

# ONLINE CURRENTS

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## ARTICLES

### **Communities and collaboration – *Keith De La Rue***

We know all about explicit knowledge – it is visible and tactile, and has been recorded in libraries since Sumerian times. Tacit knowledge, however, is somewhat harder to tie down. This is the knowledge inside peoples' heads. We often attempt – with varying degrees of success – to convert it into an explicit form so we can better measure and account for it. However, one of the best ways to handle tacit knowledge is for people to simply work together with it, and talk about it. This article investigates one of the most effective ways of dealing with tacit knowledge in organisations – Communities of Practice – and why helping them to grow and flourish requires a better understanding of the words “community” and “practice”, as well as an understanding of the place of technology. ....

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### **Finding books in running brooks: Varieties of academic e-books online – *Bill Browne***

The e-book is increasingly preferred in academic circles to its paper equivalent. Weightless, infinitely duplicable and able to be updated instantaneously, the e-book has numerous advantages over the alternatives. A number of different approaches have been taken to e-book distribution, from online bookstores to totally free and unlimited downloads. However, it is unclear whether the e-book will survive or be replaced by multimedia in which text plays a role, but not the dominant one. ....

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### **Taxonomy usage and skills by Australian information professionals – *Matt Moore***

This article discusses the results of a recent survey on taxonomies in Australia conducted by Innotection and Straits Knowledge. The survey investigated the use of taxonomies by Australian organisations and the taxonomy skills of Australian information professionals. The survey received 125 responses. The collected responses indicated a strong desire to employ taxonomies more effectively and a need to demonstrate the business value of taxonomy work to organisational decision-makers. ....

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### **Records and document management: Trends and tribulations – *Glenda Browne***

This article discusses a recent ARK Group event on records and document management. The attendees explored general records and document management principles and then looked in detail at practices at two organisations. This was followed by a site visit to Prince of Wales Hospital where attendees saw the records storage area and heard from speakers on information management within the South Eastern Sydney and Illawarra Area Health Service. ....

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