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State Library Metway Theatre, 5pm, drinks and nibbles (gold coin donation). Tour begins promptly at 5:30pm. Contact: Anne Collins, ph 07 3259 7014, anne.m.collins@bdw.com.au

• **27/4 Qld Library Technician's 2003 Brisbane conference committee.** *An elegant evening under the stars* — booktalk with Mary-Rose MacColl, music, champagne, nibbles. Sponsored by Riverbend Books, Oxford Street, Bulimba, 7pm. Cost: \$30 ALIA members, \$35 non-members. *RSVP by 20/4 to:* Jo-Anne Dusha, ph 07 3247 9408, jo-anne.dusha@detir.qld.gov.au

• **15/5 Qld Library Technician section.** *National Library Technicians Day.* Let's celebrate our special day! Join us for breakfast at The Coffee Club, Stones Corner, 6:30am and after work, for drinks and nibbles at Café San Marco, Southbank Parklands from 5pm. Contact: Anne Collins, ph 07 3259 7014, anne.m.collins@bdw.com.au

• **6/6 Qld OPALs.** *General meeting.* ANTA (Aust. National Training Authority), Level 11, AMP Place, 10 Eagle Street, City, 10am. 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: Anne Collins, ph 07 3259 7014, anne.m.collins@bdw.com.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

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

• **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 otherwise advised. Contact: Marian Moyle, ph 07 3244 6446, marian.moyle@detir.qld.gov.au

• **12/9 Qld OPALs.** *General meeting.* Domestic Violence Resource Centre, 56 Boundary Street, South Brisbane, 12:30pm. Contact: Linda Mill, ph 07 3217 2544

• **30/10 Qld OPALs.** *General meeting.* BCC City Plaza Library, Corner George, Adelaide & Ann Street, City, 5:30pm.

SA

• **9/4 SA Branch.** *General meeting.* All members are more than welcome. PLAIN, 8 Millner Street, Hindmarsh, 5 for 5:15pm.

• **9/4-14/5 SA Library Technician section.** *Committee meeting.* Fleet Street Café, 162-170 Pulteney Street, Adelaide, 6 for 6:30pm meeting. 9/4, 14/5. Contact: SALT secretary, Jackie Williams, ph 08 8226 2890, fx 08 8226 2199, williams.jackie@saugov.sa.gov.au

• **2/5 SA Branch.** *Mentoring group meeting.* Ira Raymond room, Barr Smith Library, Adelaide. University from 6-8pm.

• **14/5 SA Branch.** *General meeting.* All members are more than welcome. PLAIN, 8

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IEEE annals of the history of computing

Special issue on the history of library automation

A special issue of *IEEE annals of the history of computing* is planned on the history of library automation, due for publication in 2002. The publication will focus on the changing role of computing in libraries since the early 1950s to the period of profound changes heralded by the advent of the internet and the world wide web.

If you are interested in participating in this exciting project, please contact one of the editors. Papers in the *Annals* are substantial but on the whole should be no more than 40 one-sided, double-spaced manuscript pages. While papers will be refereed, the editors in planning the special issue would very much like to discuss potential contributions with their authors.

Final deadline for submissions: 15 July 2001.

Background

The advent of computing on a widespread commercial basis in the early 1960s began to change traditional practices in libraries. First came the realisation that some of the early pre-computer technology (punch cards, edge notch cards, cards with embedded microfilm), used for information retrieval applications, had implications for libraries.

Almost as soon as computers appeared on the scene, early applications were explored in libraries, initially for relatively simple internal processing operations, with mixed results. With the advent of the MARC format, a new regime in automating and networking libraries began. In their turn, the internet and the web confront libraries with the prospect of even more profound changes functionally and organisationally in terms of their social role and their relationship with other parts of the now global information marketplace.

The response of libraries on the whole to the digital revolution has been at once rapid, imaginative and troubled, as they balance competing interests and responsibilities. They continue to provide access to print materials of which there is a no less abundant supply than in the past. Through subscription and licensing agreements, they in-

corporate parts of the web as an extension of their own services. But they also act as gateways into the more unregulated and, for some, less desirable parts of the web, which raises issues of censorship, privacy and copyright.

One might argue that the experience in libraries of early computer applications based on business models of inventory control and database searching was highly problematic. The complexity of library applications involved, among other things, the problem of standardising and ordering names and creating unique descriptions for 'library' items that had taken a generation for librarians to codify effectively. Similarly the almost intractable problem of effectively ordering the full range of language in order to specify the subject content and relationships of documents was also underestimated in early applications and continues to be problematic today.

The editors hope that an historical approach will help show how important library computer applications have been in the development of computing and in contributing to the constitution of today's 'information economy'. They believe that the partial and provisional technological solutions that have been offered for library problems, studied historically, will give special insights into the nature and evolution of libraries themselves. Such an approach might also help us in envisioning and planning for the future of libraries in a technologically saturated world.

Guest editors

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Internet tips and tricks #2

We all know how long it takes for those fancy pages to appear on your screen, don't we? Here's a quick tip that can save you time. Turn off your images altogether, and rely on the text links to navigate.

Here's how: in Navigator, choose preferences: advanced, and deselect 'automatically load images'. In Internet Explorer, edit preferences: web content, and deselect 'show pictures' in page content. If you ever need to view the images (or pictures) then simply click the 'images' button, or control-click (Mac) or right-mouse button click (Windows) on the image concerned and bring it back to life. ■