



8th Asia-Pacific Specials Health and Law Librarians Conference

22-26 AUGUST 1999

Plenary speakers include: **Mickie Voges**, Associate Professor of Law, Illinois Institute of Technology; **Grace Cheng**, Chief Librarian, Hong Kong Hospital Authority; **Karen Coyle**, Systems Librarian, University of California Digital Library; **Susan DiMattia**, incoming President of the Special Libraries Association; and **Professor Don Chalmers**, Head of the Law School, University of Tasmania.

Mickie Voges is an Associate Professor of Law at the Illinois Institute of Technology whose interest and expertise is in the area of law and technology. Mickie will be the first plenary speaker to set the theme of the first day – ‘Looking forward, looking back’. Grace Cheng from Hong Kong will be the plenary speaker for day two, when the theme will be ‘Information Ecology’. Grace will speak about the “shifting information landscape” and how librarians need to

reposition themselves in the world of information provision. Karen Coyle will address the third day’s theme – ‘The Vision’, with her paper “Shaping the Vision”. The last day – ‘Strait to the Future’ – will feature two plenary speakers: Susan DiMattia and Don Chalmers. We will finish the conference with a panel session of all plenary speakers where we will draw together all the threads from the preceding three days.

The conference will be opened by the Governor of Tasmania, **Sir Guy Green**, who will also be hosting a cocktail party at Government House on the Monday evening. Check the social programme on the conference web page, <http://www.alia.org.au/conferences/strait/social.html> and follow the link to the photos of this elegant building considered to be one of the best Vice-Regal residences in the Commonwealth. Numbers for this event are strictly limited, so get your registration in early if you want to attend.

On the Wednesday we are planning a “Meet the Experts” lunch at additional cost. This will enable delegates to meet with and talk to the plenary speakers over a specially prepared lunch. The numbers are strictly limited to enable those attending as much time as possible to meet and talk with some of the plenary speakers in an informal way.

As you will have noticed in the Registration Brochure, we have set aside the Wednesday afternoon for meetings of Special Interest Groups. This is for any groups whose members may be attending the conference. Groups such as ALOFT, GRATIS, Tax Librarians, Court Librarians, and other specialist law groups are welcome, indeed encouraged to arrange meetings of their group. The committee will be pleased to arrange venues for your meetings, and publicity in the Conference Handbook and at the Registration Desk at the Conference. Please contact Meredith Newman at: newmanm@h130.aone.net.au

Satellite events

We have planned several satellite events to surround the conference, two beforehand, and one after.

Registration for these can be made on the Registration Brochure or as separate events, but numbers for all are limited.

The first two will be held on Saturday 21 August 1999, preceding the Conference – ‘The SOLO Librarian’, presented by **Judith Siess** of Information Bridges International Inc; and ‘Special library rare materials: preservation issues’, presented by **Bob Broughton**

‘The SOLO Librarian’ workshop will cover issues of interest to SOLO librarians and others from how to manage, helpful resources, outsourcing, downsizing, technology, the future of solo librarianship and much more. The course will be based around interactive discussion and those attending should plan to participate actively. While Judith will be available throughout the conference, this is an opportunity to benefit from her experience and to get up to date with what is happening internationally

‘Special library rare materials: preservation issues’ will be a theoretical and practical workshop covering the basic principles of conservation and preservation of rare materials found in the special library. The emphasis will be on ethical preservation, conserving materials in context and using only stable, appropriate materials for enclosures and supports. Aspects of environmental risks, shelving and handling techniques will be covered

The third satellite event is ‘Train the Trainer’, which will be held on Friday 27 August after the conference. This is a one day workshop presented by **Maree Enright** and **Adele Mitchell** of The BrokerEdge. Topics covered will include: writing aims and objectives, structuring information to suit the audience, using positive and definite language, delivering technical information clearly, building rapport with participants, selecting and ordering content, developing appropriate visual aides and exercises, arranging the room, environment and equipment.

For further information about the satellite events, please contact:

Mures Convention Management
Victoria Dock, Hobart, Tas 7000
Ph: (03) 6234 1424
Fax: (03) 6234 4464
Email: conventions@mures.com.au

To find out more about the Conference visit our web site:

<http://www.alia.org.au/conferences/strait>

All the details of the Conference are there including links to most of the recommended accommodation venues, so you can see what they are like and what they offer before you choose.

Chris Richardson

Publicity Convenor

CCH Bursary Winners

I am very pleased to announce that the following ALLG members are the winners of the 5 x \$1,000 CCH bursaries to the “Strait to the Future”, the 8th Asia Pacific Specials Health and Law Librarians Conference to be held in Hobart from the 22 - 26 August 1999

Two of the bursaries were specifically allocated to members with less than three years experience. These were awarded to:

Rachelle Summers, Information Assistant, Family Court of Australia, Melbourne

Paul White, Information Services Manager, Deacons, Graham & James, Brisbane

The winners of the remaining three bursaries are:

Frieda Evans, Manager, Office of Courts Administration, Darwin

Helen Gambley, Librarian and Litigation Support Manager, Hoppgood Ganim, Brisbane

Prue Presser, Faculty Services Librarian, Law Library, University of Melbourne

Many thanks to CCH for funding the bursaries and to the five members of the National Executive Committee who made up the selection panel. Thanks also to the other applicants. The bursaries proved very popular and we would hope to be able to arrange a similar offer for the national conference in Melbourne in 2002.

Cathryn Crowe

National President, ALLG

Villans Symposium Proceeds

We are pleased to notify the members of the Australian Law Librarians' Group that profits made from the Inaugural Law Librarians' Symposium (1996) and the Law Librarians' Symposium (1998) have been distributed as follows:

\$15,000 has been sent to the National Convenor of the ALLG.

\$15,000 has been sent to the Convenor of the Victorian Division of the ALLG.

Our request and recommendation is that the proceeds be used by the ALLG to fund bursaries for members of the Group to attend relevant conferences. The Victorian Group has already advertised 6 bursaries for registration costs to the Specials conference in Hobart

The Villans group comprised the following people:

James Butler, Jenny Wood, Ann Wootton, Ruth Bird, Petal Kinder, Brenda Currie and Nicki McLaurin Smith

The idea for a low key symposium had been floated by various members of the ALLG for several years, and we took on the challenge of organising this in our own time, using our own skills and resources, learning along the way. Both events were successful, and the cooperation between all members of the group was remarkable – harmony and sharing were the hallmarks of our meetings and organisation. The papers which were produced and published in the Australian Law Librarian were of a high standard, and assisted the editors of the ALL in delivering a high quality professional journal.

After four years of regular meetings, and continuous, and at times demanding, voluntary work, the Villans group has disbanded. We wish recipients of bursaries funded from these profits all the very best.

Staff Changes at Butterworths

Butterworths has advised the ALLG Committee 1999 of some key staff changes at Butterworths.

Evan Predavec has been appointed Director of Marketing and Electronic Development. This follows

the departure of **Lee Hansen**, who has been instrumental in bringing about a range of marketing initiatives over the past two years.

Evan is well known to most ALLG members and brings to the position a strong understanding of the changing needs of the market. Evan has also been responsible for pioneering developments in electronic publishing and Butterworths Online. He is legally qualified, has a solid publishing background and a strong understanding of where legal publishing is headed in the future. Evan is contactable on Ph: (02) 9422 2207; Fax: (02) 9422 2433; or at: evan.predavec@butterworths.com.au

Butterworths states they are committed to ensuring that their future developments are done in close consultation with key customers, and they are certain the appointment of Evan will ensure this occurring.

Guide to Uniform Production of Judgments

The 2nd edition of the AIIA *Guide to Uniform Production of Judgments* was made available on AustLII¹ during May. The Guide was originally published in 1992 in an effort to promote uniformity in the production of judgments by superior courts, thereby aiding the electronic storage and retrieval of judgments.

The Guide was revised in response to recent developments, most particularly the introduction of medium neutral citation and the paragraph numbering of unreported judgments allowing accurate citation of passages within these judgments regardless of publication method. The Guide recommends the adoption of the standards developed by the High Court for medium neutral and pinpoint citation of judgments.

The Guide also recommends a standard frontsheet or coversheet for all unreported judgments and outlines the information to be included and the desired format for this information.² A number of recommendations are worth noting.

¹ www.austlii.edu.au/au/other/col/1999/1/

² Olsson, L. T., *Guide to Uniform Production of Judgments*, 2nd ed. Carlton South, Vic: AIIA, 1999 Annexure A

- The Guide recognises that while the preparation of a headnote extracting the reason for a given judgment is desirable, the amount of time taken to prepare such a statement means it is rarely feasible.
- Catchwords are identified as a key component of the coversheet. The Guide suggests that the titles and subtitles used in the Australian Digest be used as the source of the catchwords but goes on to say the AIIA will investigate developing a “purpose designed structure and thesaurus”³ for the catchwords.
- When referring to words or phrases defined in a judgment, the Guide suggests the word be “preceded by a phrase such as ‘definition of’ or ‘meaning of’ so as to permit a search formulation which avoids production of a potentially unworkable number of hits.”⁴ This is probably still too vague to make searching for defined words and phrases anything more than hit or miss. The only way to make such a search really effective is to have a special field for judicially defined words or phrases or to at least prescribe the exact form of words to be followed every time such a judgment is indexed.
- In a similar vein the Guide suggests that dates such as hearing dates and judgment dates be entered in the following format – 15 March 1999. Such a format makes searching by date range and sorting results by date very difficult.
- Details of cases considered, applied, distinguished and not followed are to be included on the coversheet. Cases which are merely cited are not to be included so as to ensure only cases of primary importance are indexed.⁵

Electronic Courtrooms

Courtroom 21⁶ is a joint project of the William and Mary Law School in Virginia and the National Center for State Courts (U.S.), designed to examine how technology can enhance the court system. It consists

³ Id at 5

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Id at 8

⁶ www.courtroom21.net

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of a courtroom set up with state of the art technology that is used to demonstrate the potential use of technology in the trial process and also to examine the effects of the technology on people involved in the trial process, in particular jurors. Studies have included the investigation of whether electronic displays of evidence can enhance the jurors and judges understanding of complex factual matters, thereby speeding up the proceedings; and how jurors react to witnesses giving testimony remotely.

In the April 1999 issue of the *Australian Law Journal*⁷ Mr Justice Phillips reported on the Victorian Court of Appeal's first electronic criminal appeal which was conducted on 1 February 1999. All material required for the appeal was transmitted, stored and accessed electronically, much of it in a scanned image TIF format

⁷ Phillips, J. H., "Practical advocacy", *Australian Law Journal* 73 (4) April 1999 p 242