

ONLINE CURRENTS

Volume 26, Number 6

December 2012

ARTICLES

Reinventing libraries for the mobile flaneurs: The odyssey continues – *Paul Bentley*

The Australian Library and Information Association held its biennial conference in Sydney on 10-13 July 2012. Keynote speakers commented on the nature of the digital universe and library dynamics in this changing landscape. Those working in libraries shared experiences about the National Broadband Network, redesigning library websites, developing strategies for mobile users, amplifying local history collections and other specialised resources, being inspired by and collaborating with others, serving regional populations, dealing with a crisis in school libraries, educating librarians, and energising library associations. Observations are made about changing contexts, changing libraries and changing associations. 295

All of a Twitter? – *Jane Douglas*

Twitter is a free, web-based microblogging service. With over half a billion registered users, its capacity to influence public discourse cannot be ignored. This article briefly explains what Twitter is and how it works, and considers the implications of Twitter use for the civil environment and grassroots activism, crisis communication, and public broadcasting. Also examined are issues such as cyberbullying, celebrity and political influencers, and the use of Twitter by libraries. 305

Setting up and using virtual private servers – *Jon Jerney*

Falling data storage costs and increasing bandwidth have now made it possible for companies to offer “virtual private servers” in the cloud. Here, users can set up hardware-free online computing environments, using a range of different operating systems, different applications, and different software versions, and operate and access any or all of these simultaneously using any computer (or tablet) connected to the internet. This article looks at the ideas behind virtual private servers, describes some of the products on offer, and reviews the steps required to set up virtual private servers using the global provider Amazon and a Sydney-based company, Mammoth. 314

Word play: A look at 10 “wordy” apps – *Denise Sutherland*

The proliferation of apps knows no bounds and despite moves to more and more texting or twitter-speak in the online world, some apps are designed for a “fuller” approach to language and writing ... and some are not. This article reviews 10 “wordy” apps that could assist with your writing and documentation: dictionaries, thesauruses, and spelling and grammar help. 318

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