

# ONLINE CURRENTS

Volume 24, Number 3

June 2010

## ARTICLES

### **Talking up the back end in an evolving revolution: The VALA conference 2010** – *Paul Bentley*

This article reviews the VALA conference held in Melbourne on 8-11 February 2010. Keynote speakers were weathervanes for the changing dynamics of the networked world, the gift economy, and the revolutionary Semantic Web, cloud computing, Linked Data and APIs. Librarians were urged to step-up their role. Stepping up will involve more work in the back end of the business – strengthening cooperation, developing systems and applying standards. .... 121

### **Cyborg metadata: Humans and machines working together to manage information – Part 1: Text** – *Matt Moore*

Traditionally, metadata has been managed by experts. This article suggests that in the future, metadata management will involve far greater input from users and machines. The advantages and disadvantages of experts, machines and users as metadata managers are discussed. Two case studies are presented. The first is a tool developed in Hong Kong to integrate a taxonomy with a folksonomy. The second is the use of OpenCalais entity extraction software by the Powerhouse Museum in Australia. The article concludes with a discussion of the implications of this mixed future for organisations and professionals. .... 131

### **Ebook software 2010** – *Jon Jermey*

Double-digit annual financial growth and the arrival of major players like Amazon and Apple have finally shaken the ebook market out of the financial doldrums. Old formats are being redesigned, and new ones developed, in an attempt to reach out to paying customers. But the “Tower of eBabel” resulting from multiple incompatible and constantly changing formats – compared, for example, with the music industry, now finally settling on MP3 files – indicates that ebooks still have a long way to go. .... 139

### **TLAs in LIS – Part 2: Glossary of IT, web, and standards-related acronyms for librarians** – *Glenda Browne*

Acronyms and other abbreviations make up a large part of the language we use when talking about our work, especially the technology-related aspects. They are often taken to show the “authority” of a document, as evidenced by their spurious use in internet spam (eg “This will be sent by Key Telex Transfer (KTT)”). This is the second of two articles on TLAs in LIS and contains a list of acronyms from information technology, the web and standards-related fields that are relevant to librarians. The list includes URLs and additional explanatory information where appropriate ..... 143

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