



Biblia

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NEWSLETTER OF ALIA WEST

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

June/July 2006

Hi folks and welcome to the June July issue of Biblia. There has been so many events occurring over the last couple of months including Library and Information Week, and unfortunately not many articles about the fun or interesting facts about the events have come in to be added to the newsletter. This is your newsletter and both Bonnie and I have had fun putting it together for you. However we do need your input. So, please if you do attend a seminar, conference or social activity write an article and send it and find your name as a byline. This is how, as editors, we can keep the newsletter interesting .

Next week, ALIAwest is holding its Annual General Meeting at the Grapeskin Winebar in William Street, Northbridge. Tuesday 11 July 2006, at 5.30 pm. Nominations for the position of Convenor, Secretary, Treasurer and Committee Members are invited. Also included is the position of Biblia editor. Due to work and family commitments, neither Bonnie or I will be able to continue in the editing role. If you have any questions regarding the position(s), please do not hesitate to call either Bonnie or myself.

Well for now have a wonderful month and hope to see those articles start rolling in.

Regards
Sharon

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CONTENTS:

Library and Information Week @ The City of Stirling Libraries	2
State Library of Western Australia launches Librari e s Australia to all regional areas	3
Safe Harbours – LIW Event for ALIAWest,	4
Walk-in access to Curtin Library’s electronic journals	
Library and Information Service	6
Curtin Information Studies Alumni Quiz Night	6
An evening with Julia Lawrinson at the Bookcaffe	7

EVENTS:

ALIA West Annual General Meeting	2
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Australian Library and Information Association

LIBRARY AND INFORMATION WEEK 2006 @ THE CITY OF STIRLING LIBRARIES

Popular local authors Anna Jacobs, Chris Holyday and Carla van Raay attracted over one hundred readers to their sessions at the libraries during Library and Information Week. Their captivated audiences asked interesting questions, with many commenting that the sessions were “informative and thought provoking.”

Readers also celebrated the week by participating in our Desert Island Reads promotion....vibrant and eye-catching displays encouraged readers to curl up in peace with a good read. Library staff wore colourful leis to persuade readers to borrow a mystery “desert island read” hidden in a bag, and those who took the challenge to discover a new author received a Bounty Bar as a reward. Over 800 books were loaned, and readers also enjoyed the booklist of recommended Desert Island Reads, compiled using suggestions from readers, staff and Councillors to expand their reading horizons.

Staff at the main Council Administration Building were able to participate in the same promotion a few weeks later, with the added bonus of being able to borrow CDs, DVDs and books on MP3, and to participate in daily quizzes to expand their knowledge of what the libraries offer. Although not strictly within Library and Information Week, this extended promotion resulted in 40 items being issued, nine new and several renewed memberships, and 70 library quizzes completed by staff now a little wiser about their excellent library service.



Thanks to all the staff involved in Library and Information Week at the City of Stirling Libraries for their enthusiastic support.

Staff at Dianella Public Library get into the Desert Island Reads spirit! Their wonderful display right next to the issues counter encouraged the largest number of loans, with 300 mystery reads loaned over two weeks.

ALIAwest Annual General Meeting

Please be advised that the Annual General Meeting for ALIAWest will be held on Tuesday 11 July 2006, at 5.30pm, at the Grapeskin winebar in William Street Northbridge.

Nominations for the position of Convenor, Secretary, Treasurer and Committee Members are invited.

Nadine Gibbons
Convenor and Secretary
ALIAWest
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MEDIA RELEASE

State Library of Western Australia launches Libraries Australia to all regional areas

The State Library of Western Australia is pleased to announce the provision of a state-wide licence to the enhanced version of the Libraries Australia database. The National Library of Australia describes **Libraries Australia** as a modern Internet-based service for all Australian libraries and their users by providing access to the national database of material held in Australian libraries. You can search for any item and locate which library in Australia holds it, then request that item delivered to your local library. Gateways to other major library databases are also provided.

In Western Australia, 239 local public libraries will have access to the enhanced version of the Libraries Australia service. The subscription incorporates additional features including advanced searching, alerts, personalisation (providing remote access for their users) and records for cataloguing.

Margaret Allen, CEO and State Librarian said that all Western Australians, whether in regional areas like Geraldton or suburbs like Girrawheen, would have the same access to the database. "It's equity of access for all Western Australians, either at home using the internet or searching at their local Public Library. You even get an option to purchase through an internet based bookstore".

Public libraries will be able to add details of the contents of their local studies collections, often containing unique items, onto the Australian National Bibliographic Database. This will enable access to these collections by libraries and individuals throughout Australia.

Through the provision of electronic infrastructure and resources like Libraries Australia, the State Library is providing an enhanced service to the people of Western Australia in partnership with local government. This is an exciting step in furthering the links between state and local governments for the delivery of public library services in Western Australia. This initiative will assist public library services that have to date been unable to afford access to this valuable resource.

Additional information about Libraries Australia can be found at <http://www.nla.gov.au/librariesaustralia/about.html>. For more information regarding this media release please contact Doug George on (08) 9427 3150 or 0417 961 060.

From the editors

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

Articles and photos about recent events, news about upcoming events, suggestions for columns, and contributions from groups may be sent to Sharon Coppin at cyrilina@inet.net.au or scoppin@mlc.wa.edu.au



Safe Harbours – LIW Event for ALIAWest, Monday 22nd May 2006

On Monday of Library and Information Week about 20 people from various areas of the industry including legal libraries, agricultural libraries and TAFE libraries travelled to Fremantle Hospital to explore the Fremantle Hospital Library, and meet Michelle Brennand, newly elected to the ALIA Board of Directors.

The theme of the evening was 'safe harbours' and Michelle referenced Eva Cox, who contributed to the research paper on Libraries and Social Capital. She questioned why people use libraries, and acknowledged that the audience was probably familiar with the answer, which is that libraries are used for leisure, learning and information. Health Libraries particularly have a role to play to not only their main client base (i.e. the staff and students of the Hospital or Medical Group they serve) but also the wider community, whether it be by reference query over the phone or email, or by interlibrary loan requests.

Michelle went on to emphasise that the profession needs to continue to strive to provide 'safe harbour' for its members, and that we as professionals must strive to support each other. ALIA has a large part to play as well, and Michelle encouraged the audience to contact her should they have any comments or matters they wished to discuss with her.

Questions were then taken from the floor. A question was taken regarding the vacant position of Local Liason Officer for West Australia, and Michelle said they were hoping to appoint someone in the near future.

The Click 06 Conference was also mentioned, and Michelle confirmed that the program was essentially confirmed. At the time of writing the program is now available at http://conferences.alia.org.au/alia2006/programme_programme.html.

The evening was finished off with a chat by Cheryl Hamil, the Librarian at the Fremantle Hospital Library.

Some background

Fremantle Hospital is the flagship of Fremantle Hospital and Health Service which embraces the Woodside Maternity Hospital in East Fremantle and the Rottnest Island Nursing Post. The Fremantle Hospital and Health Service also administers a range of psychiatric facilities and community nurses based in child health centres, high schools, primary schools and community facilities.

Fremantle Hospital is an acute-care public teaching hospital. It has a major 24 hour Trauma and Emergency Centre which takes both adults and children. It offers a range of disciplines including a Cardiothoracic Surgery Service, a hyperbaric medicine unit, a nuclear medicine facility and a paediatric ward. There are more than 100 separate departments.

It is also a major teaching hospital and has university professors on site teaching the disciplines of medicine, surgery, geriatric medicine, psychiatry and general practice. (<http://www.fremantleheart.asn.au/06.html>)



The Fremantle Hospital Library has been in existence since the 1970's, and originally was a part of the Nursing School. The library has a nice collection of first editions of major texts, and first editions of medical texts by Australian authors. The collection is shelved according to the National Library of Medicine Schedule, which is closely aligned to the Library of Congress. Like many other libraries, the Fremantle Hospital Library is moving to the electronic environment to supply its resources.

The library is not officially linked to Libraries Australia, preferring to use "GRATISNET" which is a free document supply network between health libraries. The library shares a common catalogue with the other health libraries in WA, using AMICUS. The library subscribes to 'Serials Solutions' an electronic journal service, and through this service has access to 11,200 titles. The library has a web presence on the corporate intranet which is proving to be very helpful, and a strong promotional tool.

Whilst their "walk in" numbers are declining the visits via the website are increasing. Cheryl is very keen to improve their web presence, and increase the number and type of resources available via the web.

The evening was very informative, and ALIAWest sincerely thanks Cheryl and Michelle for very informative talks. Particular thanks go to Cheryl for offering to host the event.



Current ALIAWest Convenor, Nadine Gibbons, Jeanette Hill and Camille Peters enjoying the evening.

Cheryl Hamil, Michelle Brennand, Judy Allan and David Daw-Smith.



Walk-in access to Curtin Library's electronic journals Library & Information Service

In an exciting new initiative, members of the public can now freely access electronic journal articles through selected Curtin Library's databases. This access is available in all library buildings at Bentley and other Curtin campuses. Walk-in users include community borrowers, alumni, reciprocal borrowers from other WA universities, and other visitors.

Walk-in users must first register with the Library in order to use library computers. Reciprocal borrowers, however, can login via the WA Universities e-Trust authentication. Alumni borrowers can either use walk-in access or if they wish to use the full services available to them (library borrowing reference services, document delivery services and remote access to the Proquest database) they must register with Alumni Relations and pay a fee to the library.

Databases that are accessible through this initiative include full text databases ProQuest, ScienceDirect, Project Muse and Wiley InterScience. Abstracting and indexing databases include Cambridge Scientific Abstracts (CSA) and IEEE Xplore. From the Library website <http://library.curtin.edu.au/>, a separate A-Z list of databases has been created for onsite use, thus clients can view all accessible databases at a glance.

Walk-in users can access all Curtin, Edith Cowan, Murdoch and UWA web pages. In addition, once logged on, reciprocal borrowers can access their own institutions' databases by ezproxy. External websites, such as Google or hotmail, are not accessible.

Software and network printing available on library computers is now available to all walk-in and reciprocal library users.

Diana Blackwood
Sue Grey-Smith

Senior Librarians Research Services
Curtin Library and Information Service

Curtin Information Studies Alumni Quiz Night Wednesday 24TH May 2006

What has become an annual pilgrimage for some was on again on Wednesday 24th May when Information Studies Alumni held their Library and Information Week Quiz Nite. Held again at St Peter's Church Memorial Hall, Victoria Park, we saw 19 tables of eager players, all striving for the ultimate prize: FIRST. The prizes were many and various and included 12 bottles of the finest red wine complete with collectors labels proudly sponsored by the Curtin Library; plants, books and vouchers galore and anything else you might think of. Few people leave empty handed. All funds raised are put towards the Information Studies Alumni Student Prize Fund.



An evening with Julia Lawrinson at the Bookcaffe, Tuesday June 27, 2006 from 6.30pm

Julia Lawrinson grew up in the outer suburbs of Perth and left school at age fifteen. She worked at the supermarket checkout, and as a chambermaid, barmaid, roadhouse attendant and weighbridge operator before returning to study at Murdoch University in her late teens. She completed a PhD in writing in 2004 and also has postgraduate qualifications in education. Her first novel, *Obsession*, won the 2001 Western Australian Premier's Prize for Young Adult Fiction, and was followed by *Skating the Edge*, *Loz and AI*, *Bad Bad Thing* and *Suburban Freak Show*.

Julia was recently the Chair of the Arts Development Panel at Arts WA and has worked at the State Literature Centre. She is a speech writer for the Western Australian Department of Health and continues to write fiction in her spare time. She and her family live in Perth.

On the 27th of June, we were treated to a charming and lively chat with Julia about her new book *Bye, Beautiful* and life as a speech writer with the WA Health Department.

Bye, Beautiful is the story of a young woman named Sandy, and is set in a country town in Australia in the 1960's. The author chose the years 1966-1967 for the time frame of the book because she felt that those were the years that the '60's' really hit Australia. Her reasoning was framed by several historical events – the introduction of the decimal system of currency, Menzie's resignation as Prime Minister, and the referendum on Aboriginal Citizenship.

One of the motivating factors for Julia to write *Bye, Beautiful* was because the young men and women (especially the women) that she meets in her daily life have little understanding of the way society operated in the 60's particularly in regard to the plight of women and aboriginal people. Julia wanted a book which would illustrate the essence of what it was like to live in a small country town in an era where one could be fined \$20.00 for swearing (but only \$2.00 for being drunk!), women who married had to leave their jobs in the public service, and Aboriginal people were ignored as citizens of Australia. The main character of the book, Sandy becomes a single mum, and her experiences are loosely based on the experiences of Julia's own mother, who experienced the harsh realities of falling pregnant out of wedlock.

The book is also an attempt by the author to capture the essence of her grandfather, who was an 'old school' copper who worked in small towns in rural WA, and, like many of his generation was a contradictory mix of authoritarianism, severity and surprising sensitivity.

Julia is a lively and generous speaker and the audience enjoyed a thought provoking and interesting evening, sipping lovely wine and browsing the shelves of the Bookcafe. I can heartily recommend attending a 'Meet the Author' evening, and I look forward to the next offering from the WA Library Technicians Group.

Bonnie Rae Bruce

