

the latest development with Kinetica and will answer any questions/issues relating to Kinetica (10–11am). ANTA (Aust. National Training Authority), Level 11, AMP Place, 10 Eagle Street, Brisbane, 10–12pm, morning tea provided. After morning tea, a staff member from ANTA will explain what ANTA does. Contact: Jill Rogers, ph 07 3246 2300

• **12/6 Qld Library Technician section.** Annual dinner and presentation of Library Technician of the Year (Recent Graduate) Award. Skyline Restaurant, COTAH, Merivale Street, South Brisbane, 6pm. Tickets on sale soon. A night of fine food, entertaining company and the Award presentation to a very special Library technician. Contact: Marian Moyle, ph 07 3244 6446, fx 07 3244 6425, marian.moyle@detir.qld.gov.au

• **20/6 Qld Branch CPD sub-committee.** Library & information policies & environments the 21st century profession — objects, values, responsibilities — Alan Bundy (incoming ALIA president). State Library Theatre, 5:30pm. Contact: Sue Rigney, sue_rigney@justice.qld.gov.au

• **29/6 Qld Branch CPD sub-committee.** Networking: New Year's Eve party. Mary Ryans, Paddington. Time: evening, tba. Contact: Sue Rigney, sue_rigney@justice.qld.gov.au

• **10/7 Qld Library Technician section.** Industrial issues for library technicians. State Library Theatre, State Library of Queensland, South Brisbane, 5 for 5:30pm start, unless otherwise advised. Contact: Marian Moyle, ph 07 3244 6446, marian.moyle@detir.qld.gov.au

• **mid-July Qld Branch Pathways to CPD.** Resource acquisition & management: Stating your case for what you need and/or how it should be managed — Ray Lane, director, Support Services, Department of Justice. DPI Auditorium 1. Contact: Sue Rigney, sue_rigney@justice.qld.gov.au

• **1/8 Qld OPALs meeting.** Cerebral Palsy League of Qld, Level 2, 55 Oxlade Drive, New Farm, Time: tba. Contact: Deb Cronan, ph 07 3358 8036

• **14/8 Qld Branch Pathways to CPD.** Research, analysis & interpretation techniques: Writing the definitive conference paper — speaker: tba. Densions, Sheraton. Contact: Sue Rigney, sue_rigney@justice.qld.gov.au

• **24/8 Qld Branch Pathways to CPD.** Networking: Passions outside the profession — sisters in crime. Mary Ryans, Paddington. Contact: Sue Rigney, sue_rigney@justice.qld.gov.au

• **Sept Qld Branch Pathways to CPD.** Networking: A day on the tug, SS Forceful. SS Forceful. Contact: Sue Rigney, sue_rigney@justice.qld.gov.au

• **Sept Qld Branch Pathways to CPD.** Team relationship skills: Speaking up — when & how to effectively participate in teams & committees — Warren Horton, retired director, NLA. DPI Auditorium 1. Contact: Sue Rigney, sue_rigney@justice.qld.gov.au

• **4/9 Qld Branch Pathways to CPD.** Information services: Conference capers — Specials, Health & Law Librarians Conference. Central BCC Library Theatre. Contact: Sue Rigney, sue_rigney@justice.qld.gov.au

• **11/9 Qld Library Technician section.** Feedback from Hobart Conference. State Library Theatre, State Library of Queensland, South Brisbane, 5 for 5:30pm start, unless

continued next page...

Open URL standard committee

The US National Information Standards Organization (NISO) has announced the formation of a committee to develop the Open URL standard. This standard will allow information seekers to be connected to the appropriate copy of any chosen resource by passing along bibliographic or descriptive information about the resource in the form of metadata and taking into account the user's organisational context or starting point. A variety of appropriate related resources may also be made available using Open URL syntax. This new standard will let information providers connect their customers to services and products more cleanly and directly.

The committee is charged to build a syntax for web-transportable packages of metadata and/or identifiers about an information object. This information is at the core of context-sensitive or open link technology. By standardising the syntax, this work will enable the development of innovative user-specific services in the scholarly communications industry and other information fields. For example, product descriptions could be linked to technical support services targeted to specific user categories. The Open URL standard may impact the level of basic internet infrastructure, where resolution of identifiers in a context-sensitive manner is required.

The committee's starting point will be the Open URL syntax developed by Herbert Van de Sompel, Patrick Hochstenbach and Oren Beit-Arie. Many publishers in the scholarly information community are implementing this syntax in their electronic publications. The detailed proposal is available at <http://www.sfxit.com/OpenURL>. The Open URL Standard Committee is chaired by Eric F Van de Velde of California Institute of Technology and includes members from a broad spectrum of libraries, publishers and service providers. Formal work will begin in May 2001. Reports on the committee's progress will be featured on the NISO website [<http://www.niso.org>].

NISO, a non-profit organisation, is the only group accredited by the American National Standards Institute to develop and promote technical standards for use in libraries and publishing and related information services. NISO standards address the communication needs of these industries in areas such as information retrieval, preservation of materials, information transfer, forms and records, identification systems, publication formats, and equipment and supplies. For further information about NISO, visit the NISO website at <http://www.niso.org>. ■

Product news

Business rankings

Compiled by Express Information at the State Library of Victoria, International Business Rankings is a unique guide to ranked lists in leading business periodicals covering a wide range of industries and topics. Focusing on Asia and Australasia, with over 4000 entries, an index and bibliography, the new third edition is a must for any reference collection. Order at expressinfo.com.au or phone 03 9669 9845.

Newspapers online

The *New York Times* and the *Wall Street Journal* will soon be available online — from their first issues in 1851 and 1889 respectively to the present day. The digitisation is part of the ProQuest Historical Newspapers program, an ongoing project digitising newspapers from the 19th century onwards. See a demonstration at <http://www.proquest.com/promo/histNews/sld001.html>.

New from Gale Group!

Dictionary of Literary Biography Australian Writers, 1788–1914, First Series. Dictionary of Literary Biography presents career biographies of writers through volumes dedicated to specific types of literature and time periods. Volume 230 covers Australian writers such as Louisa Atkinson, Miles Franklin, Henry Lawson, A B 'Banjo' Paterson, David Unaipon, Ethel Turner. Vol 230. ISBN 0 7876 4647 4.



Virtual reference workshops

Anne Lipow is organising virtual reference workshops intended to familiarise you with issues involved in providing remote reference services and to give you practice in transferring reference desk skills to the virtual environment. To be held across Australia in May 2001. Visit <http://www.aima.org.au> for more information, or e-mail: info@aima.org.au.

Leading technology exhibition

Over 100 exhibitors will showcase the latest products and services for education and training at *Edutech 2001*, 12–14 August, at the Melbourne Exhibition Centre. An informative professional development series will feature leading education professionals discussing key issues and the latest developments in the industry. E-mail edutech@ate.net.au or visit <http://www.ate.net.au/edutech/>

Online legislation service

LAWLEX is a ground-breaking online legislation and compliance service, offering a research site and powerful daily e-mail alert tool. LAWLEX provides searching across all Australian jurisdictions, access to gazette references, explanatory memoranda, commencement information, regulations, bill tracking and amendments since consolidation. Contact sales@lawlex.com.au or phone 03 9828 6888. <http://www.lawlex.com.au>. ■