Welcome to Virtual Library Zine #53
http://www.libraries.vic.gov.au
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It is aimed at staff in public libraries and anyone interested in Web and electronic resources. If you think you know someone who would like to receive this publication, forward it, or let them know they can join by sending a message to majordomo@vicnet.net.au. Leave the subject blank and in the body of the text write:

subscribe vvlzine your@email.address.in.full

Internet

This was mentioned in the Library Journal, some Google guy says Reference Librarians can keep jobs which is reassuring! http://libraryjournal.reviewsnews.com/index.asp?layout=article&articleid=CA299471&display=breakingNews&publication=libraryjournal

The article is an interview with Craig Silverstein, Google's Director of Technology. He feels that the Holy Grail for Google is to act like a Reference Librarian- this type of sophistication is hundreds of years away. Information professionals are still needed to help people articulate queries.

Water, Water (Not) Everywhere!

International Year of Freshwater 2003
http://www.wateryear2003.org/

2003 has been proclaimed as the International Year of Freshwater. This is the official Web site and provides a host of online resources designed to educate the web- browsing public about various events related to this overriding theme, along with presenting an online library of publications about freshwater. You read the online newsletter, Splash, browse a water library, organized by themes (such as water use and cities), and geographic regions. A range of materials are also available in French and Spanish.

Friends of Water, Water - Closer to home

Following are some websites relating to local water information, all different approaches.

Friends of Mullum Mullum Creek
http://home.vicnet.net.au/~fommv/
The Mullum Mullum Creek is a creek within urban metropolitan Melbourne that is

surrounded by bushland for most of its length. Thus it is significant, as the only creek within metropolitan Melbourne that still has substantial natural values for most of its length. The site feature detailed maps of the creek and detailed flora and fauna information , including a range of excellent photographs.

Friends of River Gum Creek
http://rivergum.melbournewater.com.au/

The City of Casey Council and Melbourne Water formally created the Friends of River Gum Creek in 1995. The Friends' objective is to manage the development of the recreational facilities and beautification of this tract of land.

Merri Creek Management committee
http://home.vicnet.net.au/~mcmc/
This website incorporates the "friends of' group as well as the councils involved in the management of Merri Creek. As a result the site contains a range of material that is both broad and comprehensive. Publications for purchase are worth noting.

Victoria's Environment Gateway
http://www.environment.vic.gov.au/

This site has a huge amount of specifically Victorian information on water and most other aspects of environmental concern. Especially interesting are the New Links section (which includes a work pack on the Werribee treatment plant for all those school trips!) and their own Hot Topics which is a very useful listing of current topics of interest and the relevant websites. Excellent, useful stuff.

Australian Natural Resources Atlas
http://audit.ea.gov.au/anra/atlas_home.cfm

The Australian Natural Resources Atlas is part of what can only be called a mega-site! Includes a large section on water resources and management strategies, but it is really a subset of the Environment Australia site (Commonwealth Department of the Environment and Heritage http://www.ea.gov.au/) which is also packed with information from all across Australia. There's also the Environment Portal which is the third in what looks like a suite of sites and information (http://www.environment.gov.au/index.html).

This edition of the Virtual Library Zine was edited by
Brendan Fitzgerald and Frances Savage.

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E-mail a Colleague

Google Guy: Reference Librarians Can Keep Jobs
-- 5/21/2003
BreakingNews > News

The goal of Google, according to Craig Silverstein, Google s director of technology, is to seem as smart as a reference librarian. Silverstein presented new directions for the search engine during the opening keynote at the InfoToday Conference 2003 in New York, May 7, mentioning librarians while discussing the development of natural language queries. The Holy Grail, for Google--to act like a reference librarian in responding to these queries--is "hundreds of years away." Information professionals are needed to help people articulate their information needs, to help form queries, and to engage in the back and forth dialog that results in finding appropriate information.

Google users can look forward to more information online, including "what you don't think of as information," such as web logs. Another example is Google's catalogs project -- the scanning of content from consumer catalogs. This proof of concept supports Google's mission "to make all the world's information available." Searching in the future will require "a greater role for discernment." There will be more information, "but it will not necessarily all be good information," said Silverstein. Librarians also can expect questions to get harder, since researchers will be able to answer the easier questions themselves with search engines. "What exists that the engine couldn't return?" Silverstein asked. "Is there more out there?"