BUT WHAT ABOUT THE BOOKS ???
Andrew Wells reports (direct from the front page of the Sydney Morning Herald)

- Check(list) for a really accessible web(site)
- Margaret Allen – on the Frontline
- eBooks 101
incite
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“I feel no need to justify or apologise for the changes at UNSW Library. I am proud of our new Main Library. The number of students using the Library has jumped around 30%.”

— Andrew Wells, University Librarian, University of New South Wales (p5)
Everything e and d  
... and our future

My first Frontline, and the start of a year which promises to be both interesting and challenging.
Firstly, I’d like to thank past President Graham Black for his leadership through what was a difficult year of the Association. I have also valued the advice and support of Kate Sinclair and Gillian Hallam, outgoing members of the Board. Both have served multiple terms and they have made not only an important contribution to the general work of the Board and ALIA, but have also provided significant leadership of the Education and Professional Development (Gill) and Membership and Awards (Kate) Standing Committees.

I’d like to welcome the three new Board members, Vanessa Little, (Vice President), Kathryn Cass and Joseph Cullen who together with ongoing members Julie Rae and John Bayliss form the Board. My thanks also go to Andrew Hocken who has unfortunately had to step down from the Board but I’m very pleased that Graham Black has agreed to fill the vacancy and continue his work with the Board.

The Board has planned for a balanced budget in 2011 and working with National Office staff we are making good progress towards this goal keeping the long term financial sustainability of ALIA top of mind.

The Board has also been considering and developing our strategy for the coming years and this will be released shortly to members.

Whilst 12 months is only a brief time in which to influence the future of the Association, I hope that the Board can begin a discussion about the future of our profession. What will a library be in 20 years and what will it mean to be a librarian? Our profession is one that is changing rapidly and whilst our core role of connecting people with information is still as relevant as ever, the way in which we do this is changing as perhaps never before.

Our Incite theme this month of everything e and d says it all. New and changing publishing methods, evolving technologies, changes to teaching and learning and information never more easily available are influencing how we interact with and serve our communities. As these changes roll on, what will be the role of the library and the librarian in the future? Are we in danger of becoming ‘museums’ of the book or will we continue to proactively respond to the needs of the communities we serve?

Whilst I’m absolutely confident of our future, I believe we need to be prepared for a changing profession. One of ALIA’s key roles is to define and uphold our professional standards and in a changing world ALIA can and must take a leadership role for and on behalf of the profession. I hope that I can encourage debate and discussion about our future role, and the role of ALIA into the future.

I have already had the opportunity to speak with many members about their expectations of ALIA, and I look forward to lots of further opportunities in the coming months to continue the discussion.

Margaret Allen
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Finding solutions for a healthy digital future

I am sure that many of us in the library business are testing our friends, family and acquaintances on the e vs P debate. With this edition focusing on what a big part our future looks like, it is certainly interesting when you broach the subject of ebooks how so many still react by proclaiming that they love their print books. Recently however, the statistics are showing that ebooks are being consumed at a much greater rate than ever before. Change is upon us - how are you changing with the times?

Print will obviously be a part of our future, but we must ensure that we all have the ability to change rapidly into the new worlds of electronic delivery and service models and ensure that we can digitise our important collections for greater access.

And what is your Association doing about those bigger issues? We are continuing our work with the Book Industry Strategy Group www.innovation.gov.au/bisg as well as media and discussions internationally on the issue of limiting ebook lending rights.

Our rollout of digital playback players through The Library Initiative with the Department of Families, Housing, Communities and Indigenous Affairs continues - congratulations to the many libraries that are part of this project during 2011 (see story on page 25).

These challenges also arose in discussions at our latest ALIA Roundtable meeting in May. The ALIA Roundtable seeks to bring together the major Australian libraries and library associations, and the different sectors of the profession to discuss current and emerging issues, and to develop collaborative solutions and actions. Minutes, papers and outcomes are available from the website at www.alia.org.au/roundtable.

The dependence on e & d will also be on how it can be delivered. ALIA has participated in a number of broadband summits and we presented to the public hearing of the House of Representatives Committee Inquiry into the Role and Potential of the NBN on 27th May in Canberra.

And I was proud to be in the Chamber gallery on Monday 23rd May to see Amanda Rishworth MP table the School libraries and teacher librarians in 21st century Australia report. This is an important report for all library sectors that includes eleven recommendations relating to digital literacy skills, electronic resources for all Australian schools, the National Year of Reading 2012 and ALIA and ASLA working together with state education departments and DEEWR on a number of studies and reports to support school libraries and teacher librarians. Our advocacy campaign materials can also be found at www.alia.org.au/schoollibraries.

Board matters

At the end of April 2011 Andrew Hocken submitted his resignation to the ALIA Board of Directors. This was formally advised to members attending the 2011 Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 17th May 2011. Under ALIA By-law 5, Section 9, if there is a casual vacancy on the ALIA Board it shall be filled by the President making an appointment of a current, personal financial member and at the first meeting of the new Board of Directors on Wednesday 18th May 2011, ALIA President, Margaret Allen advised that she would be appointing Graham Black to the casual vacancy position until the AGM 2012. Graham looks forward to continuing his time on the ALIA Board of Directors for one more year. Our thanks to Andrew Hocken for his contribution to the ALIA Board and to Graham for assisting us in this way.

Sue Hutley
Executive Director
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PS - I’m sleeping out in the Canberra cold again on 16 June for the Vinnies CEO Sleepout - www.ceosleepout.org.au

Are your membership details up to date?
Check and update your membership details before renewals are sent out at www.alia.org.au/members-only.html.

Standards and Guidelines for Australian Public Libraries

There are 12 quality level standards and 20 best practice guidelines for public libraries in Beyond a Quality Service: Strengthening the Social Fabric – Standards and Guidelines for Australian Public Libraries. Commissioned by the Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA) and the ALIA Public Libraries Advisory Committee (PLAC), the Guidelines use the National and State Libraries Australasia (NSLA) annual collation of state and territory statistics as its evidence base and builds on the earlier work on standards and guidelines carried out by the State Libraries of New South Wales and Queensland.

The Guidelines are available online at www.alia.org.au/publiclibraries. Download your copy today.

Need a library fact?

If you’re going e...
As it’s the e and d issue, don’t forget ALIA has recently launched the ePortfolios in professional practice group. This virtual group will use the aliaEPortfolios elist to host discussion and facilitate learning for members already using ePortfolios and those just starting out. Corrinne Hills is convening this group. Subscribe at www.alia.org.au/alianet/elists/.
ALIA thanks ACMA for their support of Library and Information Week 2011


**JUNE 2011**

**ACT**
22 Jun State of Library Education in Canberra Ferguson Room - National Library of Australia. 16:30 - 17:30. Stuart Ferguson (University of Canberra) For more information, contact Karna ODea, karna.odea@ato.gov.au

**NT**
17 Jun ALIA Top End Quiz Night The 2011 ALIA TE Quiz Night will be held on Friday 17 June 2011; more details will be added to the website nearer the time. For more information, contact Frieda Evans, frieda.evans@nt.gov.au

**QLD**
15 Jun–15 Jul People Power Mini-conference: an interactive event with contributions from Library staff in all sectors. University of Queensland Library, 0900 - 1300. Full rates: $TBA ALIA members, $TBA non-members [GST incl]. For more information, contact Kay Cantwell, kcantwell@bne.catholic.edu.au

**WA**
22 Jun Retention and Disposal of Business Records More info Information Enterprises Australia training workshop - participants will develop an awareness and understanding of the concepts of, and reasons for effective retention and disposal of bus. records. ALIA Discount 10% For more information, contact Lorraine Bradshaw, ph 08 9335 2533, lorraine@iea.com.au [wa] 3077

Group members and Office Bearers – have you remembered to upload your event onto the Calendar? Do it now at www.alia.org.au/events/add/ Some members have experienced difficulties uploading details, due to firewalls and restrictive settings on their networks. If you experience any of these difficulties, please send your information through to groups@alia.org.au or events@alia.org.au and our National Office staff will ensure it appears.
THE SIREN CALL OF ‘E’ AND ‘D’

For a while there I was beginning to think the world was turning into some sort of giant, tangled technological fruit bowl, what with Blackberry, Apple everything and such. Yes, I have a smartphone but I didn’t actually buy it on purpose. At least, not for the smartphone capabilities purpose. It has taken my colleagues to explain patiently to me the excitement and convenience of ebooks on planes (more room for souvenirs in your luggage), the joys of the iPad (wait, I’ll just show how it works now, then I won’t have to email you later) and QR codes (a very cool way to save yourself schlepping around a university library looking for a spare computer - if that library happens to be at Flinders University).

As with the sceptical scales falling from my eyes on the non-uselessness of Twitter during the floods and the so-called Facebook Revolution in the Middle East, for some of us it takes seeing technology applied to understand where it fits in our world view. Fortunately we have amongst us many more who see the opportunities early and guide the rest of us forward. Our feature this month on all things e(lectronic) and d(igital) includes some inspiring examples and some thoughtful consideration of the challenges that come with the increase in capacity and capability.

You win, folks. Although there will still be days I would rather my public library didn’t text me to remind me my books are a tad overdue, I officially hereby renounce my previously jealously protected position of “there is enough technology in my life”. This stuff, and what it enables us to do for our patrons, is simply irresistible. We thank all who have taken time to fill us in on the latest, and hope you enjoy reading about what they are doing in these pages.

Lee Welch
A/g Editor, InCite
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THE DIVINE MISS M

In this age of e and d everything, it is perhaps timely to take a moment to remember how fast and far we’ve come. ALIA member Laurie Urane contacted InCite to pass on the news of the passing of one of the earliest proponents of technology in libraries, Blacktown Municipal Council’s Chief Librarian Betty Cox (nee Malthus).

Amongst her many achievements – including establishing four branch libraries, shepherding the move to the new (and newly named) Max Webber Library and providing a range of such innovative programs that the Sydney Morning Herald named her library as “the best” in 1981 – Betty was one of the very first to take steps to create a computer-based catalogue.

Laurie remembers this first effort as perhaps the first computer catalogue in an Australian public library, with a whopping 14 characters allowed per line in each entry and about five lines per entry. Laboriously punched on to paper tape on a Flexiwriter machine, it then went off to ICL and came back as an A3 computer printout of author, title and subject listings, updated quarterly.

It was 1966.

Vale to the library world’s own divine Miss M.

Lee Welch, with assistance from Laurie Urane
lee.welch@alia.org.au

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EVERYTHING E AND D: WHAT ABOUT THE BOOKS?

It’s not often that libraries find themselves on the front page of a major newspaper. On Tuesday March 8, 2011, it was the University of New South Wales Library’s turn, right below the masthead. University Librarian Andrew Wells found himself on the frontline – and it got him thinking.

The first paragraph in the front page story, titled Books Get the Shove as University Students Prefer to Do Research Online, stated the University was “throwing away thousands of books and scholarly journals as part of a policy that critics say is turning its library into a Starbucks”. The story had many inaccuracies and it is not my intention in this opinion piece to refute them. If you want to see how I responded to the UNSW community, there is a statement on collection management on the UNSW Library website.

But the story -and reactions to it - have led me to consider wider questions about the role and perceptions of academic libraries. In my pessimistic moments, I often feel we fail in communicating the nature of the changes that are taking place, as well as the opportunities everything ‘e’ and ‘d’ presents. For many people, libraries are about books. Our professional body is the ‘Australian Library and Information Association’ – no mention of books there, even though the enduring perception of the public is that libraries are places for books and printed items.

The reality for academic libraries is quite different. Over a decade ago, university libraries stopped acquiring print versions of serials. UNSW adopted an ‘electronic-preferred’ policy for serials in 2001. Our staff and students have responded enthusiastically to this form of information provision. Thousands of journal issues are available from their home, desk or laboratory around the clock. The usage statistics are astoundingly high. Indeed, they are at levels that could not have been achieved in the print library. We are the beginning of a transition for scholarly monographs to being ‘e’ and ‘d’.

The acquisition of print issues of journals has dramatically reduced. UNSW Library has less than 2000 print subscriptions now and this will reduce further. Until the late 1990s, large research libraries like UNSW Library were confronted with expanding collections and a shortage of space to hold them. In many libraries, this led to a reduction in study space as seminar rooms and study carrels gave way to more shelving. The situation at UNSW Library was particularly grim for students, with benchmarking revealing extremely low provision of study spaces. This was a situation I wanted to change, and fortunately, one that the University wanted to change as well.

As all libraries do, we will continue to manage our print collections by adding, deleting and maintaining items. The over-arching goal is to maintain access for our staff and students. Formats will change and some materials will go to storage. Our commitment to information access will endure.

In the last five years, the balance between space for collections and facilities for students has been changed. Collection space was reduced by the decreased intake of print serials. UNSW Library also joined CAVAL and sent many low use items to the CARM Store. We have adopted a ‘steady-state’ policy to remind everyone that space is limited. We cannot continue to purchase 10,000 books a year and 20,000 journal issues without an active approach to space management. The shared print repository at CARM is an effective and efficient solution for low use materials we wish to retain and preserve.

Even so, these explanations do not convince everybody. There is still the assertion that the Library is now ‘a kind of a Starbucks’. I feel no need to justify or apologise for the changes at UNSW Library. I am proud of our new Main Library. Students have group study rooms, informal areas, media booths, computer lounges, and – yes – quiet spaces with study carrels in a row, just like when I went to uni in the early 1970s. The number of students using the library has jumped around 30%. The print collection is well organised and easy to access. As all libraries do, we will continue to manage our print collections by adding, deleting and maintaining items. The over-arching goal is to maintain access for our staff and students. Formats will change and some materials will go to storage. Our commitment to information access will endure.

A common reaction to the newspaper story was shock that UNSW Library would discard a book. Now, I know we are not the only library to do this in Australia. Some asked why we did not give them away or sell them. A common suggestion was that we should send them to developing countries. Well, this sounds reasonable until you start working out the cost of doing this. As the items being discarded were duplicate copies of textbooks, we found out no-one really wants a free superseded edition of a textbook, let alone buy it. And why should we think outdated materials that our staff and students no longer need are suitable for libraries in developing countries?

I hope this helps you whenever you end up on page one!

Andrew Wells
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Each month, OPINION features contributions from invited guest writers. The opinions expressed in this column do not necessarily reflect those of the Australian Library and Information Association.
Recent media reports implying Australian university librarians are destroying scholarly collections lack an appreciation of the scale and dynamic nature of today’s academic collections. CAVAL Chief Executive Janette Wright says university libraries simply don’t have the option to ‘do nothing’.

The pressure for libraries to acquire more published materials together with the increasing demand for more student learning and collaborative spaces means they must react by re-housing and rationalising low-use print collections. There are several examples of off-site storage facilities which have been established to meet the need for libraries to re-house legacy print collections.

The largest of these is the CARM Centre, opened in Melbourne in 1996. The CARM Centre provides approximately 46,000 linear metres of environmentally-controlled, secure space capable of storing up to 7 million volumes in high density storage.

The CARM Centre was Australia’s first purpose-built collaborative off-site library store, built by CAVAL, a university-owned consortium, for the shared collection of its member libraries. By sharing the costs of development and management, the CAVAL members benefit from economies of scale and the consolidation of services which support access and delivery to the collections.

For example, CAVAL has established a digitising bureau on-site to facilitate electronic access to items held in the storage facility. Such capabilities extend the value of shared collections beyond any one university library member’s collections to the whole scholarly community.

In South Australia the three universities share a joint store, University Research Repository South Australia, which provides secure, high density accommodation for lesser used volumes transferred from the three university libraries. Currently each university retains ownership of materials deposited and there is no de-duplication.

In other parts of Australia there have been discussions regarding shared off-site storage facilities but apart from a facility in Canberra shared by the University of Sydney and ANU, there are as yet no coordinated outcomes or plans.

In addition there are several commercial storage providers in Australia. However these are generally not environmentally controlled and unable to provide the specialised discovery and access provisions commonly provided by libraries.


Janette Wright
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Note:
In addition to off-site storage, CAVAL provides digitisation, copyright permissions, metadata, cataloguing and specialist processing services, RFID equipment, training and consultancy, and help desk support for library-specific software applications.
YOUR BOOK IS IN THE MAIL

We know ebooks present a challenge in the management of agreements with publishers and resellers. One library service for the print-disabled has already faced – and found a way past – that challenge for their clients. Vision Australia’s Deborah Mould describes how.

Imagine a library where books were created as you wanted them. Welcome to Vision Australia’s library and, if you can read this, you probably aren’t one of our clients.

Almost one in six people you know will have a disability. It could be Parkinson’s disease, chronic arthritis of the hands, dyslexia or MS. Being unable to read standard print can happen at almost any age, but with thousands of free audio and Braille books to choose from, it doesn’t have to mean that you also have to stop reading.

Audio libraries then and now

Before the digital revolution, audio was largely cassette-based. Hundreds of thousands of cassettes were required due to the large number required to make a single book. These cassettes were prone to damage and loss and required a lengthy manual process to maintain the title in the collection.

Regardless of expected demand, sufficient copies were always difficult to keep in stock. Reader interest in The Da Vinci Code or The Secret would ebb as The Girl With A Dragon Tattoo made its way up the reservation list. In print-based libraries this can be a problem, but for alternative format producers it was a nightmare.

With the move to a digital environment, a new way of circulating materials became available. The Burn on Demand (BoD) system allows the library to generate structured MP3 (DAISY) audio books on demand. Titles are stored on a Storage Area Network (SAN), and can be burnt to a single disc, labelled and out in the mail within 24 hours. Every day, we send out over 2,000 books to clients all around Australia.

Once returned in the two-way envelope, the discs are removed from the client record. This creates a space so that the next book can be burned and sent out. ‘Both the returned disc and cardboard envelope are recycled, with the disc sent away to be pulped and turned into building materials or car dashboards’. The enjoyment of reading is enhanced because each book is loaned on a brand new CD, avoiding the frustration that can occur with old CDs.

The transition from an analogue-based service to a digital one has been the result of a strategy to reduce the time taken for clients to receive books. It also reduces wastage caused by damaged parts, or books that have lost their appeal, as well as manual handling by staff.

New approach to publishers’ agreements

To reach this goal, the library had to work with audio publishers to resolve the number of copies allowed. When Overdrive announced that all of its Harper Collins books were limited to 26 downloads, unless additional copies were purchased, the reaction raised the issue of what rights libraries should hold, as well as what libraries can do to create favourable conditions.

This issue of limited copies is familiar to print disabled libraries. Many of us have had to negotiate directly with audio publishers to supply demand according to agreed copyright numbers. Rather than use a method which restricts to a single level of copies, (such as 26 copies to be created and read by clients and not copied again), we have instead agreed to a number of copies that can exist at any one time. For us, this means that when the agreed number of copies (say 26) are out on loan, no further copies can be produced. When a client returns one of those 26 copies, the disc deleted, and we can create another copy for another client.

By moving from a model which restricts by usage to one restricted by time (i.e. a limited copies on a particular day), we have enabled our clients to read more widely than before. The use of a centralised electronic storage method also allows us to prepare for the next opportunities in our electronic library.

It is this challenge, of finding a way to do business with existing partners in a new environment, that will enable us to handle the different formats our clients want for their content and our ability to supply them.

Deborah Mould
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In January 2011, Business and Law Library Services Manager Clare O’Dwyer received an iPad for use at work. It was love at first sight. Suddenly the opportunities to showcase and market the library presented at the most unexpected times, and Clare made the most of them.

My role in supporting the Faculty of Business and Law at Deakin University demands the ability to provide convenient access to library resources. Recently I met with a Head of School and described the new library subject guide for international students. Trying to describe an electronic resource to a senior academic does not really capture their imagination, however in this case on my iPad I demonstrated the subject guide live and showed how easy it was to access via a mobile device. By coincidence this staff member had just received an iPad that day, so the timing could not have been better.

My own behaviour has changed too, in the way I access and demonstrate information to library clients. I have to remind myself the library is ‘virtually’ in my hands if I have my iPad with me in a meeting. The ability to ‘show and tell’ actual content before their very eyes is almost like performing a magic trick.

Last week I sat in a meeting discussing integrating library resources into the new learning management system with a group of four academics. I discussed with the learning developer the open access resources on TROVE (National Library Australia) such as Australian newspaper articles from the 1800s up to 1954 and demonstrated it right there and then. A really moving event in this meeting was my ability to show a senior academic her grandfather’s WW1 enlistment documents (all 72 pages) from the National Archives website as a example of growing digitisation projects still in progress.

This immediate access ‘show and tell’ ability, replaces the need to book a time or follow up meeting. Often in the past, having to wait meant the ‘moment of truth’ of marketing the library was lost and so was the academic client. I believe sharing applications with academics and staff enhances the building of stronger relationships with clients and improves esteem for the library.

The iPad has surprised me in the impact it has had on my clients. Its adoption has even led my team and I to be included in integral faculty strategic workshops reassessing courses and direct access with unit chairs. I highly recommend exploring new ways to deliver library services with enabling mobile technologies. These new technologies can really give you the edge needed to improve your status with clients, get you a seat at their table and market libraries in a new and exciting way.

Clare O’Dwyer  
clare.odwyer@deakin.edu.au
Ebooks are definitely here to stay. Dean Mason explains the basics and emerging implications for library professionals.

Last night, I, a print-devotee, became incredibly frustrated when a title I wanted to start reading was not available as an ebook to download immediately. I will buy the print copy soon, "but why can’t I start reading it NOW?”, my inner voice grumbled.

And I am in fast-growing company. Ebook sales are more than doubling every year, representing a shift of proportions unusual in the slow world of books. 2010 was widely hailed as the year that ebooks ‘arrived’, even though they still represent less than 5% of total book sales. The scale they achieved in 2010 is more a warning to everyone that they do deserve serious attention. Or, at least, much more than a scoff.

Here are a few of the basics to update those less familiar with what the term ‘ebooks’ represents today. It is a lot more than 10 years ago when Stephen King’s Riding the Bullet first appeared and it is no doubt a lot less than what it will represent in 2020 and with the advent of web XX.0.

Content?
When a title is released in both print and electronic formats you can expect to get the same content in each. The majority of ebooks sold today are for popular trade publications (think of the range of titles you see at the airport bookshop) and are straight conversions, perhaps with hyperlinks to internal or external references.

Formats?
Most publishers today are preparing their titles in both PDF and ePub formats. The main benefit of ePub (an XML format, now considered ‘the’ standard) is that it renders the text to suit the device on which you are reading it. This means you don’t have to keep scrolling to the left and right if you are reading on your mobile phone for example, it will automatically be one neat column to fit your screen size. There are other benefits too, like being able to email from within the document, if digital rights management (DRM) allows.

Copy/Print?
This is the sort of thing that DRM manages. Most publishers allow some copying and printing, say up to 20 pages. But for poetry and short story collections it might be zero to protect contributors of individual pieces.

Lend/re-sell?
That depends on the DRM, and, the vendor who sells them. If you buy an ebook direct from O’Reilly for example, you can send the entire ebook to a friend by email from within the ebook itself, with comments. But if you buy a Kindle book, you can not transfer it to anyone. Different vendors like Blio (Baker & Taylor), Google, and Kobo are talking of offering lending and re-selling options, but they are not yet proven.

Any device?
This depends primarily on the vendor. The trend is for most ebook vendors to allow their ebooks to be read on any device. But when Amazon’s Kindle, and Barnes&Bone’s Nook began competing in the U.S. they were aiming to be exclusive platforms, like iTunes was to music on the iPod. But then entered Blio, Google, and Kobo, each trumpeting loudly that they will be device ‘agnostic’, meaning you can read your ebooks on any device. Subsequently, Kindle and Nook are moving to be more flexible in this way also.

Use on multiple devices?
Not always, but it seems to becoming the trend. Kobo, Blio and Google are emphasizing this type of flexibility and it seems the other vendors will follow. They even promise to remember where you were up to, regardless of which device you last ‘closed’ the book on.
Buying – for personal use
It’s very easy, from your PC, mobile phone, or other mobile device. One of the biggest difficulties in Australia is that not all ebooks that are available in the U.S. are available here. You usually get to the check-out page (and have entered all that boring ID info yet again!) before being told it is not available in your territory.

Buying – for libraries
The most common model is for a library to take out a subscription to a bundle of ebooks on a vendor’s platform, but accessible via the library’s catalogue. These might be publisher-specific, or they might be across a range of popular titles. (Ebsco’s recent purchase of NetLibrary will allow searching across ebook and journal content.) Beyond that there is a variety of possibilities regarding simultaneous borrowings, limited number of borrowings per title, or per collection, whether the complete file downloads to the patron’s machine and then self-destructs, or whether it remains in the cloud, and so on. Overdrive and Ebooks Library (EBL) are another two leading platform providers to keep an eye on.

Pricing?
For personal use, the average price is 75% of the printed price. However, Amazon blazed a trail with a $9.99 price point regardless of the recommended retail price. They are subsidizing these sales (presumably to help boost Kindle device sales) but the future for this pricing is uncertain. Publishers appear to be moving to an ‘agency’ model where they will effectively sell direct to the customer and pay the ‘agent’ (the re-seller) a commission. For library purchasing it is another ball-game, and still too fluid to summarise here.

Tricky?
You bet. This mix of DRM, platform requirements, device dependency, changing publisher terms, differing vendor offerings, and other factors, are making the ebook market tricky territory for libraries to venture into. Serious partnering with one or two vendors is the best way to start testing what might work for your community. You can just about guarantee that whatever you start today will be redundant within two years, so set your expectations clearly around what learning outcomes you and your team want to achieve. And be sure to capture that learning for your library’s future planning needs.

Dean Mason
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Dean Mason is a member of the ALIA Research and Publishing Standing Committee. He founded his consultancy business Enakt after working with Common Ground on the highly innovative Creator-to-Consumer Research project investigating future technologies, markets and skills in book production and supply.

YOUR future as a library leader starts here

AURORA INSTITUTE FOR EMERGING LEADERS

Applications are now invited for the Aurora Institute for Emerging Leaders 2011.

With fresh content, state-of-the-art approach, mentors, engaging and stimulating presenters and a wonderful venue, the program provides the opportunity for you to:

• Engage with experts
• Build your knowledge
• Enhance your skills
• Extend your networks
• Expand your horizons
• Capitalise on career opportunities

Institute details, application forms and eligibility requirements are available at

www.aurorafoundation.org.au

AURORA INSTITUTE FOR EMERGING LEADERS 2011

Monday, 25 July 2011 to Friday, 29 July 2011.

Applications now open
A GOLDMINE OF VISION AND SOUND

Our national collection of film and sound is a veritable goldmine of Australian history and the National Film and Sound Archive of Australia (NFSA) are very excited about making it increasingly available to Australian teachers and students. They’ve discovered library professionals are a key link in getting these valuable resources in front of teachers and helping develop ways to use them in the classroom. Heather Millard explains.

The National Film and Sound Archive of Australia (NFSA) has more than 1.6 million items in its collection and an extensive range of award-winning online learning resources — and with more on the way, we want educators know about them. When looking for the best way to inform teachers, we found that they are generally time-poor, and while they are able to spend some time online looking for educational resources, they rely to a large degree on the resource-finding skills of their professional library staff.

Now we are working closely with those library professionals in schools to ensure they are aware of the educational resources offered by the NFSA.

700,000 online visitors, 35,000 students through the door every year

The NFSA’s educational website, called australianscreen online (www.aso.gov.au) features more than 4000 moving image clips from almost 1600 feature films, documentaries, television programs, newsreels, animations, home movies and sound recordings. With teachers’ notes prepared in collaboration with Education Services Australia, the website is accessed throughout the world by over 700,000 visitors per year. Clips can be explored through curriculum categories and subcategories (aso.gov.au/education/).

The audiovisual material is selected from the collections of the NFSA and a range of other significant national institutions, including the National Archives of Australia, the ABC, SBS and the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies.

The NFSA’s Digital Learning suite of resources also includes educational modules produced by the former Film Australia (www.nfsa.gov.au/learning). These 21 sites include Australian Biography Online, From Wireless to Web, Investigating National Treasures, Australian History Timeline, and Moving History – 60 Years of Film Australia.

Clips on all 21 websites can be discovered through the Digital Resource Finder sorted by state or national based curriculum areas and by school year.

NFSA Connects presents networked real time Q&A sessions with contemporary filmmakers and artists to school students. This innovative program is run through the NFSA’s School Screen and provides students across Australia with unprecedented access to creative arts professionals to hear their stories and learn about their experiences.

The project uses video-conferencing and other digital networking equipment available to schools in both urban and regional areas.

The NFSA also runs educational programs for on-site visits by schools. More than 35,000 students, from primary and secondary schools throughout the country, come to the NFSA each year. Guided tours and live presentations take students through the history of Australian film and sound. We also prepare special presentations throughout the year. For example we are currently preparing presentations on Australian animation, Australian dance, and – for later in the year – on Australian advertising.

The NFSA’s School Screen (www.nfsa.gov.au/schoolscreen) offers free screenings of some of Australia’s best feature films, shorts and documentaries for schools nationwide. In local cinemas throughout the country, schools can screen Australian films engaging students in a range of curriculum and learning areas. Using study guides available through School Screen, teachers can guide students to achieve key learning outcomes and improve literacy in creative ways. A selection of contemporary Indigenous short films on DVD can also be accessed through the NFSA’s Black Screen program for use in schools (www.nfsa.gov.au/blackscreen).

No matter what the subject being taught, there is likely to be something in the national audiovisual collection to help illustrate a lesson, show what life was like ‘back then’ or to inspire students (and teachers!) to create new projects and artworks.

Explore the NFSA’s online resources and you will see the wealth of information and resources available. But be warned - you could find yourself still exploring hours later.

Heather Millard
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National Film and Sound Archive
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PARLIAMENTS UNITED TO ACHIEVE E AND D EXCELLENCE

Over 90 parliamentary library and research staff from around the world met in the first week of May in Canberra to talk about challenges, innovative activities and their future at was the first international parliamentary symposium in Australia. Roxanne Missingham reports.

With support from the International Federation of International Library Associations (IFLA) Section on Library and Research Services for Parliaments, Association of Parliamentary Libraries of Australasia, Centre for Democratic Institutions (CDI) Australian National University, AusAID, NZAID, and the Department of the House of Representatives, funded attendance to the symposium was offered to all Pacific Parliaments, ensuring that the maximum regional impact.

The event proved a fabulous opportunity to work with many organisations and experience a rich and diverse program, including the Good Governance and Freedom From Corruption workshop held by the IFLA Committee on Free Access to Information and Freedom of Expression and another workshop focused on the United Nations Depository Program for the region (see separate story).

We also enjoyed a trade fair, enabling participants to talk directly to resource and technology vendors, capacity building sessions focusing on client communication, web cataloguing and intranet and website management.

The program featured presentations by more than 25 speakers from parliaments around the world and meetings of the Association of Parliamentary Librarians of Asia and the Pacific (APLAP) and the Association of Parliamentary Libraries of Australasia (APLA).

By the end of three action-packed days, we felt enthused and invigorated. Parliamentary libraries and research services were strengthened through increased knowledge and skills by providing an opportunity for sharing information, knowledge and experiences and, in particular, Pacific parliamentary staff built a stronger network through working together.

We agreed the capacity of parliamentary staff had been increased through training in information technology and service delivery and that sharing this information would directly encourage innovation in these areas in parliaments around the world.

Another important benefit is that cooperation between the IFLA Section and the Global Centre for ICT in Parliaments and Inter-Parliamentary Union was increased, particularly in support for the Pacific Parliamentary Network.

Importantly, APLAP was reactivated after not meeting for six years with a new committee headed by Widya Chalid from Indonesia. The next meeting will be in Malaysia, with a strong commitment to continue to build skills and support member libraries.

Future activities following the symposium will include publication of a manual on the capacity building sessions and a CD-ROM of all presentations to be supplied to attendees. Support will also be given to the organisers of the next Pacific parliamentary library and research event.

For all of us the opportunity to talk to colleagues and share experiences provides a wonderful opportunity to grow by ‘standing on the shoulders of others’. Perhaps more importantly, it builds relationships where we can continue to support each other. Already since the symposium plans are afoot to implement a web catalogue session in the pacific.

Many library and research services have developed innovative ways of delivering services suiting the online environment – be it blogs, facebook, online training, online mapping or other services. You can see the papers and presentations online at symposium2011.aph.gov.au/program.htm and photos from the event can be viewed at picasaweb.google.com/the.library.world.

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UNITED NATIONS DEPOSITORY LIBRARIES: THE WORLD AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

Have you ever thought about how your patrons could benefit from access to United Nations documents? These documents and expert help have been available through depository libraries around the world since 1946. There are now more than 400 depository libraries in over 140 countries supporting access to United Nations material from the date of their inclusion in the depository program. The general public can consult the material free of charge at any depository library, including the State Libraries of South Australia, Queensland and New South Wales, Australian Parliamentary Library and the National Library of Australia.

The United Nations was founded in 1945 after the Second World War by 51 countries committed to maintaining international peace and security, developing friendly relations among nations and promoting social progress, better living standards and human rights. It has great number of committees and bodies tackling major international issues such as the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and Committee on the Rights of the Child.

Publications are available on areas such as peace and security, development, human rights, humanitarian affairs, and international law and online access services include document delivery by email or RSS feed http://undocs.org/##/home. Searching options include the Official Document System, ODS (www.un.org/en/documents/ods/) and UN Bibliographic Information System, UNBisnet (unbisnet.un.org/).


Roxanne Missingham
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Vivienne Conway featured in the pages of inCite in March, reporting on her research into web accessibility, for which she was awarded ALIA’s Twila Ann Janssen Herr Research Award for Disability Services. Vivienne went on to win one of two coveted International Google Awards to attend the International Cross-Disciplinary Conference on Web Accessibility (W4A 2011) in Hyderabad, India during that month. These awards recognise the efforts of students “whose research was most promising in terms of its depth and potential impact”. Vivienne reports on the conference and draws on her Ph.D. work and experience to provide a practical checklist for web accessibility.

The 2011 W4A conference was a two-day event, co-located within the program of the 20th International World Wide Web Conference. The theme this year was Crowdsourcing the Cloud: An Inclusive Web by All and For All? ‘Crowdsourcing’ involves working together as well as focusing on our individual spheres of interest. This theme of ‘designing for inclusiveness’ - rather than tackling on patches - was everyone’s goal.

There were numerous papers presented describing the efforts of academics, researchers and industry in working towards the goal of an inclusive web. For me, one of the most outstanding presentations was from Dr. Manish Gupta, who described the work of IBM Research in India and South Asia with the ‘spoken web’. The implications of this work have fascinated me, and it was not until he described how the people in these regions were more likely to have mobile phones than either landlines or internet connections that I realized how having a spoken web service could radically change their ability to connect to vital information.

To see the information communication change from a car with speakers driving through villages broadcasting public information to a service available from a mobile phone where people can access information anytime/anywhere is inspiring. The idea of the spoken web working in a parallel manner to the world wide web, facilitating the creation of user-content and hyperlinks will open links for people throughout the world who are semi-literate and/or do not have regular Internet access. I believe this work can significantly enhance the lives of people in less-developed regions of the world.

My particular field of interest is the evaluation of websites for accessibility including standards and evaluation techniques with a purpose of building a framework for website developers. While WCAG 2.0 evaluation tools are still being developed and refined, there is substantial work being done on how we evaluate websites, and whether the WCAG 2.0 guidelines meet the goals of being technology-independent and testable. I know this experience will affect my overall understanding of website accessibility and its implications on a much-broader scale than I had previously envisaged.

Part of the Google Award entailed me presenting my proposed Ph.D. research at the conference. To present to such an esteemed audience is rather daunting, however I received a number of very kind offers of support, as well as questions regarding methodology and purpose that will help to shape my research. The guidance I received is proving beneficial as I finalise my research proposal.

I believe that attending W4A 2011 will have a pronounced impact on my work and future research activities here in Australia. I also believe that the opportunity to attend the conference, something I would not have had without the Google Student Award, will change the impact of my research to something much larger than I originally envisioned. I have a larger goal and a more global perspective since attending the conference.

I have come home from W4A 2011 full of renewed energy for my work, encouraged by the spirit of cooperation, and inspired by the people I have met. I feel that my vision has been expanded and that what I thought of more as personal dreams and goals, are universally-shared by the people I have met. Both the honour of having been chosen, and the impact this event has had on my research and future contacts within the field have been tremendous.

Creating an accessible website: a checklist
One in five people have some kind of long term impairment that affects their ability to access information via websites. It is critical that people entering information on websites understand this and are
Try Library of Congress Web-Based Cataloging Services
FREE for 30 days

Cataloger’s Desktop
www.loc.gov/cds/desktop
The integrated, online documentation system with over 300 of the most important cataloging and metadata resources — available 24-7. Updated four times each year.
For FREE trial application, visit www.loc.gov/cds/desktop/OrderForm.html

Classification Web
www.loc.gov/cds/classweb
The only full-text display of all LC Classification schedules & subject headings available anywhere. Updated daily.
For FREE trial application, visit www.loc.gov/cds/classweb/CWorder_files/ClassWebOrderForm.pdf

Office of Business Enterprises
Cataloging Distribution Service
Telephone +1-202-707-6100
Email cdsinfo@loc.gov | www.loc.gov/cds

Trained in the skills necessary to create truly accessible websites. Talk to your users and find out what their needs are.

Audit your website (or get someone to do it for you) for website accessibility. The Australian Human Rights Commission requires everyone to be working towards the latest guidelines known as the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) Version 2.0. Websites are to be progressing towards Priority Level AA Compliance by 2014 at the latest.

Here is a checklist to get you started, and you will find more information on the W3C website, including the WCAG 2.0 Guidelines at www.w3.org/WAI/intro/wcag.
- Every image should have a caption — use the ‘ALT’ attribute, but for items requiring longer descriptions, use the ‘longdesc’ attribute
- Avoid putting text in images
- If you need to use a CAPTCHA, you need to provide an alternative for the users with visual impairments
- Watch the wording on buttons – please do not use ‘click here’ or ‘go’, as they will not make sense to the user with screen-reading software. Make sure the link makes sense without the user being able to physically see it
- If at all possible, put in a link to enable a user to skip repetitive navigational links
- Do not rely on users to have the latest browsers – instead make sure you put in options to re-size text, view a site map, and link to accessibility guidelines for the website
- Avoid putting too much information on each page - it takes too long to load on slower Internet connections

- If you must use PDF files, you need to provide an alternative, preferably by using a Word, RichText or HTML as your primary source file with a PDF as the alternative as screen-readers have difficulty with PDF files and this means some users will not be able to read your information
- Learn how to use screen-reading software such as JAWS or NVDA - NVDA was developed in Australia and is free and able to be installed on all machines, while JAWS provides a free 40-minute demo version. NVDA has been developed by Australians and is well-supported
  - NVDA: www.nvda-project.org/

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14
EVERYTHING E(LECTRONIC) & D(IGITAL)
For those who are concerned about the somewhat disorganised and ephemeral nature of some virtual resources, UNESCO’s Memory of the World is both a vital scholarly resource and a joy. Launched in 1992, the program aims to “guard against collective amnesia”, calling on and disseminating archive and library holdings from across the globe in an effort to ensure the diversity of our history in terms of our language, peoples and cultures is protected.

Even before the internet and Wikipedia became the resource du jour, UNESCO recognised that war, funding pressures and illegal trading were having a significant and detrimental effect on the collected documentary heritage of the world. Both the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) and the International Council of Archives (ICA) were involved in the preparation of lists of vulnerable collections and with their help, UNESCO developed a list of endangered collections in libraries, archives and cinematic collections.

Technological innovation has allowed UNESCO to gather and record original documents for preservation and dissemination. Pilot projects have included a CD of the Radzivill Chronicle, a 13th century document recording the origins of European peoples, and an ambitions project collecting the newspaper archives of seven Latin American nations, the Memoria de Iberoamerica.

There are now over 60 Memory of the World programs worldwide, including our own here in Australia established in 2000 (www.amw.org.au) and a regional Asia Pacific program. Amongst the documents on the Australian Register are The Story of the Kelly Gang, held by the National Film and Sound Archive, the Mabo Case manuscripts, Captain Cook’s journal and the Sorry Books.

These programs accept nominations of material for inclusion in the Memory of the World Register on a biennial basis, with the Australian program accepting nominations in the alternate year from the national and regional programs. Priority is given to heritage institutions and what the Program Committee understands to be “heritage under threat”. Collaboration for nomination amongst co-custodians of collections such as governments or cultural institutions is encouraged and the Committee in each country can also initiate the nomination process itself.

Inclusion on the Register gives these custodians evidence to strengthen applications for preservation funding through grant programs and sponsorship and ensures they are recognised as contributing to the worldwide effort to raise awareness of the importance of our documentary heritage.

The cost-effective ability to reach far beyond the local is one of the great benefits of the electronic/digital environment, both in the capturing, and the sharing of moments in time.
Conference a smorgasbord for e and d

Carla Daws says it was with excitement and nervous anticipation that she prepared to attend my first conference, ALIA Information Online, at the Conference and Exhibition Centre on Sydney’s Darling Harbour, in February this year. What would the conference experience be like? Would the extra expense involved in attending the conference be worthwhile, even though she had received significant financial assistance from ALIA’s New Graduate’s Committee by winning a free conference registration (as well as financial assistance from her employer)? Would she even be able to find the venue? It turned out that the answers to these questions were ‘fantastic’, ‘definitely’ and ‘yes, quite easily’. Carla describes the trends that caught her attention.

The Information Online conference comprised three jam-packed days of presenters, keynote speakers and vendors sharing clever, interesting and inventive developments taking place relating to the provision of information online. These were the trends that emerged from the conference for me:

Users are increasingly using mobile devices to access information

A growing number of users want to be able to access online resources via their mobile devices. According to keynote speaker Chris Winter, mobile use is predicted to overtake access via laptops. This trend is apparent in the library sector. Several companies exhibiting at the conference have produced applications that enable mobile access to catalogues using a simple search interface, such as LibraryThing’s Library Anywhere app.

The use of games to educate, inform and encourage participation

Many people play online games. The use of games presents an opportunity for libraries to provide enhanced service delivery to their users. Ellen Forsyth from the State Library of New South Wales discussed how games such as Second Life and World of Warcraft, can be used to conduct presentations and provide reference services. The Powerhouse Museum has created an interactive game for Smartphones called China Heart, which has an intriguing back story that leads users around various sites within Sydney’s Chinatown.

EBooks (and ereaders) offer exciting new opportunities

Keynote speaker Michael Mace asserted that we are now at the tipping point at which eBook use will increase exponentially, primarily thanks to the popularity of the iPad. This offers the possibility of developing new formats for information, including magazines and newspapers, beyond simply recreating the print experience and converting it to digital format. Ereader lending is a means for organisations to enhance the use of eBook collections by their users. With the wide variety of devices available on the market, however, deciding which ereader(s) to use presents a challenge. To help guide this decision, Queensland University of Technology has trialled several eBook readers, and presented the findings at Information Online.

Organisations can share their existing online resources in beneficial new ways

Many organisations are sharing their data, enabling users to actively contribute to data collections and create new resources from their data. One example is Libraryhack, a data-sharing initiative of the State Library of Queensland. The Libraryhack website includes datasets from digital collections and convicts transportation records, among others, and allows users to generate new digital content from this data. The MyLanguage portal, a collaboration between seven state and territory libraries, provides online content in several languages to libraries and their users. This resource enables libraries to overcome language barriers in service provision, and to maximise the use of language resources by preventing the siloing of data held by libraries.

Information Online was an inspiring conference, which showed that despite constraints like time and money, it’s still possible to implement new ideas. Of course, conferences aren’t just about learning. Opportunities for socialising abounded at events such as the welcome cocktail party. Similarly, the first timer’s breakfast on the first day of the conference provided a great opportunity to network with other library students and professionals new to the conference experience.

“As Emma Taylor, an Information Online presenter remarked, it can be easy to become complacent in your day-to-day activities. Whilst this was mentioned in the context of developing and implementing new initiatives within an organisation, it is also applicable to the area of professional development. Attending events like Information Online provides a great opportunity to expand your horizons and be motivated by what others in the online world are doing. Similarly, the upcoming new graduates’ conference NLS5 in September will be a great opportunity for new librarians to meet and network with other library professionals, and to discover knowledge that will be invaluable to their careers and professional development. I encourage everyone to attend.”

Carla Daws

Carla Daws is a cataloguing librarian at Charles Sturt University and recently celebrated her one-year anniversary of becoming a librarian.

“despite constraints like time and money, it’s still possible to implement new ideas.”

Meet EEI Coordinator, Lesa Maclean at NLS5

Lesa will be presenting at the NLS5 conference in Perth in September. If you would like to meet with Lesa, leave a message at the ALIA stand in the exhibition area. Ideas for columns always welcome!
On the move
Regular readers will have recognised that I adopt a sceptical attitude to the issue of smartphones and tablets, although this will undoubtedly change some time in the near future as the upward trend of their suitability for my circumstances and the downward slope of their affordability move to an intersection point. Until that time, I reserve the right to view the whole mobile scene with a critical eye.

Take, for example, the recent lunch I attended on Managing Online Communities. I enjoyed the experience very much - but I'm not so sure about the other nine people at my table who were bent over their smartphones and pads all the time, probably tweeting about what the presenter was saying. What was more intriguing was that the speaker used her iPad as a prompt for the outline of her talk, and she giggled a couple of times about the tweets that people in the audience were sending. She could perhaps have turned off Twitter for the duration - which would have shown just a little more respect for her listeners.

But then I saw an article from A List Apart (bit.ly/f4Cfmf) that makes a good case for a complete rethink of the way we do conferences and presentations. I'm still not convinced, but it did spark some interesting discussion.

On a related topic, I've been reading the UK Government’s ICT strategy (www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/content/government-ict-strategy) - and very impressive it is. One thing that strikes me is that there is a strong emphasis on creating mobile solutions to the provision of government services. Now, it’s true that if you create online services from the beginning in the right way, they can be implemented across all sorts of platforms: desktops, laptops, mobiles, tablets. But what people seem to ignore is that many of these services are already in place, albeit with sub-optimal support for mobile devices. But a government that’s so cash-strapped that they’re applying savage budget cuts finds it necessary to do a lot of work to placate the mobile lobby? It must have been a hard decision to make.

But there are (of course) some nice features
And I'm not talking about the ability to walk along an aisle, point your camera at a product and do an instant price comparison with every other shop on the planet – although that does have some attraction. No, I'm thinking more about Quick Response codes (also known as QR) and explained clearly in the story at tinyurl.com/3lx8pop. You will have seen them in various places and perhaps wondered what they're about. Well, it looks like they're about to take off. Consider the scenarios in the article where the website you're sent to knows the location that you're scanning from and offers you some tailored solutions. Neat.

eBook lending
Things appear to have gone quiet about HarperCollins’ decision to restrict lending its eBooks, announced earlier this year – which resulted in a statement by the ALA (ala.org/ala/newspresscenter/news/pr.cfm?id=6517) politely criticising the move. What I was more impressed by was the analysis by Eric Hellman at tinyurl.com/3t0pyyu, in which he used the marvellous resource of the University of Huddersfield’s huge data base of information about circulation and recommendation at tinyurl.com/6hsw48. With this data, Hellman has identified HarperCollins’ cunning plan to grab even more of the market. Later news is that various UK publishers are continuing talks with libraries in that country, to try to work out some sort of arrangement that's acceptable to all parties. Good luck with that.

This was all given a kick along when Amazon announced late in April that it would be offering libraries a lending service based on the Kindle in the US, which has a few authors worried that they'll have to work even harder to make a pittance from their work. And if you want to buy one, you probably won't be able to Australians should feel quite discriminated against when it comes to buying eBooks, and the post at tinyurl.com/4ynknjx shows why. No doubt the publishing industry knows what it's doing, but its potential customers are not happy. Here we are, all cashed up with a strong dollar and they refuse to sell us a product with no real overheads. The post has a collection of good links to free eBooks and tools for managing your eLibrary.

When the clouds roll by
There's been a lot of head-scratching and soul-searching about Amazon’s cloud outages (tinyurl.com/3d5vpkd), and that series of incidents should prompt senior management (and not just IT managers) to reconsider their strategies. It won't completely halt developments in this growing area, but it should cause people to revisit their risk management plans, which isn't really such a bad idea.

When we really had variety in our entertainment
And here's a plug for a new resource: I heard on an ANZAC Day program that the Australian Variety Theatre Archive (ozvta.com/) would be opening in May. The Archive features various forms of memorabilia from the times up until the middle of last century when vaudeville was the most popular form of theatre, and strongly influenced the early days of television.
READING BETWEEN THE LINES: THE FEDERAL BUDGET 2011

There’s rarely big news in the Federal Budget for libraries. The only library that is guaranteed a mention is the federally-funded National Library of Australia. Having said that, there is always plenty to ponder if you look at the finer detail of Federal Department spending. Each year, we plough through hundreds of pages of statements and figures to bring you, our members, the Federal Budget library-related information you’re unlikely to get anywhere else.

This year the key topics for libraries in the Federal Budget were the National Broadband Network (NBN), internet filtering, cyber-safety, education, early childhood development and adult literacy.

The big ticket item for the Department of Broadband, Communication and the Digital Economy (DBCDE) was the NBN. ALIA continues to lobby for libraries to be key partners in helping to maximise the benefits of the NBN roll-out in local communities. There were a couple of opportunities for us in the Budget – one, to contribute to the Digital Regions Initiative; the other, to work closely with the NBN regional coordinators.

Also under the DBCDE banner was the announcement that the Government will not proceed with the Voluntary Internet Filtering Grants Program, worth $9.6 million over three years. Not quite the statement we would like to hear from Government about abandoning its plans for mandatory ISP-level internet filtering, but we felt it to be a nod in the right direction. There was a strong emphasis too on cyber-safety, again an area where libraries can play a key role, and an area in which ALIA has made its voice heard as one of the founders of the Safer Internet Group.

The Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations announced Reward Payments for Great Teachers, which we hope will recognise great teacher librarians, and Teach Next, an initiative to bring experienced professionals into the teaching profession in specialised subject areas where there are teacher shortages.

With the National Year of Reading 2012 in our sights, and all the buzz around the fact that, according to the 2006 Adult Literacy and Life Skills Survey, 46% of Australians struggle with the basics of everyday literacy, the Budget happily focused on literacy from early years through to adult, including literacy initiatives for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

We were particularly pleased to see the Government provide $20 million over four years to provide 13,000 additional training places for workers with low language, literacy and numeracy skills, and $143.1 million over four years to fund 30,000 places for job seekers under the Language, Literacy and Numeracy Program. In addition, the 2,000 Broadband Kiosks for Seniors received a $10.4 million boost to maintain their work around information literacy.

Research in higher education came under the spotlight in the Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research Budget. Excellence in Research Australia will go through a review process in 2011-2012, and funding for the Collaborative Research Networks Program was cut by $20.7 million.

The Arts Council of Australia was granted $10 million over five years to support young and emerging artists, with grants of up to $80,000 for new artistic works, including literature. However, funding for ‘Let Reading!’, the annual promotion of books and reading, was reduced by $1.6 million.

For the National Library of Australia and National Archives, the Budget was about continuing and completing existing projects, with little change to funding.

ALIA Executive Director Sue Hutley commented, “This year’s Budget held no surprises. We would have liked to have seen greater recognition of the role of libraries, particularly in the area of early learning, and a mention of their potential as partners in the roll out of the NBN, but overall we came out of it unscathed and in the current economic climate, that’s a result.”

For a more detailed account of the Budget, log on to membership.alia.org.au/scripts/cgiip.exe/WService=ALIA/ccms.r?pageid=396CallerId=10337 and then select “2011-12 Federal Budget”.

This budget brief was prepared for inCite by Sue McKerracher of The Library Agency. The Library Agency have developed and delivered a range of programs and materials for library advocacy for ALIA. Sue can be contacted at sue@thelibraryagency.org.au
Pan Pacific Perth
Monday 12 – Friday 16 September 2011

Debate, network and learn with you colleagues through our packed program of speakers, tours and events at the ALIA 2011 National Library Technicians Conference in Perth this September. See best practice in action first hand, check out the latest products and services at the extensive trade exhibition and enjoy the wonderful sights and sounds of Western Australia.

Register now at

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conferences.alia.org.au/libtech2011
www.flickr.com/photos/libtech2011
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ALIALibtec, hashtag #ALIALibtec
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HAPPY FIRST BIRTHDAY MY PD

ALIA’s Professional Development Scheme interface, My PD, is turning one at the start of the next PD year on July 1. The My PD interface has allowed PD scheme members to record their PD activity as well as record their learning outcomes.

Happy birthday to all who have taken up the opportunity to participate.

Congratulations are also due to all the new PD scheme members that have joined the scheme during this PD year. After fulfilling their 30 points and PD Scheme requirements by June 30 2011, you are now Certified Practitioners and able to use the post nominals AALIA (CP) and ALIATec (CP).

My PD, with its easy access via the ALIA website home page, has proved very popular with members. On average, one Associate or Library Technician ALIA member joins the PD scheme every work day. The message about the importance of formally acknowledging professional development is definitely reaching the LIS professional workforce.

Not a member of the PD scheme? Join today so you too can be recognised for your commitment to continuous learning and maintaining your professionalism. ALIA’s Professional Development and Careers Manager, Judy Brooker, welcomes any enquiries about gaining Certified Practitioner status. Please email pd@alia.org.au.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

JULY AND AUGUST COURSES

Public speaking with confidence
Course Dates 19, 21, 25, & 28 July 2011 at 10:00AM AEDT
Registrations Close 5 July 2011
Delivery Teleconference series
Open to Members, non-members and partner associations
Course Presenter Speaking Edge - Dr Irena Yashin-Shaw
PD Points 1 per hour

This innovative at-your-desk course, specifically designed with librarians and library technicians in mind, aims to build confidence in public speaking and to provide guidance in preparing speeches so that participants can present well in public forums and develop strong verbal cases when opportunities arise. The July course will also specifically cover presenting at conferences.


Buying for your collection – getting it right: select and acquire library materials
Course Date 15 Aug – 30 Sept
Registrations Close 1 Aug
Delivery On-line
Open to Members, non-members and partner associations
Course Presenter TAFE NSW Sydney Institute
PD Points 30

Hone your acquisition skills and methods. Includes: reviewing your collection, developing/assessing acquisition recommendations and assessing the qualities of recommended acquisitions.

To register and for more information:

Professional Development - make it count
Date 21 July 2pm
Registrations Close 13 July
Delivery Teleconference
Open to Members only
Presenter Judy Brooker, ALIA’s Professional Development and Careers Manager
PD Points 1

A FREE PD opportunity to get advice about a range of PD issues and understand the ALIA PD Scheme.

To register

www.alia.org.au
Joseph Cullen
MBA, MPPM, Fellow LGPro, MAICD, PNA
Present position
Chief Executive of the Eastern Regional Libraries Corporation
Professional concerns
We must constantly innovate to enhance the opportunities and services for our communities. At the same time we must ensure the highest levels of service by providing professional development opportunities for our staff through associations such as ALIA.
I believe that libraries must be socially, culturally, environmentally and economically sustainable if we are to continue to provide relevant services and to being the ‘third place’ for our communities.
I believe that we can achieve these outcomes through co-operation, partnerships and alliances within the library profession and with our external stakeholders, and through the leadership and advocacy of ALIA.

Kathryn Cass
GradDipAppSc(Lib&InfoMgt), Dip. Lib.&Info.Services, BA (Hons)
Present position
Coordinator, Library Operations, Marrickville Library and History Services
Professional concerns
My professional concerns include free access to information for all Australians through the provision of appropriate technology and education (e.g. broadband rollout particularly to country areas, internet safety education rather than an internet filter and blacklists). I am also passionate about lobbying for increased funding and recognition of public, school and academic libraries. I believe that all libraries in every sector play an important role in their respective organisations, and the on-going professional development of library, records and information agency staff, as well as excellent representation and lobbying by ALIA of politicians and other stakeholders is the best way to ensure their continued success.

Vanessa Little
BA Lib Stud., Grad Dip Bus Admin., AALIA, FLGMA
Present position
Director, Libraries ACT.
Professional concerns
More than ever our profession involves adding value to our clients and making a significant contribution to the strategic objectives of our organisations. We are at a time when there are many opportunities unfolding for librarians in all sectors. The lifelong learning movement, increasingly important to the social and economic agendas of our governments, offers libraries and librarians from academic, special, state, national public and school library sectors a potential policy framework within which to collaborate.
A number of local and regional areas have already implemented place-based local development, involving collaboration across universities, TAFEs, private companies, state and national government agencies and local councils. All of these organisations have libraries and in a number of cases it is the librarians who are the driving force behind the policies and collaboration to benefit local communities and economies.
Instead, I see an unprecedented chance for our profession to collaborate across sectors to address local and national issues and further embed the library profession in the strategic objectives of governments and communities.

ALIA Board of Directors 2011 Left to Right: John Bayliss, Joseph Cullen, Margaret Allen, Julie Rae, Vanessa Little, Graham Black, Kathryn Kass
It’s an exciting time to be a member of the Australian Library and Information Association!

**ALIA can help you contribute to your learning.**

**Let ALIA help you broaden your career prospects.**
If you’re looking to move on, up or even take a sidestep in your career, you can subscribe to recruitLIS, our members-only vacancies e-list that will keep up with the latest positions vacant. Visit our employment pages at any time for a list of the latest vacancies or other key employment resources and call on the expert advice of your industrial relations advisor at [www.alia.org.au/employment](http://www.alia.org.au/employment)

**Discover critical information and access the latest research.**
ALIA provides a free Copyright Advisory service, providing members with up-to-date information on copyright and how it affects the library and information sector. Did you know that the Copyright Notices for Libraries were updated in December 2010? Discover what’s changed at [www.alia.org.au/copyright/](http://www.alia.org.au/copyright/)

ALIA has a diverse publishing program, including our members news magazine *inCite*, and our two journals *Australian Library Journal* (ALJ) and the *Australian Academic Library Journal* (AARL). Explore the trends emerging in your industry today at [www.alia.org.au/publishing](http://www.alia.org.au/publishing)

**ALIA is the voice of your industry.**
It is through your support that the Association has the opportunity to influence the development and quality of the profession. The Association is constantly advocating and lobbying for our profession and for library and information services in Australia and making opportunities for our profession to discuss the big issues [www.alia.org.au/advocacy](http://www.alia.org.au/advocacy)

**Keep your eye out!**
Your membership renewal will be arriving shortly, and our team are ready to assist in renewing your membership for the next year. Do you know a colleague who could benefit, as you have, from being an ALIA member? Tell them to check out all the benefits of being an ALIA member today at [www.alia.org.au/membership.benefits/](http://www.alia.org.au/membership.benefits/)

**Update your details online now**
ASSOCIATION NEWS

CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST FOR ALIA ADVISORY COMMITTEES

ALIA’s Board of Directors is calling for interested members to join Advisory Committees. The following advisory committees looking for members are:

- ALIA Public Sector Information Advisory Committee
- ALIA Interlibrary Lending Advisory Committee
- ALIA New Generation Advisory Committee
- ALIA Special Libraries Advisory Committee
- ALIA Research Committee

For further information on the committees and guidelines go to: www.alia.org.au/governance/committees/

The term of appointment is for three years with the option of renewal for another three years. The nominations will be considered by the Board of Directors with appointments to commence from mid 2011.

For further information on the working of any of ALIA’s Advisory Committees, please contact Sue Hutley, ALIA Executive Director sue.hutley@alia.org.au or 1800 02 0071.

A CV and a 100 word statement in support of your expression of interest is to be forwarded to ALIA Executive Support Officer, enquiry@alia.org.au by close of business 1 June 2011.

TOP JOB ADVICE FROM THOSE WHO KNOW IN SA

Early in April 40 job seekers packed into the Barr-Smith Library hungry for tips on how to win a job in the tightly held library industry.

They were not disappointed. Sue Lewis from the State Library of South Australia Anne Smart of TAFE SA, Wendy Rutten of Westminster School, Benjamin Wheal from Tea Tree Gully Public Library, and Margaret Colmer from the Barr Smith Library were ready and waiting. These five influential hirers in the industry in Adelaide delivered consistent, practical advice ranging from constructing a resume and answering selection criteria to controlling nerves at interviews and using e-portfolios.

Comments after the session such as “understandable and concise” and “wide breadth of content” showed that the audience gained helpful tips from the session, with more value to come as all those attending were also invited to submit a resume for panel members to give feedback.

SALT were extremely pleased with the how the session was received. It is clear that there is demand for information on this topic and the committee plans to hold further sessions later in the year.

Karen Bath
Convenor, SA Library Technicians Group
karen.bath@adelaide.edu.au

They’re reading your resume (LtoR): Wendy Rutten, Margaret Colmer, Benjamin Wheal, Sue Lewis and Anne Smart.
ALIA Groups are formed by members, for members. Each Group has a focus on a particular aspect of the library and information profession – they can be based on a particular issue, interest or even geographic location and can be either short-term (e.g. to coordinate a specific activity or focus on an important issue) or ongoing. Group membership can also be local or nationwide thanks to the benefits of e-mail, chat and teleconferencing. These Groups are the active voice and the ‘doers’ of our profession. In a very real sense, they are the lifeblood of the Association, bringing to life and advocating for the professional standards of all.

ALIA’s Groups achieve great things, and they have a lot of fun doing it. Our Groups are a great place to develop your personal professional network. In just the first five months of 2011, ALIA’s Groups have organised a wide range of events for members, including Library Folk in the Pub, Tex (Techs) And The City / Techs On Tour. Everything you wanted to know about working as a library technician.

Positive, perils and pitfalls of eBooks and eReaders, How to become Library Senior Management In 12 Easy Steps, Secure that job - tips for job seekers, 20x20: Working Together – Putting the spotlight on collaborative projects, Library Ninja Chats, Resume Reviews, and a Library and Information Week Quiz Night.

A Group is a ‘unit’ of the Association so there is some fine print. As an ALIA Group member, you are representing ALIA and the wider profession; in turn, the Association is financially and legally supporting your activities. Groups are endorsed by the ALIA Executive Director and generally need the support of a minimum of 25 members to get off the ground. Each Group has its own Group pages to keep their members and other interested members up-to-date with activities and events (www.alia.org.au/groups.html) and there’s a full list of current ALIA Groups at www.alia.org.au/groups/index.html. If you have a question or need some advice about Groups, email us at groups@alia.org.au.

ALIA Groups Handbook coming soon
ALIA is preparing to launch a new resource for our volunteers and Group members – the Groups Handbook. This document represents a collaboration between ALIA staff and many of our volunteers and Group committees. A draft version has been shared with our Office Bearers for comment and feedback – the updated and final version will be released to members in the next month.

WHO YOU GONNA CALL?
ALIA’s Group Coordinator is David McInnes. David has come to ALIA from a background mixing the corporate and holistic, including previous employment in retail/marketing in the public sector and his ongoing work as a yoga instructor. A highlight of David’s life so far has been a scholarship that allowed him to study Eastern Philosophy and Buddhist Hermeneutics in India, during which time he was able to participate in the Kalachakra Tantra Ceremony conducted by HH the Dalai Lama in Bodh Gaya in 2003. Appropriately enough, David also happily confesses to being an obsessive bookworm, and will devour any and all literature he comes across. In addition to work and study, David is quite a keen musician, and can often be found soundtracking many a workday with glam-rock and art-rock classics at his desk. Other passions include film, theatre, offensively coloured high-top sneakers, pots of herbal tea, and the size of the smiles he can bring his colleagues with a round of frozen Tim-Tams on Friday afternoons.

Contact David at david.mcinnes@alia.org.au or on 02 6215 8222
1300 DEVICES AVAILABLE TO ASSIST PRINT DISABLED

The Library Initiative aims to improve access for people with print disability to print material in a digital format through public libraries around the country. The devices will allow people with print disability to access audio books, newspapers, journals and other publications to which they may otherwise be unable to access. Providing the devices and services through the public library network allows people with disability to participate more fully in the community, for example through participation in reading groups and book clubs.

ALIA Executive Director Sue Hutley said the initiative provides a significant boost to the range of services Public Libraries already provide to the disabled community. Over 60 metropolitan, regional, rural and remote library services will participate across Australia, with around 1300 devices being made available.

The Department of Families and Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA) has provided funding of $1 million for the initiative. The implementation is being managed by The ALIA.

In April, the Parliamentary Secretary for Disabilities and Carers, Senator Jan McLucas, visited the Fremantle City Library to confirm her support for the library’s role in the project and Margaret Allen ALIA Vice President and CEO of the State Library of Western Australia attended the event on ALIA’s behalf.

“ALIA is proud to be working with FaHCSIA on realising this Initiative,” Sue Hutley said, adding that many of the current services for disabled patrons are delivered with the assistance of volunteers.

Devices have been shipped to all participating libraries and ALIA is now in the second phase of shipments. While the initial goal for FaHCSIA and ALIA was to be able to provide 800 devices for use by eligible public library clients, it now seems that the project will be able to provide over 1300 devices.

“Participating libraries have been very busy during May taking delivery, undergoing training and commencing their programs”, Sue said.

“We are looking forward to receiving lots of positive stories and photographs as programs roll out.”

Rob Miller
rob.miller@alia.org.au

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Senator Jan McLucas with Dr Brad Pettit, Mayor of Fremantle and Fremantle City library member Les Read, who is keen to get started with the new print navigation devices.
WD (Denis) Richardson BA, FLAA, former University Librarian of the University of Melbourne, died on Sunday 1 May. Born in England in 1927 and educated at the University of Sheffield, Denis began his career in librarianship in public libraries in England before immigrating to Australia where his many roles included regional appointments in South Australia, Queensland and Western Australia, overseeing the growing Canberra Public Library Service (along with services in New Guinea, Nauru and the Northern Territory) and his pivotal role as Deputy National Librarian at the National Library of Australia in the 1970s.

In 1974, Denis was invited to apply for the position of University Librarian at the University of Melbourne, and began a career of both local and national significance, embarking on a long and arduous effort to bring material purchased with University funds under the control of the University Library, to reduce unnecessary duplication of materials and to have all the collections appropriately housed.

This required a total reorganisation of the staff structure and personnel, almost constant shuffling of the book-stock in an effort to make the best possible use of inadequate accommodation, and an enthusiastic embrace of new technology. It also required regional and national co-operation and Denis was a moving force behind the establishment of CAVAL (Cooperative Action by Victorian Academic Libraries) in 1978, which saw the provision of shared storage, ownership of material, cataloguing and reciprocal borrowing rights. In 1980, he was elected President of the Library Association of Australia. From 1986-89 he chaired the Committee of Australian University Librarians.

Denis was also a Victorian Committee member and National President of the National Book Council, a non-profit organisation representing Australian book publishers, book sellers, libraries, authors and readers. In 1989, the University of Melbourne Library amalgamated with the Melbourne College of Advanced Education, a marriage that brought enormous problems as well as advantages. Twenty years on, the University is only just approaching a solution to the disposition of book-stock and use of space provided in the Eastern Resource Centre. When Denis Richardson assumed responsibility for the College Library and its staff challenges were posed by material, buildings and personnel.

Denis Richardson perhaps was unusual among Australian librarians in being equally fascinated by the old and new information technologies. Just as he embraced and promoted what was at the time cutting edge technology (CD-roms, manuscripts reproduced in microform), he authorised the acquisition of book materials as varied as the 1472 Schoeffer Bible or private libraries of books in Yiddish and Russian as well as other European languages. He greatly expanded the University’s Chinese holdings and took a personal and informed interest in the development of the Music Library. His appointment of a senior Collection Development Librarian in 1978 was evidence of his determination to increase and improve the capacity of the University of Melbourne Library to support research in all areas. The Library’s first comprehensive Collection Development Plan was prepared as a result.

Many scholars in all fields of academic endeavour owe Denis Richardson a debt of gratitude for his steadfast determination to see that Australians were not substantially disadvantaged by their distance from the vast resources of European, Asian and North American libraries. He persuaded University authorities to vote the funds to achieve this.

Denis Richardson is survived by Barbara, his wife of 58 years, their four children and six grandchildren.

Dr Juliet Flesch
Foundation Collection Development Librarian
Fellow of the School of Historical Studies
University of Melbourne
julietaf@unimelb.edu.au

New Professor of Information Studies for CSU

The School of Information Studies at Charles Sturt University (CSU) has appointed Dr Lisa Given to the position of Professor of Information Studies after an international search. Currently a Professor in the School of Library and Information Studies at the University of Alberta, Dr Given will join the staff at CSU in July.
JULY
It’s our Future Planning issue and what’s more important than planning for your own professional development? This issue of InCite will feature a full list of all ALIA-accredited library and information sector education programs. Don’t miss it!

AUGUST
Winter is a great time to dream about – and plan – your next holiday. Join your fellow library tourists for a tour around their favourite spots in InCite (and check out our travel insert for some more great ideas).

Want to contribute to InCite? ALIA member contributions are always welcome. Check the guidelines at www.alia.org.au/publishing/incite/guidelines.html. Deadline for contributions is the first of the month prior to the cover date. Contact the Editor at incite@alia.org.au.

Want to advertise in InCite? Contact Jessica Honeychurch at HWR Media and Communications on (08) 8379 9522 or at jhoneychurch@hwrmedia.com.au

CONTRIBUTORS IN THIS ISSUE
Allen, Margaret  1
Bath, Karen  23
Brooker, Judy  20
Conway, Vivienne  13
Daws, Carla  16
Flesch, Juliet  26
Mason, Dean  9
Mclinnes, David  24
McKerracher, Sue  18
Millard, Heather  11
Miller, Rob  25
Missingham, Roxanne  12
Mould, Deborah  7
O’Dwyer, Clare  8
Pym, Robert  28
Webb, Kerry  17
Welch, Lee  15
Wells, Andrew  5
Wright, Janette  6

ADVERTISER INDEX
Abax Systems  25
Aurora Foundation  10
Brother International  18
CAVAL  6
Chess Moving Australia  15
CK Design International  11
FE Technologies  17
Jopa Services  27
Libraries Alive!  22
Library of Congress  14
Library Training Services Australia  4
Maxus Australia  15
Victorian Association of TAFE Libraries  20
Zenith Management Group  24

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We work in a changing environment. Everything you’ve read in this issue reinforces the feeling we all have that our workplaces – and practices – are evolving in ways unimaginable when I joined the profession thirty years ago. Who knows what it will be like in 30 years time?

So how do we keep up with all this? Essentially by ongoing learning – formal courses, professional reading, conference attendance or through the workplace. Such ongoing learning is a vital component for you as an individual and also, for an association such as ALIA, in order to remain relevant to its members and an effective lobby group for our interests.

But how do we inform this learning; where does the information come from? This is where research comes in. Now don’t stop here thinking this has no relevance to you. It does!

Research underpins everything we do. We need to know what works, what doesn’t. Is one approach cost-effective, another not worth the effort? Are our users appreciative of our services, or do we need to do something different, better, to meet their changing needs?

In order to answer such questions we need to do some research. This may be as simple as talking to our clients to find out anecdotally if we are meeting their needs. Or it may be that we use statistics to evaluate a service or the collection. Quite simple approaches - which most of us do as part of our day-to-day lives, often without calling it ‘research’. But this is research, and its outcomes will help shape our own workplace.

And what about thinking a bit bigger? Is this research we are doing applicable to the wider profession? With a bit more effort could we actually make a difference? Can we feed into the professional literature or present our findings at a conference so that others may read or hear and learn from them?

The importance of research cannot be exaggerated. It is essential – and it is not just the role of the academic. For those working in our profession – at the coal face – finding time to undertake more formal research will be a challenge. I would suggest it is a matter of prioritizing – while time may be fixed, it’s what we do with it that has some flexibility. And it may well be that your workplace will understand the benefit of your proposal and actually provide support to give you the time to do it. Or perhaps you can get together with a colleague and share the load.

Start by reading a few easy articles on undertaking research – it isn’t so hard – and get some ideas together. Look at what has been published – this is where ALJ or AARL particularly are useful and provide examples of how to do it. You can also contact the editors for further advice. They are always happy to help.

So, take a moment to think about your interests and how research can tie in with them, and how it can help you with your career. It can be fun – as well as challenging – and can help not only you and your workplace but also others and the profession more broadly. We want ALIA to represent a dynamic, enquiring profession and it is our research that will ensure this.

Don’t be afraid, get involved!

Bob Pymm
Editor, Australian Academic and Research Libraries
aarl.editor@alia.org.au

THE LAST WORD

HOW WILL WE EVER KEEP UP?

"IF YOU CANNOT READ AND WRITE THEN YOU ARE ALWAYS AFRAID."

So wrote Australian indigenous author Tara June Winch, later quoted by her friend and Mamamia (www.mamamia.com.au) columnist Bec Sparrow in a piece on the work of the Indigenous Literacy Project, one of the partners in the National Year of Reading.

And there’s a lot we, as a profession, can do about it.

The National Year of Reading 2012 is but six months away. Now is the time to get planning to ensure your events are included in the official program to be published in September.

- Find out more about the National Year of Reading and the exciting opportunities it offers for all kinds of communities – schools, book groups, workmates. There’s information on the website and our wiki.
- Get together with friends and colleagues to talk about your own special initiative for 2012. You might even decide to form a local steering group. See the wiki for more information.
- Put your name forward as a volunteer. More information is available on the wiki.
- Put a line under your email signature saying “I’m supporting the National Year of Reading 2012 – www.love2read.org.au.”
- If you have your own website, set up a link by downloading the button and code from our website.

Send us details of any events you are planning for the National Year of Reading, so we can add them to the calendar. We’ll be going public with the schedule of events for 2012 in September, so make sure you let us know before then – email donna@thelibraryagency.org.au.
LET’S MAKE AUSTRALIA A READING NATION!

JOIN THE WIGGLES - AND AUSTRALIA’S LIBRARY PROFESSIONALS - TO SUPPORT ALL AUSSIE KIDS EVERYWHERE TO DEVELOP A LIFELONG HABIT OF READING.

Reading a picture book when you are three is a building block to being able to understand a text book when you are 13, fill in the forms to apply for a mortgage when you are 30 and write that speech for your child’s wedding when you are…well, a bit older.

Literacy is the key. And 46% of Australians are struggling with the lack of those skills, right now.

The Australian Library and Information Association thanks The Wiggles for their support of campaigns to raise awareness of this vital life skill.

Watch The Wiggles videos in support of literacy at www.alia.org.au/wiggles and share the good word.

WIGGLE INTO A GOOD BOOK NOW!