

On the Edge

On The Edge, the 7th Asian Pacific Specials Health & Law Librarians' Conference and Exhibition is to be held in Perth, Western Australia, 12-16 October 1997. It is organised jointly by the Specials and Health Libraries Sections of the Australian Library & Information Association, and the Australian Law Librarians' Group

Why you should go to Conferences

To keep up to date. Yes, we all intend to read that literature and think about those issues and consider changing that aspect of our practice, but time is elusive when we're embroiled in the day to day pressures of getting through the daily in-tray and in responding to the almost regular crises and rising levels of demand for service. We need to get away from it all and have the time to think through the changes and challenges we face. If we're not up to date at least with the issues, even if we can't always get hold of the resources we need, we're dinosaurs and we all know what happened to them.

No librarian is an island, we're a cooperative species and cooperation works best between people who know and understand each other. As they say, network, network, network

Best practice, quality services - how are we doing? We'll never know if we never make the contacts and benchmark our services with co-operative peer services.

A re-energised, re-invigorated, re-invented, re-engineered librarian is good for the organisation he or she comes from.

Why you should go to this Conference

It offers a quality program with stimulating issues being addressed by interesting speakers. More below on the keynote speakers.

There are many opportunities for that important networking Wednesday afternoon in particular is devoted to meetings of special interest groups. Plenty of time to grease the wheels of co-operation

The trade exhibition is the place to go to investigate in more depth the goods and services our suppliers have on offer.

If all of that is not enough to tempt, we've a host city in the heart of the world's most prolific wildflower territory with a beautiful river and beaches and lots to see and do. Come early and tour the wildflower areas, come or go via many Asian destinations, perhaps via Broome or one of the other fascinating areas in the Kimberley region

Keynote Speakers

Sylvia Webb is an independent information management consultant from the UK. Sylvia has a formidable bibliography to her name including titles such as: *Creating an Information Service*, now in its 3rd edition, *Preparing a Guide to Your Library and Information Service*; *World Wide Web: How to Design and Construct Home Pages*; *'Know-How' and Information Provision in Legal Firms*; *Pursuing Quality in Special Libraries*; *Making a Charge for Library and Information Services*; *Promoting Excellence. Personnel Management and Staff Development in Libraries*, and more! Her keynote address is titled: "'Know-How' and Knowing How: the Changing Context of Information Provision and the Role of the Professional."

Ch'ng Kim See is head of the Library at the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, Singapore. Kim See has extensive experience throughout Asia and will give us an invaluable insight into developments in our region. We hear often about closer ties Australian and New Zealand companies are making with business interests in

the Asia Pacific region and this is our chance to learn from the experiences of a colleague who is a regional leader, and to forge some ties of our own. Kim See's keynote address is titled: "The IT Thrust Toward the New Millennium: Asian Government Responses to Challenges of Information Technologies and Implications for Libraries in Japan, Malaysia, and Singapore."

Richard Danner is Associate Dean for Library and Computing Services and Research Professor of Law at the Duke Law School in Durham, North Carolina. Richard's keynote address takes us to issues forming at the edge of the technological revolution. Who better to take us through some of the issues than one of the pre-eminent legal librarians in the US? Richard's experience in a number of offices in the American Association of Law Libraries (including President from 1989-1990) as well as in other law associations, and the interests reflected in his many publications guarantee us some new insights. Richard's keynote address is titled: "Defining a Profession."

Elizabeth Bole Eddison is Chairperson and Vice President of Inmagic Inc, USA. Do you have a software product you think has marketable properties? Perhaps you are a user of Inmagic or another system and have wondered about the view from the other side of the fence. This is your chance to hear from a pioneer in the field, someone who took an in-house tool and transformed it to the Inmagic product we know today. Elizabeth's keynote address is titled: "On the Edge of the Millennium - Looking Into the Future: From Information Managers to Information Leaders."

Joanne Gard Marshall is the Associate Professor of the Faculty of Information Studies at the University of Toronto, Canada. A boundary bender whose skills and experience have much to offer special and health librarians, she has been

very active in both the US Special Libraries Association (SLA) and the US Medical Library Association (MLA). She has combined a career as an educator, a practitioner and a researcher. Special librarians would be interested in the work Joanne has done as chair of the SLA Committee on Competencies for Special Librarians of the 21st Century, or perhaps her report on "The Impact of the Special Library on Corporate Decision Making". Health librarians would know her Rochester Study - "The Impact of the Hospital Library on Clinical Decision Making" which was published in the *Bulletin of the Medical Library Association* in April 1992, a study which won the 1993 Eliot Prize from the MLA and is a citation with a considerable impact factor of its own. She is currently chairing the Implementation Task Force for the MLA Research Policy Statement "Using Scientific Evidence to Improve Information Practice". Joanne's keynote address is titled: "Creating a Vision for the 21st Century: the Way Ahead for Library and Information Professionals."

Another five speakers from overseas and over 70 Australian librarians will give us the benefit of their experience, research and thoughts.

Tempted? Want to Know More?

A copy of the registration brochure/ programme may be obtained by contacting the conference organisers. Remember: you will save money if you register before 1 September.

Motive Conventions

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<http://www.lib.murdoch.edu.au/edge/edge.html>

Law Foundation of New South Wales Announcement

Official announcement by the Law Foundation of New South Wales reported on their Internet Homepage at <http://www.fl.asn.au/news/authorised.html>

Supreme Court of New South Wales: Use of unreported judgments available electronically

Following a request from the Director of Public Prosecutions to use electronic printouts of unreported judgments in the Supreme Court of New South Wales, the Law Foundation of NSW has had a series of discussions with the Chief Justice, the Hon. Murray Gleeson AC. As a result of these discussions, the following position has been reached:

The Supreme Court of NSW recognises that unreported decisions of a number of Australian Courts are available electronically on the Internet, through the Foundation Law and AustLII web sites, the web sites of commercial publishers, and on CD-ROM services

On the 17th April 1997, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of New South Wales has approved the use, in that Court, of printouts of unreported judgments of:

The Supreme Courts of Australian States and Territories;

The Federal Court of Australia;

The High Court of Australia

Note that this approval is limited to printouts of unreported judgments. Use of computer printouts for judgments which are reported in the Law Reports is an impermissible practice

28 April 1997

Computer Law Services and LBC Information Services to join forces

Computer Law Services has agreed, subject to the necessary approvals and due diligence, to sell its legal subscription business to Thomson's, the parent company of LBC Information Services. It is anticipated that subject to the fulfilment of those conditions this will take effect in July 1997

Both CLS and LBC are determined to ensure a seamless transition for their customers, and are pleased to announce that on completion of the sale, LBC will accept and fulfil current subscription services.

The CLS products currently received will continue to be produced by the same editing and programming team in the same Canberra premises. That team - and their production processes - were central to CLS' attainment of Quality Endorsement, and you can expect those high standards to be continued.

During the first few weeks following the sale, respective teams will arrange for the transfer of subscription and support services - such as account management, training, documentation and hotline support - that accompany subscriptions. Subscribers will be notified of any procedural changes, such as telephone numbers etc., if they arise

CLS thank you for your support and the opportunity to serve you for these past several years, and are confident that LBC will continue as they have done, by continually introducing new products and innovations, and by raising standards within existing products.

If you have any further questions please contact the CLS representative for your area

Des Quilty
General Manager
Computer Law Services

Eddie Costigan
Managing Director
LBC Information
Services

JURIST: Law Professors on the Web

I'm pleased to announce the official debut of a Web site designed to consolidate, highlight and facilitate the many online projects and services being developed by individual law professors in this age of cyberspace

After a year as a small-scale pilot project (with which some listmembers may already be familiar), JURIST: Law Professors on the Web is up and running at:

<http://www.law.pitt.edu/hibbitts/jurist.htm>

JURIST collects law professors' Web-based home pages, course pages, resource pages and online articles (both "pre-prints" and "post-prints") and, for the first time, makes them conveniently accessible to other law professors, lawyers, and law students, as well as to the public at large

JURIST also offers listings for the Web sites of major professional and legal associations, directories of law review and law school home pages, pointers to law listservs, access to a law-dedicated search engine, and last (and, perhaps until this part is absolutely finished, least!) direct e-mail connections to other legal academics in the US and abroad.

JURIST is continually under development, so updated information and suggestions for new links are very welcome! General comments on this still somewhat experimental service would be especially appreciated

I hope you find JURIST useful

Bernard Hibbitts

Webmaster - JURIST:

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Australian and New Zealand law librarians may be interested to know that I have just posted the "sequel" to my 1996 article "Last Writes? Re-assessing the Law Review in the Age of Cyberspace". As some of you may recall, the latter piece argued that legal scholars should take control of their own work by moving away from traditional law review publication towards a system in which self-published Web-posted articles would be centrally archived (or hyperlinked) and made available for post-hoc open peer commentary

The "sequel" - "Yesterday Once More: Skeptics, Scribes and the Demise of Law Reviews" - is now available at:

<http://www.law.pitt.edu/hibbitts/akron.htm>

In substance, "Yesterday Once More" is my response to the various commentaries on "Last Writes?" collected in a forthcoming special issue of the Akron Law Review already available on line (via the URL for "Yesterday Once More") and soon to appear in print in Akron Law Review, 30(2), Winter 1996.

"Last Writes?" itself is, of course, still available on the Web (in a somewhat-enhanced Version 1.2, March 1997) at:

<http://www.law.pitt.edu/hibbitts/lastrev.htm>

and in print in 71 NYU Law Review, vol 71, p.615 (1996).

As usual, comments on this new piece (or on the old one, for that matter) would be greatly appreciated

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US State Legislative Information

We have a little directory available called the Legislative Hotline Directory which lists the telephone numbers to call for legislative bill status information in all fifty states in the US.

To obtain a FREE copy, send an email to grs@cjnetworks.com with the word "Hotline" (without the quotations) on the subject line.

In the past we have printed the directory and provided it free to anyone who would send a stamped, self-addressed envelope. However, from now on we will only make it available via email.

The Legislative Hotline Directory is excerpted from a larger publication, the 1997 "State Legislative Sourcebook," which is a comprehensive guide to sources of legislative information in all fifty states of the US is also published by Government Research Service.

Lynn Hellebust

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