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Disappointing ... but it had to be done

IFLA has pulled the plug on its 2010 conference in Brisbane because of the global financial crisis. Instead, next year's world library event will be held in Sweden.

Australian national committee chair Keith Webster, of the University of Queensland, told *ALN*, 'The broad sense is of disappointment, but also acceptance that it's the right decision. We're disappointed that all the planning won't result in an event, but we recognise that the economic situation has had an unprecedented effect on libraries' finances.' *Full story on page 2 ...*

9 July, 2009 Issue 381

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Broadband Network

AUSTRALIAN LIBRARY NEWS

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NEWS

**Financial squeeze means
Brisbane misses out**



The decision to relocate the 2010 World Library and Information Congress (WLIC) and its 76th general conference and assembly from Brisbane to Göteborg, Sweden, came down to one thing—the global economic meltdown.

IFLA’s official announcement stated, ‘A significant contribution to the WLIC by local government and industry is required for IFLA to offer its members and delegates, sponsors and exhibitors the services and quality they expect in our flagship congress.’ Although the Australian national committee had advised the governing board at the time of the bid, in 2007, that it would be difficult to raise sufficient funds from government, IFLA was optimistic that additional money could be found. That optimism faded as world economies crumbled, and the decision was taken to relocate to Sweden, where the government strategy is to fund international conferences.

Another factor was that most of the delegates would have come from Europe and North America, where library budgets have been slashed as a consequence of the global financial crisis. ALIA president Jan Richards explained, ‘It’s a long way to come and there were concerns that, with all the budget cuts, not enough people would be able to afford to fly out here.

‘I am sure our Australian and international colleagues will be disappointed. People were excited at the prospect of hosting this conference and a lot of work was put into the satellite events, but I think everyone is realistic and will understand the risk management situation.

‘We are obviously very sad, but it is a very sound economic decision, and one that IFLA, ALIA and the national committee had to make.’

The conference was to have taken place from 14-19 August. ALIA executive director Sue Hutley told *ALN*, ‘Changing location was the sensible, financially responsible decision. This is an incredibly complex, €3.5 million event—that’s something in the order of AU\$6-7 million.

‘The Australian national committee did an excellent job of sourcing potential partners and sponsors, but financial and management responsibility for the conference lay with the IFLA team in the Hague. If the Brisbane event had run at a loss, it could have had a serious consequence for the international organisation.

‘This way, IFLA is protected, although our Australian colleagues will be sorry to lose this opportunity of showing international visitors around some of our truly world-class libraries—but of course, we welcome overseas guests at any time, not just around conference dates.

‘ALIA will be stepping into the breach and will definitely be running something for all library sectors in 2010. Next week, we will start to plan next year’s event.’

Keith Webster concluded, ‘We hope that many Australians will be able to support the WLIC 2010 in Sweden and we wish the organisers all the very best for this event.’

A good week for ...

... celebrating citizenship—enter our competition on page 4 and you could win a \$30 book voucher.



A bad week for ...

... Brisbane Convention Centre, now with a gap in the calendar for August 2010, where the IFLA conference used to be (*this page*).



INTERNATIONAL

1600-year-old Bible online

Go to www.codexsinaiticus.org, to view nearly 800 pages from a Christian Bible, which dates back to the 4th century.

The Bible's 1,460 pages had been separated after its discovery in 1844, in the Sinai Peninsula, and the task of restoration fell to scholars in the UK, Egypt, Russia and Germany.

War trophy for Bush library

Saddam Hussein's gun, a prized possession of former US president George W Bush, is likely to go on show at his presidential library, when it opens in 2013 on the campus of the Southern Methodist University, in Dallas, Texas.

US newspapers on the net

The US Library of Congress has created a searchable database of American newspapers from 12 states, covering the period from 1880 to 1992.

The aim is to add newspapers from all states to the database, but funding limitations mean that new entries will have to be staggered.

The website can be found at www.chroniclingamerica.loc.gov.

NEWS

PR coup for libraries as ALIA president fires up the debate

It started with a radio interview and a piece in the *Sydney Morning Herald* last Friday, and it has snowballed into a sustained media presence for NSW public libraries.

ALIA president Jan Richards, manager of Orange library service, turned a negative story about public libraries outsourcing cataloguing functions to private firms into an opportunity to put across some positive messages in the letters page of the newspaper. Her approach (*reproduced below*) sparked a flurry of letters from librarians, some applauding her stance, others taking the opposite view.

Sharon McGuinness, of Thirroul, wrote, 'Librarians are very adept at reinventing themselves and their libraries to remain relevant. Outsourcing some services helps them maintain opening hours and essential services in times of depleted funding.' While Marina Garlick, of Balmain, responded with this, 'I find it extraordinary that the president of the Australian Library and Information Association should advocate outsourcing collection development to commercial suppliers. I have no problem with outsourcing cataloguing, but collection development is as essential as reference and information services.'

The controversy has created a platform for public library advocates to make their case in the press in the days leading up to the Public Libraries Summit on 16 July, in Canberra.

To follow the debate, go to www.smh.com.au/letters.



ALIA president Jan Richards, counting the column centimetres

Open letter to the editor of the *Sydney Morning Herald*, published 7 July

Libraries are about people—whether you call them clients, customers, users or members—not processes ("Bland ambition as libraries put bucks before books", July 3). The direction the six Sydney libraries and many others are taking allows them to focus on their communities.

And this is essential. Public libraries in NSW are busier than ever. In the past five years the number of visits has risen by 17.49 per cent, the number of loans by 6.11 per cent and internet use by 59.5 per cent. Through changed work practices, the skills of library staff have been used more effectively.

In outsourcing, library staff perform the pivotal link between suppliers and the community. This is an intensive, thought-provoking exercise which, far from abrogating responsibility, makes the library focus on its collection and its community. It is an opportunity to evaluate, reassess and respond to users. Those offering these services have extensive experience and employ professionals to select and catalogue.

Outsourcing in libraries is not new. Most NSW public libraries that buy collections in languages other than English delegate this function to the multicultural purchasing co-operative at the State Library.

Unsexy though it may seem, the catalogue is the key to the library, and cataloguing is a specialist skill. It makes sense not to duplicate this across libraries. Most libraries have virtually outsourced this for years by buying their records from the National Library of Australia or overseas. Diminishing revenue fuels this trend (NSW public libraries receive the lowest state funding in Australia).

Libraries that have outsourcing arrangements overwhelmingly report greater user satisfaction and increased borrowings. Isn't it better to have a library that is "read" than items a librarian considers "good" but have not been borrowed in five years?

Jan Richards president, Australian Library and Information Association, Orange

NEWS IN BRIEF

RDA network almost in place

The new Regional Development Australia (RDA) network, which replaces the Federal Government's Area Consultative Committees and Regional Development Boards, is almost complete.

Memoranda of Understanding have now been signed by every state and territory, with the exception of Western Australia.

For more information, go to the website www.rda.gov.au.

New Web 2.0 taskforce

The Federal Government has set up a Web 2.0 taskforce to look at how government information can be made more accessible and usable.

The group will be chaired by Nicholas Gruen, chief executive of Lateral Economics, and includes Alan Noble, the engineering director of Google Australia, and Pip Marlow, public sector director of Microsoft Australia.

Speaking at the taskforce launch, Senator Joe Ludwig said, 'I have a great personal interest in the delivery of services to the citizens—becoming more citizen-centric about the way we provide information and the way citizens interact with government.'

'Over the coming decades, the transformation of the service delivery network, to utilise new and emerging technologies, will be essential if government service delivery is to keep pace with community expectations.'

'Issues of convenience, access and increasingly complex eligibility criteria are combining to drive customers into the online environment.' www.smos.gov.au.

QUOTE FOR THE WEEK

A few lines of verse composed by British Poet Laureate Ted Hughes, in 1997,
 'Where any nation starts awake
 Books are the memory.
 And it's plain
 Decay of libraries is like
 Alzheimer's in the nation's brain.'

NEWS



Queen Victoria's Royal Assent to the Commonwealth of Australia Constitution Act, 1900, from the collection of the National Archives of Australia

National Archives promotes Constitution Day

On this day (9 July), 109 years ago, Queen Victoria signed the Constitution Act, marking the birth of the Australian nation

The National Archives of Australia is working with the Department of Immigration and Citizenship to celebrate the date, and to raise awareness of the importance of the Constitution, which is on display at the National Archives in Canberra.

This year is the 60th anniversary of the Citizenship Act and, for the first time, citizenship events are to take place in all states and territories, with notable new citizens including sports personalities Clyde Rathbone, in Canberra, and Adam Ballinger, in Adelaide.

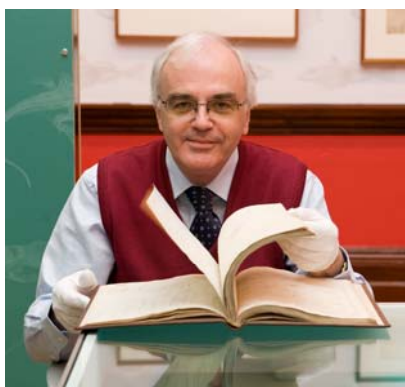
For more information, visit www.naa.gov.au.

WIN A \$30 BOOK VOUCHER

We're celebrating Constitution Day with a reader competition. All you have to do to win the prize—a \$30 book token—is to compose an alternative version of our national anthem, beginning 'Librarians all let us rejoice'... The winning entry will be chosen by the ALN team and published in a future issue. Email your entry to aln@thorpe.com.au, by 5pm on Friday 17 July. Use the same email address if you would like to request a copy of the rules.



NEWS IN BRIEF



Senior curator Paul Brunton with Pringle Stokes' journal

Captain's journal on show

The State Library of NSW has acquired the journal of Pringle Stokes, the first captain of *HMS Beagle*, the ship on which Charles Darwin made his epic voyage.

The library paid \$200,000 for the volume, which has gone on display in the Mitchell vestibule.

Merchandise for Summer Reading Club now available

Summer Reading Club stickers, tattoos, wristbands and posters, with the Read on the Wild Side logo and design, can now be ordered from the ALIA website—www.alia.org.au.

Protection for digital media

Tech Logic, of the US, has launched Media Passport, to protect CDs, DVDs and other higher value items in library collections.

The system uses magnetic, keyless security cases to keep items safe while on display. The library user can open the cases only when they reach the checkout.

Find out more about the new system at www.techlogic.com.



NEWS FOCUS

Countdown to the Public Libraries Summit

The Public Libraries Summit takes place on 16 July, at the National Library, Canberra. Some 50 guests will attend the event, representing various local, state, territory and Federal Government departments.

The Summit program is built around four topics: children, early reading and a literate Australia; encouraging the digital economy and digital citizenship; social inclusion and community partnerships, and health and aging, with presentations on each of these themes.

Senator Ursula Stephens, parliamentary secretary for social inclusion and the voluntary sector, will give the opening address. Speakers will include former journalist and political strategist Frank McGuire, who championed the Hume Global Learning Centre.

For more information, www.alia.org.au.

Arts minister Peter Garrett's message to Summit attendees

Libraries have long played an important part in our society as critical store-houses of literature, knowledge and information. I remember as a child visiting the mobile library near the local shopping centre for an armful of books to enjoy through the week. It is an experience that my own children enjoyed and it is one that kids of today, and I am sure of tomorrow, will also relish.

But our libraries are also changing. From shelves of books, index cards and microfiche the increasing digitisation of our world and a more e-connected society means that computers connected into the web and wireless hotspots are now just as much a feature of our local libraries. This has opened new challenges for our libraries as well as the opportunity to build on their proud reputation for expert, friendly advice and service.

It is a challenge that I believe our libraries have responded to well. In my own electorate I am very aware of the central role the local library plays in many of my constituents' lives and how access to its resources, be they books or the web, is so important. It is an experience that I know all of my colleagues in the Parliament will share.

But libraries also play an important social role. They are a place to meet and interact with your community and to learn about what is happening where you live. They are places of quiet contemplation, information and importantly they are safe places to connect with the wider world.

Managing these sometimes competing demands and priorities are among the issues that I know you will discuss at this summit and I wish you all well as you consider these important matters, confident that just as libraries have accommodated and led change in the past, they will maintain their relevance and centrality to our communities tomorrow.



ALN subscribers, please note that the email address you receive your ALN from will change in coming weeks.

The new email address will be aln@emailthorpe.com.au.

Please add this address to your email program's 'whitelist' and/or inform your IT department to add aln@emailthorpe.com.au as an allowed domain in any spam filters or firewalls.

EXHIBITIONS

The Journey of NAIDOC: Heritage Posters 1972-2009
Northern Territory Library
6 to 19 July

Panoramic Queensland
State Library of Queensland
Until 12 July

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

Charles Darwin Down Under
State Library of NSW
Until 26 July

Harbour Bridge Exhibition
Central City Library Auckland
Until 26 July

Capturing the Territory
Northern Territory Library
Until 26 July

Portrait Photography 1909-1919
Central City Library, Auckland
Until the end of August

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

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

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
No closing date

Goyder Survey Exhibition online
Northern Territory Library
www.ntl.nt.gov.au
No closing date

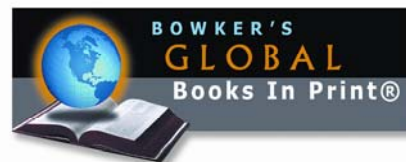
CLASSIFIEDS

Global Books in Print (GBiP), the world's leading bibliographic resource for libraries, now contains over two million Australian-market records.

Find what you are looking for quickly and easily, using the most comprehensive database of in-print, forthcoming and out-of-print book, e-book, audio-book, video and DVD titles.

A subscription to GBiP reveals more than 20 million records, from over 43 markets, as well as remote plus onsite access for both staff and customers. GBiP also includes workflow tools which allow users to create alerts, download, email and print records, whilst linking to the libraries' holdings via Z39.50.

All subscribers to GBiP receive a free subscription to our readers' advisory service, Fiction Connection. To subscribe to www.globalbooksinprint.com, or arrange a data extract from GBiP, contact Matthew Hunter (03) 8517-8360 or email matthew.hunter@thorpe.com.au.



SITUATIONS VACANT

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EVENT NEWS

Court treasures on show

The Chief Justice of the High Court of Australia has launched 'No Common Creation', a display about the court's history, at the National Archives of Australia, in Canberra.

It features documents from landmark cases, and artefacts, including the wig of Sir Samuel Griffith, the first chief justice; Prime Minister Sir Edmund Barton's benchbook, and the Mabo decision on Indigenous land rights.

DEADLINES

14 July

Australian and NZ Society of Indexers' Medal
www.anzsi.org

3 August

Premier awards and Excellence awards
www.alia.org.au

31 August

HLinc Pat Nakouz Award
<http://home.vicnet.net.au/~hlinc/index.htm>

AUSTRALIAN LIBRARY NEWS

WHAT'S ON GUIDE 2009

Month	Dates	Title	Description	Location	More information
July	5-12	NAIDOC Week	Celebration of the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people	Australia-wide	www.naidoc.org.au
July	9-12	Voyages of Discovery	The 24th annual ANZ Theological Libraries Association conference	Sundown Motel Canberra	www.anztlia.org
July	15	ALIA WA Library Technicians Group	AGM, 5.30pm onwards	State Library of WA, Perth	sarah.cesare@sthildas.wa.edu.au
July	16	Setting a National Agenda	ALIA Public Libraries Summit	National Library of Australia, Canberra	www.alia.org.au
July	16-19	Mildura Writers' Festival	Workshops, readings and other events	Various locations, Mildura, Victoria	www.artsmildura.com.au/writers/
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	1-9	National Family History Week	Initiative of the Australasian Federation of Family History Organisations	Australia-wide	www.familyhistoryweek.org.au
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	7-9	Byron Bay Writers Festival	Workshops run from 3 August	Byron Bay, NSW	www.byronbaywritersfestival.com.au
August	10-16	New Zealand Library Week	Theme of Escape, Explore, Discover	NZ-wide	www.lianza.org.nz
August	21-30	Melbourne Writers' Festival	Bringing together 250 local and international writers	Various locations, Melbourne	www.mwf.com.au
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
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	9-13	Brisbane Writers' Festival	Bringing together books, writing, ideas and readers	Various locations, Brisbane	www.brisbandewritersfestival.com.au
September	14	The Acquisitions Continuum: from source to supply and beyond	ALIA Acquisitions National Seminar	TAFE Lecture Theatre Currie Street Adelaide	www.alia.org.au

AUSTRALIAN LIBRARY NEWS

WHAT'S ON GUIDE 2009

Month	Dates	Title	Description	Location	More information
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	1	IAML AGM	International Association of Music Libraries, Archives and Documentation Centres AGM	Fisher Library University of Sydney	www.iamlaust.org
October	2-3	6th ALIA Top End Symposium	The theme is Exploring Learning Spaces and Learning Environments	Education Lecture Theatre Charles Darwin University NT	www.alia.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	15-16	People in the Information Profession	CAVAL, Emerald and ALIA conference	Victoria University Melbourne, Victoria	www.caval.edu.au/hrconference.html
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
August	14-19	World Library and Information Congress	IFLA general conference and council	Göteborg, Sweden	www.ifla.org