the month.

Articles and photos about recent events, news about upcoming events, suggestions for Net Notes topics, and contributions from groups may be sent to Bonnie-Rae Bruce: b.bruce@curtin.edu.au