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CSU repositions itself as iSchool

Australia's leading educator of teacher/librarians and library management, Charles Sturt University, is to reposition itself as what it is calling the country's first iSchool.

The iSchool idea, which is already supported by almost 20 overseas universities, was designed during a recent workshop at CSU's Wagga Wagga campus in New South Wales, which attracted information industry leaders from Australia and overseas (some of whom are pictured).



They examined the future of information education in line with federal government policy agendas and international trends in information use.

'The international group of iSchools is interested in the relationship between information, technology and people,' head of CSU's School of Information Studies Associate Professor Stuart Ferguson said.

'It is committed to learning and understanding the role of information in a wide range of human endeavours.'

A driving force behind the iSchool movement in the USA is the Dean Emeritus at the University of Washington's Information School, Professor Michael Eisenberg, who travelled to CSU to be involved in the seminar.

'The future of education and research for the information field is clearly in the form of iSchools,' Eisenberg said.

'CSU is ready to make the major leap to becoming a full iSchool with a rich and impressive array of teaching programs, meaningful scholarship, and outreach to the information field and to a range of professions.'

Eisenberg said he was 'particularly intrigued by the possibilities of teaming up with health professions, agriculture, education, and sustainable environment'.

The iSchool group is currently made up of the leading providers of information education across North America, including many of Canada and the United States' top universities.

'CSU is well placed to build on its national leadership in library and information management and teacher librarianship by expanding its program and promoting a broad view of the role of information in innovation across science, education, culture and society,' Ferguson said.

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ALN News

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NEWS

LIANZA announces the first two keynote speakers



The Library and Information Association of New Zealand Aotearoa (LIANZA) has announced the first two keynote speakers for its 2008 annual conference, to be held at SkyCity Convention Centre in Auckland from November 2-5.

Dylan Horrocks has been appointed comics laureate to the conference.

Horrocks is a New Zealand comic artist and

writer, born in 1966.

His published work includes the graphic novel *Hicksville* (1998), which has been translated into French, Italian and Spanish; the comic book series *Pickle* (1992-1997) and *Atlas* (2001-); and *Milo's Week*, a weekly political comic strip published in the *New Zealand Listener* (1995-1997).

Professor Marilyn Waring has a BA (Hons) from the Victoria University of Wellington and a DPhil from Waikato University.

She holds a personal chair in the Institute of Public Policy at the Auckland University of Technology.

Waring is internationally known for her work in political economy and development assistance, and human rights.

Migration officers' stories to be recorded by the NLA

The Commonwealth Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) and the National Library of Australia will join together to produce an oral history project focusing on immigration to Australia after World War II.

Australian immigration officers are uniquely placed to tell the story of global population movement after 1945.

Prospective migrants and refugees were interviewed and assessed by Chief Migration Officers (CMOs) who, now retired, are participating in this joint project.

Many of the officers were posted to far flung locations around the world, such as the Middle East, South-East Asia and South America, very often with minimal resources and having to rely on their own wits, skills and training to get the job done.

These officers all have fascinating stories to tell and collectively represent much of the nation's immigration history, a history that forged a culturally diverse nation.

The oral history project will see at least 20 of these frontline immigration officers record their life and career stories with the National Library's oral history unit, where they will become part of the library's permanent collection.

The oral history and folklore collection consists of 40,000 hours of original recordings.

Highlights from the interviews, along with photographs, memorabilia and video presentations will also be featured in a special multimedia presentation on the DIAC website.

The oral history project is to go live on both the DIAC and NLA websites mid-year.

Quote of the Week

'Thus, the standard library will serve as both a tool and as a teacher.'

Bjarne Stroustrup – Danish scientist (1950-)

Cultural Ministers endorse new digital report

Australian and New Zealand's cultural Ministers have released a report which they say highlights the value of the creative sector in driving innovation and growth throughout the Australian and New Zealand economies.

At the Cultural Ministers Council meeting in Canberra, the Ministers endorsed the Building a Creative Innovation Economy report, which was prepared by the Cultural Ministers Council Creative Innovation Economy Roundtable.

The report looks at the growing contribution of the creative sector to the innovation economy in both countries and identifies opportunities and key shared priorities for the creative sector in the digital environment.

The Ministers said in a statement they agreed that fostering the sustainability of creative industries was crucial if Australia and New Zealand were to capitalise on the culture, creative talent and expertise of both countries.

'Creative industries provide great opportunities for artists to apply their intellectual property to a variety of digital platforms in fields such as music, the performing arts, film, television, radio, games, writing, publishing, architecture, design and the visual Arts,' they said.

The Ministers undertook to pursue a range of practical measures in their jurisdictions to strengthen the prospects for the creative sector in the digital environment and to continue the further development and growth of the creative innovation economy, such as:

- improving infrastructure in the online, mobile and broadcast digital environments;
- technical and business skills development in arts organisations;
- increased production of creative and cultural content for application across a wider range of digital platforms;
- taking up opportunities to develop the commercial potential of cultural services and products; and
- brokering better partnerships in the creative sector.

ACADEMICS

Traditional and new at new JCU Singapore campus

James Cook University's expanded Singapore Campus will feature both traditional and electronic libraries when it moves to new quarters.

'We have outgrown our original premises,' JCU vice chancellor Sandra Harding said.

'We needed more space and green space to allow our increasing number of students to enjoy a traditional campus.'

Harding said she was delighted that the Singapore Land Authority had accepted the university's tender to lease the new site at 600 Upper Thomson Road.

'While there are classrooms and green space at the site, we intend to significantly refurbish the buildings to meet student and staff needs,' she said

'Our Singapore campus is a crucial element in JCU's strategy to serve the peoples of the tropics and our investment in creating a new and bigger campus is proof of our solid commitment to the university's future in Singapore.'

Dr Dale Anderson, chief executive officer of JCU Singapore, said the new campus would have state of the art classrooms with high levels of learning technology.

'There will be sports facilities, eateries and an on-line e-library as well as traditional libraries,' he said.

'Our university has world class e-learning facilities and these will be linked to the new campus.'

Anderson said the site had a lot of potential for students with good accommodation near by and good food outlets.

'It provides a good study environment with large trees, cool shady areas and the opportunity to build a really student friendly environment,' he said.

JCU Singapore was established in 2003 as JCU's first international campus.

In its first year there were 50 students, but this has grown to more than 1100 this year.

Medical books on show at Melbourne exhibition

Rare historical medical books, the oldest dating back to 1577, will be on display at the University of Melbourne's Medical History Museum at the Brownless Biomedical Library until the end of March.

Thirty volumes from the Rare Medical Book Collection – normally on restricted access – are on display as part of the exhibition The Engraver's Hand in the Medical Text.

Medical History Museum curator Ann Brothers said the books were selected not only for their significance in the history of medicine, but also for the quality of their illustrations, which were works of art in their own right.

'The books feature intricate engravings of anatomical drawings and exquisite hand-painted prints of medicinal plants frequently used as herbal remedies and were often executed by leading artists and engravers of the time,' she said.

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'Many of the illustrated books on anatomy were published not only for the instruction of medical professionals but also for artists, who were equally interested in the structure of the human body.'

Texts in the exhibition include *De Arte Gymnastica* by Hieronymi Mercurialis, 1577, showing the ideal sports and exercises for the human body and *Morbid Anatomy of some of the most important parts of the human body* by Matthew Baillie, 1799, a unique and personal copy which belonged to the artist, with his original drawings inserted.

It also includes three hand-painted volumes of *Medical Botany* by William Woodville, 1797.

The Engraver's Hand in the Medical Text will be launched at the Medical History Museum is being held as part of the 10th anniversary celebrations for the University's Centre for Health and Society.

PUBLICS

Library reopens after vandalism attack

Sydney's Marrickville Library reopened last week with a free afternoon tea open to all citizens in the inner-western municipality.

Marrickville Library closed on February 3 after an act of vandalism caused significant flooding.

Though no books stock was damaged, carpet had to be replaced throughout the library.

'During this unexpected closure, library staff took the opportunity to plan a better library for Marrickville citizens,' Mayor Dimitrios Thanos said.

'The first thing you will notice is that the fiction section has moved and is now grouped by genres.

'If you like particular genres such as crime or science fiction, you will find all those books together in the one area.'

The new genre sections include:

- Crime/Mystery/Suspense;
- Romance/Family Saga;
- Science Fiction/Fantasy/Horror;
- General (Classics, Westerns, War, etc).

Non-fiction has been also been moved, which has created space for areas that will be developed in the future as subject areas, similar to the way book shops are organised.

Another new area has been created called the Learning Zone, which houses the school resources and beginner English collections. This area will also be used for homework help in the afternoons.

The Children's Corner has been rearranged to allow for separate fiction and non-fiction areas. An internet terminal will be located in the Children's Corner for use by school children.

Magazines have moved onto the main library floor, and community languages magazines are now shelved within the Community Languages area.

'During this difficult period a temporary library operated in the Marrickville Town Hall to ensure services were maintained,' Thanos said.

Successful trial sees free wireless across whole network



Free wireless internet will be available across all City of Sydney libraries after nearly 1000 people took advantage of the program during a successful five-week trial.

'The libraries have received a lot of positive feedback, especially from younger people now visiting the libraries,' Lord Mayor Clover Moore said.

'We hope that providing free wireless internet will encourage more people to visit the wonderful library facilities on offer throughout the city.

The trial at five of the city's busiest libraries, reported previously in *ALN*, found library users were enthusiastic about taking advantage of the service.

The rollout of free wireless, which has a range of up to 25 square metres, will mean library visitors bringing their own laptops into library areas will be able to access free, high speed internet.

Local residents, business people and visitors to the city will be able to utilise the service for a variety of purposes.

This is on top of the internet access available throughout the library's existing network of desktop computers.

The City of Sydney has nine libraries, at Customs House (pictured), Glebe, Haymarket, Kings Cross, Newtown, Ultimo, Waterloo, Surry Hills and Town Hall.

Libraries to the fore in Gold Coast election campaign

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The Liberal Party, campaigning heavily to take control of the Gold Coast City Council at Saturday's election, has promised better library services for the city's north if it is elected.

The Liberal Party says it will undertake major upgrades for Helensvale and Runaway Bay libraries as well as a new regional library at Coomera.

'Libraries are important social infrastructure – they contribute so much for children and are a valuable resource for seniors as well.' Division 2 candidate Cheryle Royle, said.

'In Helensvale I am committing, on behalf of the (Liberal) team, to a major upgrade for the current library to take us forward in the short and medium terms while the longer term needs are addressed.

'We will get on together with building the overdue Coomera Library, which requires us to finalise the Coomera Town Plan Structure Plan as an early item on our action agenda.

'An upgrade for Runaway Bay is also part of our plan for better northern libraries and we will also review the effectiveness of the mobile library service for the harder to reach areas and for frail and immobile ratepayers.

'We estimate that construction works are likely to cost around \$10 million from the Library Infrastructure Plan and we are committed to having the work completed in our first term.'

Royle, a former Telstra Business Woman of the Year, said better libraries were an important part of her local plan.

'Regrettably, the Library Infrastructure Plan has slipped under this current council and Mayor, who have been distracted by their silly squabbling.

'This has particularly hurt people in the north who increasingly feel they have been left behind.

'Currently locals feel that the Helensvale Library is getting worse with no real effort to solve it by the council and a library at Coomera is another promise that hasn't happened under the current council.'

SPECIALS

NZ Government commits \$30 million to Art Gallery redevelopment

The New Zealand Government announced this week it would contribute NZ\$30 million towards the Auckland Art Gallery redevelopment (artist's impression pictured).



Mayor of Auckland John Banks said he was pleased with the level of government support for the major building project.

'This significant contribution will help to secure Auckland's place as home to New Zealand's pre-eminent public art gallery,' Banks said.

'Confirmation of the funding represents another important milestone in the project, and with no more major regulatory and planning hurdles in the way, the project can now proceed.'

The investment, made through the Regional Museums Policy for Capital Construction Projects,

recognises the national and international significance of the gallery's 14,000-work collection.

Chair of the Auckland Art Gallery Board, Councillor Noelene Raffill, said the government funding was a huge boost for Auckland.

'A development of this scale is difficult for a city to achieve on its own,' she said.

'Having government support is vital and its contribution will be appreciated by current and future users of the gallery from across New Zealand and overseas.'

The government funding, spread over several years, represents around a third of the total project cost.

Auckland City Council has set aside NZ\$33 million and the Auckland Art Gallery Foundation has committed to raising NZ\$33.4 million, of which NZ\$15.5 million has already been pledged.

Auckland Art Gallery director Chris Saines said the project team had always believed that its case for government funding was a compelling one.

'The evident quality, history and representative depth of the gallery's collection were crucial, given the Regional Museum Policy's focus on ensuring nationally significant cultural material is housed adequately and made accessible to New Zealanders,' Saines said.

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'A modernised and developed gallery enables us to be more innovative and ambitious in the collection displays we can present, with a more diverse range of gallery spaces enabling us to tell a dramatically expanded and enriched story of art in this country.'

The Art Gallery is home to the EH McCormick Research Library, which is temporarily located on the 9th Floor of Bledisloe House in West, Auckland until the redevelopment is completed in 2010.

TAFES/POLYS

Box Hill Library lucky to escape severe fire damage

Victorian Police are investigating a fire which damaged the Box Hill Institute of TAFE's Whitehorse Campus library last Sunday.

The institute was lucky the library was not more severely damaged with fire crews dousing the blaze before it took hold.

The fire began just before midnight after a number of wheelie bins were deliberately lit on the eastern side of the quadrangle.

It then spread through a window, damaging four levels of the stairwell.

Cabling, windows, carpet and a lift were also damaged, with an estimated damage bill between \$100,000 and \$250,000.

Melbourne Fire Brigade commander Mick Coombes told media they were first alerted to the fire after alarms in the institute's library were set off.

He said the quick response time helped stop the fire from spreading further.

'There was always the potential that it could have spread the other way into the library and got into another section of the building,' Coombes said.

Box Hill Institute chief executive John Maddock said the TAFE was still assessing the level of damage but did not expect major disruptions to classes.

He said work would begin soon to ensure there was little impact.

SCHOOLS

Victoria introduces early childhood literacy program



Every Victorian toddler will receive a free picture book as part of a state government drive to boost literacy by encouraging parents to read to their children.

Minister for Children and Early Childhood Development Maxine Morand (pictured) said under the \$2.1 million Young Readers Program, parents visiting a maternal child health centre would be given a free literacy information pack when their child was aged four months and a free book when they were aged two.

'It is never too early for parents to start reading to their children,' she said at the program launch.

'Reading to a child is not only a great way for parents to bond with their children – it stimulates the child to develop communication skills that will get them off to a strong start at kindergarten and primary school.

'Learning begins in the home and The Young Readers Program will give parents practical information about how to help children develop literacy skills from a young age.

'Importantly, the program will also identify and help parents with poor literacy.'

Morand said that starting this week Victoria's network of 824 maternal and child health centres would begin distributing the free books to an estimated 70,000 parents with two-year-old children.

'Also, nurses will distribute adult literacy information kits and refer parents who need help to adult literacy programs.'

The program will also deliver:

- A free 'rhyme time' booklet and DVD, book bags, and information on local libraries to parents with infants aged four months of age; and
- Online support materials by early childhood literacy experts.

Morand said the program was an excellent example of a community partnership, with the State Library of Victoria, the Municipal Association of Victoria, and local library services working together.

'Maternal and Child Health centres are in an excellent position to spread the word about literacy and the benefits of reading to children,' she said.

'Libraries are a great local community resource to help parents make reading a part of their family's routine.'

All books in the Young Readers Program are written by Australian authors and were selected by a reference group for appeal to children and parents from diverse cultural backgrounds.

CATALOGUED

Taylor takes on teaching role at Lincoln

Hadrian Taylor is the new undergraduate teaching librarian at Lincoln University, taking over much of the teaching that John Arnold has been doing in recent years.

Before Lincoln, Taylor worked in Christchurch City Libraries focusing on teaching roles and the computing and business collections.

Prior to the public library he worked at the University of Canterbury Library in a variety of short term, temporary and supernumerary positions.

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WHAT'S ON

CONFERENCES

2008 South Island Children's Librarian Conference

March 17-18
Christchurch City Library
Megan.Ingle@ccc.govt.nz

Reading Critical: Developing readers in Australia and New Zealand'

April 11-12
State Library of Victoria,
Melbourne
www.auslib.com.au

IATUL Conference 2008

Digital Discovery: Strategies and Solutions
April 21 - 24
AUT University, Auckland
<http://www.aut.ac.nz/iatul2008/>

Open Road 2008 Conference: Multilingualism and the Information Society

May 15-16
State Library of Victoria
conference@openroad.net.au

Dreaming08: ALIA 2008 Biennial Conference

September 2-5
Alice Springs Convention Centre
<http://www.alia2008.com/>

Cultural Connections: MySpace is an ArtSpace: ARLIS/ANZ Biennial Conference

October 9-10
State Library of Queensland
conference@arlis.org.au

Poropitua Outside the Box: LIANZA Annual Conference

November 2-5
Skycity Convention Centre,
Auckland
Beverly.fletcher@rodney.govt.nz
<http://www.lianza.org.nz/events/conference2008/index.html>

New Librarians Symposium

December 5-6
CQ Functions, Melbourne
<http://conferences.alia.org.au/newlibrarian2008/>

AUTHOR LIBRARY VISITS

Don Watson – *American Journeys*

Stanton Library, North Sydney
March 13, 1.00pm

Geraldine Brooks – *The People of the Book*

Customs House Library, Sydney
March 13, 1.30pm

Liz Byrski – *Trip of a Lifetime*

Miles Library, Queensland
March 17, 6.30pm

Jacqueline Kent – *An Exacting Heart: The Story of Hephzibah Menuhin*

Mosman Library, Sydney
March 17, 7.00pm

Geraldine Brooks – *The People of the Book*

State Library of Victoria
March 18, 6.00pm

Liz Byrski – *Trip of a Lifetime*

Dalby Library, Queensland
March 18, 10.30pm

Liz Byrski – *Trip of a Lifetime*

Clifton Library, Queensland
March 18, 2.00pm

Liz Byrski – *Trip of a Lifetime*

Stanthorpe Library, Queensland
March 18, 6.30pm

Liz Byrski – *Trip of a Lifetime*

Redcliffe Library, Brisbane
March 19, 2.00pm

Patrice Newell – *Tree to Table: Cooking with Australian Olive Oil*

Stanton Library, North Sydney
April 2, 1.00pm

Leigh Hobbs – *A Friend for Old Tom*

Craigieburn Library, Melbourne
April 16, 11.00am

EXHIBITIONS

Manapouri: Art Power Protest

National Library of New Zealand
Gallery
Until March 15

Makereti: Taking Maori to the World

National Library of New Zealand
Gallery
Until March 15

Paradise

slq Gallery
State Library of Queensland
Until March 24

The System of Nature: Carl Linnaeus (1707–1778)

National Library of Australia
Until April 6

Tasmanian Regattas: boats, bathers, bonnets and beer

Allport Library and Museum of
Fine Arts
State Library of Tasmania
Until April 26

Politics and Power: Bligh's Sydney Rebellion 1808.

State Library of NSW
Until April 27

Travelling For Love

Philip Bacon Heritage Gallery
State Library of Queensland
Until June 1

Up, Up and Away

Visitor Centre
National Library of Australia
Until July 19