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Early childhood report puts Australia only third from bottom

The latest State of the World's Mothers report from the Save the Children Fund has ranked Australia 23rd out of 25 nations, for early childhood development.

The annual report judges a country's performance against 10 benchmarks, including parental leave, plans for disabled children and subsidising early education services.

Out of the 10 criteria, Australia met only two—the provision of subsidised, regulated childcare for a quarter of children under three, and 50% of early education staff with the relevant tertiary qualifications.

While higher ranking Nordic and European nations spent at least 1% of GDP on childcare and pre-school education, in Australia the figure was 0.4%.

The report will put pressure on the Australian Government to do more for pre-schoolers. The challenge for library services is to present a strong enough case for libraries to be part of the solution. In 2008, Prime Minister Kevin Rudd said he would like to develop early childhood centres that incorporated maternal and child health, day care and pre-school. We'd like to add a library to that list.

To see the full text of the report, go to www.savethechildren.org.

A good week for ...

... award-winning New South Wales public libraries and Lee Fitzgerald, NSW Teacher-Librarian of the Year (page 4).



A bad week for ...

... university library suppliers, with the prospect of budget cuts and frugal spending looming large on the horizon (page 4).



May 7, 2009 Issue 372

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A round-up of how libraries have fared in state Budgets

AUSTRALIAN LIBRARY NEWS

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NEWS

Government pledges \$2.4 million contribution to redevelopment of WA mid-west library

Anthony Albanese, minister for infrastructure, transport, regional development and local government, and Gary Gray, parliamentary secretary for regional development and Northern Australia, have jointly announced that the Australian Government will put up \$2.4 million of the \$4.85 million budget for the expansion and relocation of Geraldton-Greenough regional library and administration centre, in Western Australia.

Anthony Albanese said, 'The funding is part of our \$800 million community infrastructure program—the largest one-off investment in local infrastructure in Australia's history.'

The library has outgrown its current property in Cathedral Avenue and will be moving to new premises on Marine Terrace. There will be more public space, a better floor plan, storage facilities behind-the-scenes to house the growing collection, meeting rooms and a dedicated area for Wifi users.

The old building will become a one-stop-shop for other council services.

Google Book Search: the story continues ...

As we left it last week (*ALN*, 30 April issue), a US Federal Court judge had agreed to give copyright holders an extension from 5 May to 4 September, to consider the implications of the proposed Google Book Search settlement.

The latest twist in the case came with the American Library Association, the Association of College and Research Libraries

(ACRL) and the Association of Research Libraries together filing comments for the judge on behalf of more than 139,000 libraries and 350,000 librarians. The organisations presented themselves as plaintiffs, as both authors and publishers of books. They fear that some features of the settlement could compromise equity of access to information, patron privacy and intellectual freedom.

Erica Linke, president of ACRL, explained, 'While this settlement agreement could provide unprecedented access to a digital library of millions of books, we are concerned that the cost of an institutional subscription may sky-rocket, as academic journal subscriptions have done over the past two decades.' For more information, www.ala.org.

Also raising its head again this week was the issue of Google's patenting a book-scanning technology that can digitise texts without damaging the books from which they come. Instead of pressing pages flat to scan them, it does so using an infrared projector and cameras, which make adjustments to account for the curvature of the page.

Writing for *The Register* (www.theregister.co.uk), Cade Metz speaks of the dangers of the proposed settlement enabling Google to establish a legal monopoly of digital books. 'The settlement creates a book rights registry, where authors and publishers can resolve copyright claims in exchange for a pre-defined cut of Google's revenues. If someone else were to start their own book-scanning operation, they'd be forced to negotiate copyrights author by author, publisher by publisher—and find a way of duplicating Google's infrared 3D scanner. Which is now patented.'



NEWS IN BRIEF

Freedom-of-information query reveals blue movie collection

The National Film and Sound Archive has one of Australia's largest collections of pornography, including a silent film from 1929, entitled *Girls Do You Think It's Big Enough?*

The collection of more than 100 films was revealed this week, in response to a freedom-of-information application.

Senior curator Graham Shirley is quoted as saying porn is a legitimate part of Australian cultural history and should be preserved.

City opts for longer hours in place of internet filters

After a year and a half of debate, San Jose City Council in the US has decided not to spend money on technology to filter out pornography for users of its public library computers. Instead, they are going to use the money to keep the library open longer.

Gay penguins take No 1 spot

The American Library Association (ALA) has released its latest list of the most complained about books in school libraries. The top title is *And Tango Makes Three*, by Justin Richardson and Peter Parnell. It's the story of two male penguins who rear an orphaned chick.

The ALA's list of the most challenged books in 2008 includes *The Kite Runner*, by Khaled Hosseini, and Philip Pullman's 'His Dark Materials' trilogy.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

British author and columnist Guy Browning, writing in the Guardian newspaper, 2003: 'Libraries are brothels for the mind. Which means that librarians are the madams, greeting punters, understanding their strange tastes and needs, and pimping their books. That's rubbish, of course, but it does wonders for the image of librarians.'

IN FOCUS



National
Coalition
Against
Censorship

'My personal proclivities have nothing to do with how I react as a librarian'
Judith Krug, US Banned Books Week founder

'The people of Western Australia should be able to rely on the provision of unbiased information on any topic. All subjects will be covered and all points of view on contentious social and political issues may be represented. The Library will not seek to promote or discourage any particular viewpoint.'
State Library of Western Australia.

Librarians leap to defend the right to freedom of expression

It has been a week when librarians have been called upon to reaffirm their belief in freedom of expression.

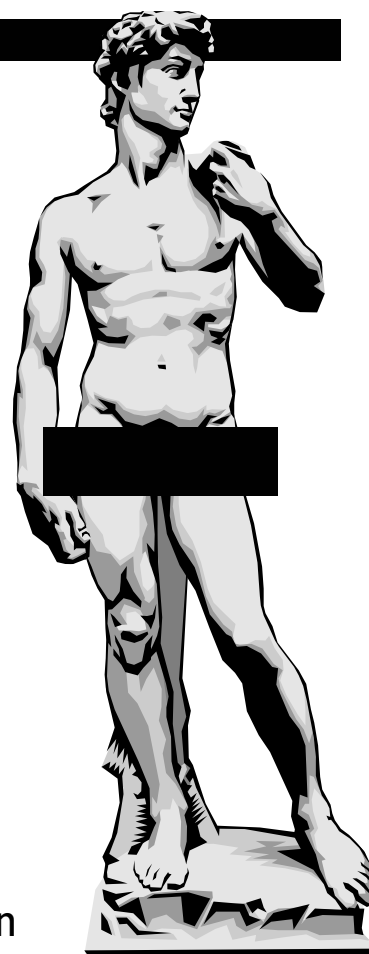
In the US, the heads of four powerful organisations, the American Booksellers Foundation for Free Expression, the National Coalition Against Censorship, the Association of American Publishers and PEN American Center, co-authored a letter deploring the decision not to reappoint four members of the West Bend, Wisconsin, library board, because they were in favour of stocking young adult books dealing with difficult issues including sexuality and sexual health. The West Bend Citizens for Safe Libraries objected to a number of titles including *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*, *The Geography Club* and *Deal with It! A Whole New Approach to Your Body, Brain and Life as a gURL*.

The signatories said, 'None of the challenged books is legally obscene ... The library is for everyone, but that doesn't mean that every book is appropriate for every patron. On the contrary, professional librarians choose books to reflect a diversity of topics and viewpoints that meet the needs and interests of all patrons ... No one is forced to read a book because it sits on a library shelf.'

At the State Library of Victoria, it wasn't words but an illustration at the centre of the storm. Jewish groups attacked the library for putting a picture by Australian artist Juan Davila on show, depicting former Victorian premier Jeff Kennett as a cow, surrounded by what were arguably swastika-shaped trees.

Liberal Upper House leader David Davis is quoted as saying, 'fair-minded Victorians will find these images repulsive and offensive', but state arts minister Lynne Kosky came back with, 'I don't like the print, but the State Library has an independent board which selects artistic work.'

'When politicians start to influence independent processes, it starts limiting freedom of speech and artistic expression.'



NEWS IN BRIEF

It'll be gone in a flash

The World Press Photo annual exhibition of award-winning photographs opens at the State Library of New South Wales on 9 May.

The event will showcase approximately 200 photographs under the headings: news; nature; portraits; arts and entertainment; sports and daily life. It is the library's most popular guest exhibition, but you need to hurry. It is only open until 31 May.

Details at www.sl.nsw.gov.au.

Libraries come top in awards

Congratulations to libraries in Kogarah, Hurstville and Randwick, New South Wales. They were all recipients of Local Government and Shires Association of NSW cultural awards.

The projects that won the prizes were 'Connecting Communities and Culture—Libraries in Action', for Kogarah; 'Celebrating Diversity', for Hurstville and 'A Migrant's Story' for Randwick.

President of the association Genia McCaffery said, 'Councils across the state have so many innovative projects and initiatives that not only showcase local talent, but also encourage communities to become involved in the arts. Often the hard work and dedication of councils goes unnoticed, so these awards are a fantastic opportunity to highlight their outstanding efforts and commitment.'

View all the award winners at www.lgsa.org.au.

Teacher-librarian of the year

Lee Fitzgerald, of Loreto Kirribilli, an independent Catholic girls' day school, has been named New South Wales Teacher-Librarian of the Year by the Australian School Library Association NSW.

www.aslansw.org.au

News story?
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NEWS

**University libraries prepare for a rough ride**

University librarians' concerns about how the economic downturn may affect their ability to pay for the information resources that have become so essential for academic library users have led the Council of Australian University Librarians (CAUL) to produce a statement on behalf of members.

Annual subscriptions for 2009, including databases and online products, were approved before the full effect of the crash became known, but a number of CAUL members have had to pull back on book purchases, and the prospects for 2010 remain uncertain, especially in view of the recent wide currency fluctuations.

The CAUL statement provided a warning for publishers and vendors, 'If costs are not reduced or held at 2009 levels, reductions in expenditure may necessitate: cancellation of products such as indexing and abstracting tools and journal aggregator services; withdrawal from package agreements, with the concomitant additional administration (read cost) for both publishers and institutions ... resistance to punitive approaches from publishers that deny access to content disproportionate to proposed reductions in expenditure.'

On a positive note, it said, 'the current crisis affords an opportunity to accelerate the transition to electronic-only publishing.' www.caul.edu.au

500 kids to benefit from Laos library fundraising

Last week's fundraising sprint (*ALN*, 30 April issue) ended without his \$5000 target being reached, but Allen Burt, co-founder of libraryforlaos.org reckoned it was a fantastic achievement.

He told *ALN*, 'We did not hit our lofty goal of \$5000, but we were still able to raise a substantial \$1480 that will fund reading programs and book purchases in the rural villages of Laos. With a village reading program costing \$250, our campaign will bring the joy of reading to some 500 impoverished children.'



Photo courtesy of Big Brother Mouse

'Although the official fundraiser is over, we will keep the donations button on the website up and running over the next week to accommodate any stragglers. It's not too late to donate.'

<http://libraryforlaos.org>

TENDERS

Library management system

The Australian Broadcasting Corporation has issued a request for quotation to vendors who can supply a software package for an integrated library management system.

Closing date 8 May.

Cartridges and cleaning tapes

Geoscience Australia requires a supply of barcode labelled 700GB 3592 data archive tape cartridges and cleaning tapes for use in their TS3500 tape library, fitted with TS1120 tape drives.

Closing date 18 May.

ICT architecture services

The National Museum of Australia is seeking tenders to provide information and communication technology infrastructure architecture services.

Closing date 1 June.

Digital system for AV content

The Department of Parliamentary Services is seeking hardware, software and services to construct a digital system for the capture, segmentation, delivery, archiving and management of audiovisual and audio-only content; and additional services to digitise the estimated 55,000 hours of recorded broadcast quality video of Parliamentary proceedings and special events.

Closing date 5 June.

www.tenders.gov.au

NEWS IN BRIEF

Australian library software firm acquires UK distributor

Softlink International, working out of its head office in Brisbane, has bought its Oxford, England-based distributor Softlink Europe.

The move adds new names to the company's list of clients, including the Birmingham Law Society, Eton College, Cambridge University.

The company's website address is www.softlinkint.com.

NEWS

Open access to ethics journals worldwide

The African Journal of Business Ethics will be the first journal to go full text online as part of a project to provide open access to journals on applied ethics, produced around the globe, with a special focus on publications from developing nations.

The initiative is the result of an agreement between Indian open access publisher Medknow Publications, and Globethics.net, a global network of institutions and individuals interested in different fields of applied ethics.

Further information about the agreement at www.medknow.com, and open access online library at www.globethics.net.

**Publishers celebrate reference titles' popularity**

America's *Library Journal* has published its 2008 list of best reference titles. Academic publishers Gale received five mentions and four each for SAGE and Greenwood. *ProQuest Entrepreneurship* (from the sister company of ALN's publisher Thorpe-Bowker) was one of just three titles listed under the 'business and economics' heading.

The best of the free web sites included the Alfred Russel Wallace Page www.wku.edu/~smithch/index1.htm, with unpublished fragments from the writings of Charles Darwin; The Complete Works of Charles Darwin Online www.darwin-online.org.uk, the largest Darwin resource, comprising nearly 76,000 pages of searchable text and more than 180,000 images; Earth Portal www.earthportal.org, for science-based information about the environment; Movie Review Query Engine www.mrqe.com, featuring the largest online database of film reviews; Poetry Foundation www.poetryfoundation.org, containing the full text of *Poetry* magazine from 1998 onwards, and UNdata www.data.un.org, with more than 55 million records from the United Nations' database.

Library ELF continues to work its magic

Fifty-eight libraries and more than 20,000 library users in Australia and New Zealand have signed up for Library ELF, a free web-based service that helps individuals and families keep track of borrowed items and reminds them when they are due to be returned.

Software developer Jeff Chow, based in Vancouver, Canada, set up the business in 2003, and it has now spread throughout the US, Canada and UK, as well as Australia and New Zealand. www.libraryelf.com

State Library hosts Timor-Leste evening event

Kirsty Sword Gusmão, goodwill ambassador for education in Timor-Leste (and wife of the country's president), will be speaking at the State Library of Victoria on 11 May, along with former Victorian premier Steve Bracks, about the critical role of libraries in the region and their contribution to community development and education.

More information at www.slv.vic.gov.au.

The event, from 6.30-8pm, is being held in partnership with the Library Books for East Timor Association www.librarybooksforeasttimor.org.au.

EXHIBITIONS

Ballet Russes Collection
National Library of Australia

**Treasures Gallery 2010:
A Preview**
National Library of Australia
Until July 19

**An Impressive Silence – Public
Memory and Personal
Experience of the Great War**
Archives New Zealand, Wellington
Until May 29

**Shakespeare: an exhibition of
treasures from Auckland City
Libraries**
Central Library Auckland
Until May 31

Charles Darwin Down Under
State Library of NSW
Until July 26

**In Living Memory: exhibition of
photographs from the
Aborigines Welfare Board**
NSW regional tour
State Records of NSW
Until September 2010.

**Exhibition of Leonardo's da
Vinci's Codex Atlanticus**
Level 3, Fisher Library,
University of Sydney

**Mirror of the World:
books and ideas**
Dome Galleries, Level 4
State Library of Victoria

**The Independent Type: Books
and Writing in Victoria**
State Library of Victoria
Until October 25

Marranbala Country
Northern Territory Library
Until 30 May

Panoramic Queensland
State Library of Queensland
Until 12 July

**Bold but Faithful: John Oxley
Library at Work**
State Library of Queensland
Until 11 October

CLASSIFIEDS

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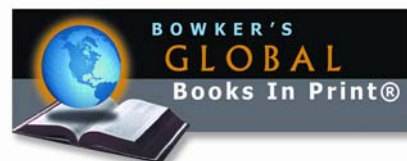
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AUSTRALIAN LIBRARY NEWS

WHAT'S ON GUIDE 2009

Month	Dates	Title	Description	Location	More information
May	1-30	Information Awareness Month	Organised by the Records Management Association of Australasia	Australia-wide	www.rmaa.com.au
May	6-7	Future of Local Government Summit	Hosted by the Municipal Association of Victoria on behalf of local government nationally	Spring Street Conference Centre Theatre, Melbourne	www.mav.asn.au
May	7-8	NZLLA Symposium	NZ Law Librarians' Association event	Auckland University of Technology, City Campus Conference Centre	www.nzlla.org.nz
May	7-8	NSLA	National and State Libraries Australasia meeting	Perth	www.nsla.org.au
May	11-17	National Volunteer Week	Promotional activities	Australia-wide	www.volunteeringaustralia.org
May	12-13	NSW Sustainable Development Conference	Decision-makers discuss planning and urban design	Dockside Convention Centre, Sydney	www.halledit.com.au
May	14	Philip Jones	Author library visit— <i>Ochre and Rust</i> 5pm	Northern Territory Library, Parliament House	www.ntl.nt.gov.au/news
May	14-15	National Local Government Customer Service Conference	Annual event for anyone in a frontline serving role, including library staff	Sebel Kirton Park, Hunter Valley, NSW	www.csnetwork.com.au/csnconference/
May	15	International Day of Families	Theme <i>Mothers and Families: Challenges in a Changing World</i>	Worldwide	www.un.org/esa/socdev/family/
May	18	Frances Watts and David Legge	Children's authors' library visit for grown ups 5pm	Northern Territory Library, Parliament House	www.ntl.nt.gov.au/news
May	18-19	Public Libraries: Building Futures	Public Libraries South Australia 2009 biennial conference	Hyatt Regency, Adelaide	Teresa Brook (08) 8348 2324
May	21-22	Librarians Do It With Heart & Soul Conference	24th annual conference of the Catholic Primary Teacher Librarians' Association	Bowral, Southern Highlands, NSW	www.cptla.com.au
May	22	Novel Ideas	Book selection and use for the classroom and library	State Library of Queensland	www.slq.qld.gov.au
May	22	Picture This: Mantle 2009 conference	Professional development committee of teacher librarians	Newcastle City Hall, NSW	www.mantle.com.au
May	22-31	Bayside Literary Festival	Joint initiative by the Bayside library service and literary groups	Bayside, Victoria	www.bayside.vic.gov.au
May	24-27	Local Government Creating Our Future	Local Government Managers Australia national congress and business expo	Darwin Convention Centre	www.lgma.org.au
May	25-31	Library & Information Week	Major promotional opportunity for all libraries	Australia-wide	www.alia.org.au
May	26	National Library Technicians' Day	Celebrating people and skills	Australia-wide	www.alia.org.au

AUSTRALIAN LIBRARY NEWS

WHAT'S ON GUIDE 2009

Month	Dates	Title	Description	Location	More information
May	27	National Simultaneous Storytime	Featuring <i>Pete The Sheep</i> by Jackie French, illustrations Bruce Whately 11am	Australia-wide	www.alia.org.au
May	28	Reading Youth Matters Day	Students meet leading authors	State Library of Victoria and Storey Hall	www.slv.vic.gov.au
June	1-7	Switched on Councils!	Local Government Week theme Powering Queensland Communities into Sustainability	Queensland	www.lgw.lgaq.asn.au
June	5	School Libraries Leading Learning	Joint DET/ASLA Conference	New England Girls' School Armidale, NSW	www.aslansw.org.au
June	19	AIS NSW Annual Conference	Association of Independent School teacher librarians of NSW	Powerhouse Museum, Sydney	www.aisnsw.edu.au
June	20-21	Froth and Bubble Literary Festival	Annual event	Torquay, Victoria	www.culture.gov.au
June	21-24	National General Assembly of Local Government	Theme is Rising to the Challenge—Infrastructure, Financing, Climate Change	National Convention Centre, Canberra	http://nga.alga.asn.au/event/2009/
June	24-26	Public Libraries NSW Country Symposium	20th anniversary of the founding of the Country Public Libraries Association of NSW	Parkes	Shellie Buckle (02) 6861 2309 shellie.buckle@parkes.nsw.gov.au
June	25-27	9th Australian Library History Conference	Theme Collections, Characters and Communities	Prahran Campus, Swinburne University, Centre for the Book	http://home.vicnet.net.au/~mivic/libhist.html
July	9	Constitution Day	Launch of Making Australia Home, the National Archives makes migration records available online	Australia-wide	www.naa.gov.au
July	16	Setting a National Agenda	ALIA Public Libraries Summit	National Library of Australia, Canberra	www.alia.org.au
July	20-22	The Limits of the Book	Bibliographical Society of Australia/NZ conference	The University of Queensland, Brisbane	www.library.uq.edu.au/fryer/limits/
July	31	Experimenta	Media art curating forum	Albury Library Museum, Lavington, NSW	www.experimenta.org
August	3-9	Keeping It Local	Local Government Week (NSW)	NSW	www.lgsa-plus.net.au
August	6-10	Local Government Week	Western Australia event	Perth	
August	23	IFLA World Library and Information Congress	75th IFLA general conference and assembly	Milan, Italy	www.ifla.org
August	31-4	10th International Congress on Medical Librarianship	Co-hosted by University of Queensland Library and IFLA	Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre	www.icml2009.com
August	31-8	Ipswich Literature Festival: Book Safari	Organised by the Ipswich district teacher-librarian network	Ipswich, NSW	www.learningplace.com.au

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Month	Dates	Title	Description	Location	More information
September	2-4	ALLA Evolution Conference	Australian Law Librarians' Association	Darwin Convention Centre	www.alla.asn.au
September	8	International Literacy Day	Founded by UNESCO in 1965	Worldwide	www.unesco.org
September	15-18	National Library and Information Technicians' Conference	Annual event for library and information professionals	Adelaide Convention Centre	www.alia.org.au
September	17-18	NSLA	National and State Libraries Australasia meeting	Adelaide	www.nsla.org.au
September	20-23	RMAA 26th Annual Convention	Organised by the Records Management Association of Australasia	Adelaide	www.rmaa.com.au
September	28-30	Turning Heads	School Library Association of NZ Aotearoa conference	Rangi Ruru Girls' School, Christchurch, NZ	www.eenz.com
September	29-2	Engage Explore Celebrate	Australian School Librarians' Association XXI biennial conference	Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre	www.asla.org.au
October	11-17	Voyaging Together: memory, integrity and sustainability	Australian Society of Archivists Conference	Brisbane	www.archivists.org.au
October	11-14	Change and Challenge	Public Libraries Australia and Queensland Public Libraries' Association joint conference	Jupiter's Casino Townsville, Queensland	rhenshaw@pla.org.au
October	12-14	LIANZA 2009	Library and Information Association of NZ conference	Christchurch Convention Centre	http://lianza.org.nz
October	15-17	The Practice of Indexing	Australian and New Zealand Society of Indexers conference	Sydney	www.anzsi.org
November	23-25	SWITCH	Public libraries in a changing environment	Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre	www.plmns.org.au
November	26-27	NSLA	National and State Libraries Australasia meeting	To be confirmed	www.nsla.org.au

LOOKING AHEAD 2010

Month	Dates	Title	Description	Location	More information
February	9-11	Connections, Content, Conversations	VALA's 15th biennial conference	Melbourne Exhibition & Convention Centre	www.vala.org.au
August	10-11	Connection and Convergence	Second international conference on joint use in libraries	Adelaide	www.auslib.com.au