



# *APSIG Newsletter*

## *ALIA Asia Pacific Special Interest Group*

*No. 69, March 2009*

*Contents of this issue:*

<b>News from the Convenor</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>IFLA 2010</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Is there life after retirement?</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Aceh Books Online</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>News from Arlene Cohen</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Shopping for history Record</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Australia's diplomatic deficit</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Asian language learning encouraged</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Overseas Chinese blog</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>APSIG Newsletter</b>	<b>6</b>

### **Introducing APSIG's new Convenor**

Jenny first qualified as a Library Technician in Melbourne in the early 1970s, then completed a BA (Lib & Inf Sci) through Charles Sturt University and a Masters in Information Management Systems from Monash University.

After working in Libraries in Melbourne and Alice Springs, she moved to Canada for a working holiday that extended to 7 years. During this time she worked in a number of libraries including public, academic and special. On returning to Australia she again worked in Public and Special Libraries both in Melbourne and Queensland.

During the mid 1980s Jenny had the opportunity to work in Papua New Guinea in a local high school library. This gave her the opportunity to observe the status of libraries and library staff in a developing country.

In 1992 Jenny formed Resource Options. It is a consultancy for libraries and the information and records management fields as well as a specialized employment agency for records and library staff. Through the business, Jenny has been responsible for the establishment of many library collections and development of information management strategies for business (both private and government) in Queensland and Victoria.

One of the most interesting projects she undertook in more recent times was establishing and managing a records and information services for the 2001 Goodwill Games, Brisbane. The planning for the games started in 1999 with Resource Options contracted to manage all information resources for the life of the organisation. This included the development of an in-house document and records management system used across the organisation, and the final archiving or disposal of all remaining records at the conclusion of the Games.



#### Contact details

Jenny Hale  
Resource Options  
PO Box 957  
Mt Gravatt Qld 4122

Tel: 07 3847 6499 Fax: 07 3847 6700  
Email: [jennyhale@resource-options.com.au](mailto:jennyhale@resource-options.com.au)

## A word from Jenny

It was with some trepidation that I agreed to take on the role of convenor of the Group, however it does present a challenge to pull together a group of very busy professionals scattered over a wide area of Australia.

One of the major tasks is our involvement with the IFLA conference in 2010 in Brisbane. Due to the variety of locations and working hours, along with our inability to meet to date, I would like to suggest that we make use of technology to work towards the conference.

I am sure some of the Committee members will be more in tune with current web technology that allows online meetings or collaboration. It may be a blog, or some other system that allows us to meet in cyberspace. I encourage you to contact me with any ideas you may have for making this a reality.

In the meantime if any members in Brisbane know of a Librarian or other person from the Asia/Pacific region who would make a good speaker, please let me know as I would like to kick off the year in Brisbane with a function.

Look forward to hearing from you all.

Jenny



**World Library and Information Congress  
76th IFLA General Conference and Council  
Libraries: Engaging, Embracing, Empowering**

**Brisbane, Australia, 14–19 August 2010**

The Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA) is honoured to invite library professionals and representatives of the world's library associations and institutions to gather in Brisbane, the capital of Australia's sunshine state, to celebrate the 76th IFLA World Library and Information Congress from 14-19 August 2010. This is a hugely exciting opportunity for those who work in libraries in Australia to engage with colleagues from around the world.

### So, what is IFLA?

The International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) is a professional, international home for library associations, libraries and information centres, and information professionals.

IFLA is an international, independent, not-for-profit, non-governmental, membership organisation, with Formal Associate Status with UNESCO and with accreditation at many UN agencies.

IFLA is a forum for

- exchanging ideas and experience
- promoting international cooperation
- research and development in all fields of library activity and information service
- promoting librarianship on a global level.

### Can I be a member?

IFLA membership comprises international, national, and other associations, institutions, and personal and student affiliates. Membership currently includes, over 1700 associations, institutions, and individuals, from widely divergent cultural backgrounds.

If you are a member of ALIA, you are also a member of IFLA. You are therefore eligible to register for the 2010 IFLA conference at the member rate.

### The 2010 Conference

The theme of the conference is *'Libraries: Engaging, Embracing, Empowering'* offering a variety of perspectives on our professional lives, our institutions and associations, and our interactions with clients. To be successful, libraries must first engage with those whose lives they seek to enrich. They must then embrace and understand their needs. And finally, they must

empower them: to access information, without barrier, to become fulfilled citizens.

The logo for the conference incorporates colours and icons from Australia, such as the boomerang, the ochre of the Australian landscape and the blue of the Brisbane River.

Responsibility for preparing for the conference falls to three parties: IFLA Headquarters (in the Hague), Congrex (a conference organising company based in the UK), and an Australian National Organising Committee, which is chaired by Keith Webster, the University Librarian at the University of Queensland. The ALIA President and ALIA Executive Director are also on the National Committee.

The conference will be held at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre. The Opening Ceremony will take place on Sunday 15 August and a series of conference programs and a substantial exhibition will be available until Thursday 19 August. There will be a library tour day on Friday 20 August.

IFLA conferences vary considerably from those we enjoy in Australia. There is no central program or keynote addresses. Rather, IFLA sections (there are 45 of them) and roundtables are allocated a period of time (typically a half-day) to present a program. Many of these run simultaneously, so there is always an opportunity to find something of interest

In addition to their program during the conference, many IFLA sections and other organisations, organise satellite events either before or after the main event. There will be a number of these in Brisbane, elsewhere in Australia, in New Zealand, and in South-East Asia and the Pacific.

ALIA members are IFLA members, and are able to take advantage of the member rates. The earlybird fee is EU415 (approximately A\$830) for registrations before mid-May 2010.

#### **What will you get out of attending IFLA?**

At the Annual Congress, members can improve LIS skills through workshops, seminars and poster sessions, participation in study and exchange programmes, and promotion of products and services.

The professional program fosters an international outlook. The structure of IFLA's professional program enables members to enhance their particular field of interest and share specialised knowledge and expertise.

The IFLA World Congress replaces the ALIA Biennial Conference during 2010

#### **How can you get involved?**

There will be lots of opportunities to get involved with the conference, as volunteers, hosts, speakers, and delegates. Updates will be provided in *inCite*, aliaNEWS, through other ALIA e-lists, and on the websites listed at the end of this flyer.

#### **Contact details**

IFLA2010 National Committee  
c/o ALIA

Tel: +61 2 6215 8222

Fax: +61 2 6282 2249

Email: [iflabrisbane@alia.org.au](mailto:iflabrisbane@alia.org.au)

Websites:

<http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla76/index.htm>

<http://www.alia.org.au/ifla2010>

#### **Is there life after retirement? A view from Lorraine Weinmann**

When I retired from the Attorney-General's Department Library 11 years ago, I had already done considerable work in the South Pacific. Having suggested the Law Library Twinning Program in 1991, I had worked extensively with "my" three twinned countries – Samoa, Tonga and Nauru. This work was funded at the time by my Department, in the interest of regional cooperation and the Rule of Law in the Pacific.\*

A few months after I retired in late 1997 I took on the job of volunteer librarian for ACFID (Australian Council for Overseas Development, formerly ACFOA) – the peak body for all Australian aid NGOs. I still work there for a few hours a week – the longest serving staff member!

In 2001 I accepted a six-week volunteer assignment with AESOP (now ABV) to set up the new Parliamentary Library and train staff in Tarawa, Kiribati. Tarawa Atoll is a tiny, very flat, very narrow ribbon of land lying on the

equator, a speck in thousands of miles of ocean; it has a night sky with the brightest stars you have ever seen.

Immediately after this I took an AusAID contract to advise and work with library staff to re-organize the Attorney-General's Dept. library in Papua New Guinea. This took 3 three-month inputs over 3 years. It included travel to all the major towns in this beautiful but often dangerous country – hazards included malaria, floods in the Highlands, “raskol” gangs in Port Moresby and Lae, and a grumbling, belching volcano in Rabaul. With AusAID funding and many willing helpers, a great deal was achieved in Port Moresby and all the A-G's offices in regional centres.



Lorraine Weinmann, far R with staff of Dept of Justice and A-Gs, PNG

My next contract was with the AusAID Law & Justice Program in Fiji, again 3 three-month inputs over 3 years. This involved work with 15 counterpart librarians from 10 legal agencies. Through workshops and individual hands-on assistance, we worked on the acquisition and organization of legal materials, legal reference and research methods, and general library management techniques. It was solid, sustainable work, but the army coup interrupted and terminated this program, and many plans were unfortunately left unfinished.



Milliema (Mimi) and Lorraine Weinmann at Parliamentary Library, Kiribati

These were all exciting and challenging assignments. They involved travel in tiny planes, the constant sight and sound of the awesome blue Pacific Ocean, a sense of terrible isolation especially in Kiribati, spectacular mountain landscapes in PNG, beautiful tropical flowers, and the friendliest, kindest people everywhere. There was a huge sense of achievement, especially when not only the library staff but the lawyers in every office repeatedly said “you have made such a difference.”



The old thatch-roofed House of Assembly (Maneaba) in Tarawa, Kiribati



The new Maneaba Ni Maungatabu (Parliament House) in Kiribati

Work in the South Pacific is a humbling, richly rewarding experience. I feel we librarians have had such wonderful working lives here in Australia, we should try to give something back to our neighbours.

Volunteer agencies, as well as AusAID, have programs in many fields other than law (like health and education), and library skills are greatly valued in the Pacific. You only need to take the first step.

*Lorraine Weinman - former Senior Principal Librarian, Commonwealth A-G's Dept.*

**\*Note:** Australia/Pacific Law Library Twinning is

*now funded by the Australian Law Librarians' Association (ALLA), by AusAID under its Pacific Governance Support Program (PGSP), and by many individual and corporate sponsors and donors.*

## Aceh Books Online

[www.acehbooks.org](http://www.acehbooks.org), Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

Aceh Digital Library now Online! The devastating tsunami that struck Aceh on 26 December 2004 caused thousands of victims but also destroyed important libraries in Banda Aceh. The Royal Institute of Southeast Asian and Caribbean Studies (KITLV) initiated a project to digitize a major part of the literature on Aceh that is kept in the KITLV Library. The Dutch Ministry of Education generously financed this project and the Royal Library of the Netherlands supervised the digitization process.

The titles listed are books about Aceh in a variety of languages such as Indonesian, Acehese, English, Dutch, as well as other European languages. At present 656 files are available in digital form in pdf format on the website. More titles are to follow in the course of 2009.

URL <http://www.acehbooks.org>

## News from Arlene Cohen

Although now settled in Seattle, Washington State, after retiring from the University of Guam in 2007, Arlene Cohen is hardly retired from working on library development in the Pacific.

She is now working with Alice Hadley, the medical librarian at the US Naval Hospital, Guam, their most recent project is building or upgrading eight medical libraries throughout hospitals in the Federated States of Micronesia on the islands of Kosrae, Chuuk and Pohnpei; as well as the Republic of Palau, American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and the Republic of the Marshall Islands. The project is made possible through a \$389,000 grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation awarded to the Ayuda Foundation in Guam, a non-profit created to improve the delivery of health care services to Micronesia and the Western Pacific region.

## Shopping for history: saving Afghanistan's documentary record

### TheNational

Home UAE World Business Opinion Sport Arts Life The Review Magazine Weekender Multimedia  
Middle East South Asia Europe Americas Asia-Pacific Africa

An article in The National, an online newspaper published in Abu Dhabi, charts Royce Wiles' doings in Afghanistan. "Shopping for history" by Ben Farmer, records Royce's efforts to find and preserve current printed materials that document Afghanistan's troubled times and that no institution is currently able to store and preserve.

APSIG newsletter readers may recall Royce's article on Kabul bookshops and publishing. He currently works as librarian for the Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit, a Kabul-based research institute, and has lived in Kabul for five and a half years.

Academics travelling to Kabul after the fall of the Taliban in 2001 soon found there were no written resources left for them to study. Step-by-step Royce has begun building a library containing the tools for scholars to understand Afghanistan.

<http://thenational.ae/article/20090404/FOREIGN/888214952/1135/GLOBALBRIEFING>

## Australia's diplomatic deficit

Australia's Diplomatic Deficit is the report of a blue ribbon panel convened by the Lowy Institute to examine Australia's overseas network – the first public review in over 20 years. The report argues that Australia's diplomatic network is seriously overstretched and hollowed out and recommends a major, staged reinvestment to ensure Australia is in a position to prosecute its growing international interests properly. The panel comprised Jillian Broadbent AO, Professor William Maley AM, Brad Orgill, Professor Peter Shergold AC, Ric Smith AO PSM and the Institute's Executive Director, Allan Gyngell, as chairman. Go to <http://www.lowyinstitute.org/> for more details.

## Asian language learning encouraged

The Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations is offering universities, higher education providers, businesses and Asian communities the chance to undertake high quality, strategic projects that promote the teaching and learning of the languages and cultures of China (Mandarin), Indonesia, Japan and Korea in Australian schools.

The Partnership Fund is a key component of the National Asian Languages and Studies in Schools Program (NALSSP), which provides \$62.4 million in funding over three years to increase opportunities for Australian students to become familiar with the languages and cultures of our Asian neighbours.

The Partnership Fund will provide \$9.36 million through three annual competitive funding rounds. Expressions of interest for Round One are now open.

More information at :

[www.deewr.gov.au/schooling/NALSSP/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.deewr.gov.au/schooling/NALSSP/Pages/default.aspx)

## Overseas Chinese in Southeast Asia Blog

We would like to share the announcement with you of a new important resource developed by the Library of Congress (Jakarta Office). Many thanks to Will Tuchrello, the Head of LC Jakarta, and his staff, especially Sandra Nugraha and Nurjadi Jasin, for spearheading the project.

The LC Chinese blog contains information on new books on the Chinese Overseas in Southeast Asia published within the region. About five new books will be added every week.

The link for the LC Chinese Blog is:

[www.locjkt.or.id/application/chinese\\_blog/Default.asp](http://www.locjkt.or.id/application/chinese_blog/Default.asp)

The LC Jakarta office has also developed a blog for new publications on Southeast Asia. You can find it at:

[www.locjkt.or.id/application/blog/Default.asp](http://www.locjkt.or.id/application/blog/Default.asp)

Keng We Koh

Curator, Shao Overseas Chinese Center  
Ohio University Libraries

## APSIG Newsletter

Published three times a year : March, July and November. Address : PO Box 51, Lyneham, A.C.T. 2602, Australia. ISSN 1327 1024

Copy deadline for July 2009 is Friday 26 June. Contributions very welcome especially from the Asia/Pacific region.

Contact : Marie Sexton, Editor  
([msexton@netspeed.com.au](mailto:msexton@netspeed.com.au)) telephone 02-62 477795.

Issues are mounted on the APSIG homepage at [www.alia.org.au/groups/apsig/](http://www.alia.org.au/groups/apsig/)

Copies of the APSIG newsletter are sent electronically to members with email addresses.

