

ONLINE CURRENTS

Volume 27, Number 4

August 2013

ARTICLES

Who's minding the desk? – Denise Sutherland

In this year of Canberra's centenary, Denise Sutherland finds out about the ACT Heritage Library in an interview with its Librarian, Antoinette Buchanan. 179

Ebooks and elending – Mary Coe

The Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA) held a think tank on ebooks and elending at the State Library of NSW in Sydney on 28 May 2013. The Sydney think tank followed similar events in Brisbane and Melbourne, which resulted in release of an ALIA position statement on ebook and elending in May 2013. Discussion centred on pricing and access models for ebooks in Australia and other countries. Specific issues for public, academic and special libraries were also considered. The ALIA elending initiative and others like it demonstrate that libraries will play a role in the rapidly evolving book industry. 182

Body knowledge in bytes: The health industry gears up for the 21st century – Paul Bentley

As you get older the thought that the years are running out creates a compelling interest in health and medical matters. After more than 4,600 years of development, health services now help you last longer. People who last longer impose a heavy burden on national economies but, with the help of the taxes they once paid, they keep lots of other people employed. In this environment, online information is viewed not only as the means for improving your health but also of keeping the lid on escalating costs. Gearing up the health sector to capitalise on possibilities has been fraught with teething problems. Libraries, archives and museums have in the past been good places for finding out what makes you tick. In the age of ubiquitous computing, how are their services being affected by online imperatives? 186

ALIA Information Online 2013 – Jane Douglas

Jane Douglas reviews the ALIA Information Online 2013 Conference held at the Brisbane Convention Centre in February 2013. A key issue considered was the radically changing environment in which information is produced, distributed, managed and used, and the threats and opportunities this generates for libraries and librarians. Speakers suggested that innovation, flexibility, redesign of library systems and focusing on building relationships will be essential for library survival into the future. 195

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