VALA 2014 conference exhibition: Software, support and equipment

Glenda Browne[*]

This article continues coverage of the VALA conference held in Melbourne in February 2014. After looking at the use of technology for the conference itself, an overview of the systems, software, and supplier exhibitors follows. This complements the article earlier in this issue that discusses the ebook-related vendors. The full list of exhibitors, with links to websites, is available at http://www.vala.org.au/exhibitors2014.

CONFERENCE TECHNOLOGY

It is always interesting to see the use of technology to support conference aims, especially so at a technology-oriented conference.

ShowGizmo app

VALA 2014 provided the ShowGizmo smartphone app for iPhone, Android and mobile web free to all conference delegates. They also organised for an "App Concierge" to help delegates download and use the app.

The ShowGizmo app could be used to:
- view the conference program and floorplan
- see profiles of all exhibitors and their staff and have access to their offers
- get exhibitor information straight onto your phone by scanning QR codes
- keep up with real time alerts, news and tweets and chat during the event
- "favourite" things you like – people, documents, promotions, stands
- find people you're looking for and exchange contact details
- rate conference sessions and participate in live polls.

The organisers also provided printed programs (in both large and small formats) but for the next conference these will be replaced by the app.

Twitter and Flickr streams

Twitter hashtags were allocated for tweets about the conference in general (#vala14) and for each presentation (for example, #s23), and tweets were displayed on screen during keynote presentations (speakers could opt out of this if they wished).

There was also a hashtag for those not there – Lyndelle Gunton tweeted: "Really grateful for all those who tweeted from #vala14 Next best thing to being there with you all. Thanks for including those #notatvala" (@lyndelleg Feb 5).

I saw one tweet for my session: "Glenda Browne talking #indexing and #ebooks - for EPUB format, it's open standards & semantically coded #vala14 #s23" (Anna Gifford @brunniegirl Feb 4).

Interesting tweets included:
- "Sitting on my hands to warm them #vala14 #p6" (KL Fair @klfair Feb 5)
- "ahhh … it's true! – People have ordered $1Mill worth of Pizza Hut using their Xbox 360 … in 4 months. #Starcraft #vala14 #xbox" (Bernard Lyons @deathlibrarian Feb 6)

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All websites viewed March 2014.

- "@VALAlib: There are still perfectly legitimate reasons to maintain print collections. Even if just PR. #vala14 #p6 PR is a reason?" (philip mullen @philmull Feb 5)
- "@VALAlib: Libraries as gap filler. With every new technology comes tension. Gaps between haves and have nots. #vala14 #p6" (Neera Sahni @NeeraS1 Feb 5)
- "Awesome suggestion - button on catalogues saying 'digitise this!'- give libs museums etc guide to where ppl want digital access #vala14 #s28" (Anna Gifford @brunniegirl Feb 5)
- "Can I pay for VALA 2016 with my Bitcoins? #vala14 #p6" (Corin the Librarian @corinh Feb 5)
- "#vala14 bitcoin discussion, libraries as a place for alternative voice. Natural fit for playing in the crypto space #ylibrary" (pseudo librarian @ppandey007 Feb 5)
- "Bitcoin is so last year, my library will be accepting Dogecoins #vala14 #p6" (Edward Shaddow @edwardshaddow Feb 5).[1]

The Flickr photo stream (for 2014 and the last few VALA conferences) is at http://www.flickr.com/photos/vala2010.

Online survey after the conference

A post-conference survey was sent out on Survey Monkey about a month after the conference. I was pleased to see a category which I, personally, matched perfectly (it mentioned indexing specifically in the cataloguing, taxonomy and classification category). Some fields were required which were perhaps objectionable: one of these asked you to select the best and worst keynote speaker – I didn't think any were bad and didn't feel comfortable being asked to make such a judgment.

CONFERENCE EXHIBITORS

The exhibitors covered have been organised into the following categories:
- Education, training and recruitment
- Information management systems
- Library vendors and subscription agencies
- Multimedia resources and management
- Software
- Support services
- Technology services and equipment.

Education, training and recruitment

Catalyst IT Australia (http://www.catalyst-au.net) provides development, integration and support services for free and open standards and technologies including the Moodle elearning platform.

Charles Sturt University (http://www.csu.edu.au) offers courses in information and library studies from Bachelor to Doctor of Philosophy (http://www.csu.edu.au/courses/library-information-studies). The Master of Education (Knowledge Networks and Digital Innovation) provides teachers with the opportunity to develop skills related to digital formal and informal learning, navigation of diverse information pathways, and the development of creative learning environments and global networks.

Pearson (http://www.equella.com) provides the EQUELLA digital repository, which provides one platform to house content for teaching and learning, research, and content authoring.

Training content should be created with reusability in mind, stored centrally, and accessed by a variety of user types. EQUELLA can be integrated with Learning Management Systems including Moodle. Digital rights can be managed via attribution of ownership across courses and delivery platforms. Metadata management is available through a configurable contribution wizard to increase resource collaboration and ensure effective cataloguing, and the EQUELLA Metadata Utility (EMU) allows access to bulk metadata editing tools.

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[1] Bitcoin and Dogecoin are cryptocurrencies used for electronic payments (see http://www.abc.net.au/news/2014-02-13/the-new-aussie-crypto-currency-dogecoin-gives/5259088; http://www.sbs.com.au/news/article/2014/02/12/dogecoin-challenges-bitcoin).

Talis Pty Ltd (http://content.talisaspire.com) provides Talis Aspire, a cloud-based reading list and digital content management tool that simplifies the creation of reading lists, integrates with learning management systems, and encourages two-way communication. A reading list tool can reduce the administrative burden on library staff and academics and encourage students to go beyond Google in their search for resources.

The workflow capabilities of Talis Aspire provide student usage metrics, and make copyright compliance easier through systematic copyright checks and reporting.

The One Umbrella (TOU, http://www.oneumbrella.com.au) is a recruitment consultancy specialising in the library, records, information and knowledge management industries in Australia. Jobs available through TOU are classified as Information Management, Libraries, Record Management and Archives, and Vendor and Suppliers, and work types are Full Time, Part Time, Temporary, and Contract.

TOU also provides information about the information industry, for example, on the Clarius Skills Index (http://www.oneumbrella.com.au/-453119/clarius-skills-index), a measure of the extent of labour shortages or oversupply across 20 skilled occupation categories.

YourTutor (http://yourtutor.com.au/lifelong_learning) provides live, on-demand help with core school study, and is made available free to students with a library member card. One example – the service at Blacktown City Libraries has been sponsored by the University of Western Sydney.

Information management systems

Civica (http://civicalld.com) provides the Spydus library management system, management services and shelf-ready collection services. Spydus9 is an integrated library management, digital asset management and cultural collections (archive) solution. It uses one repository, one discovery layer and faceted search.

EnvisionWare (http://www.envisionware.com) provides self-service and technology options that work with nearly every integrated library system. These include computer management, circulation and security systems, and enterprise accounting and reporting.

ExLibris (http://www.exlibrisgroup.com) offers a comprehensive product suite for the discovery, management, and distribution of print, electronic and digital materials. Their products are built on open architecture, support industry interoperability standards, are Unicode-compliant, and have full multilingual capabilities. They include Primo (for discovery and delivery), ExLibris Alma (library services framework for management) and Rosetta (for digital preservation).

Innovative Interfaces (http://www.iii.com) provides integrated library system software. Their design and implementation philosophy has moved recently from "black box to open book", as seen in their new product, the Sierra library services platform (http://www.iii.com/community/blogs/looking-back-2013-opening-innovative%E2%80%99s-black-box).

Content Pro is a digital asset management system with a user-friendly web interface. Staff can upload content (any digital file format including documents, images, video and audio) using a submission form wizard. Another of their products, Encore Discovery Solution, provides single search results for articles, books, ebooks and multimedia.

Insight Informatics (http://www.libero.com.au) provides the web-browsable Libero Library Management System which can be integrated with customisable discovery, consortia and mobile-friendly solutions.

UNO Discovery is a standalone, cloud solution that provides a single point of discovery for all user content. LIBERO Digital Library has a range of features that combine discovery, multimedia and linking workflows to enrich library catalogues. LIBERO Widget App is a mobile application that helps libraries promote services to users of smartphones and tablets.

Maxus (http://www.maxus.net.au) supplies information management software and services to government, corporate and non-government agencies for the management of libraries, knowledge collections, heritage collections and archives. As an Inmagic partner, they supply and support Inmagic DB/Text Works, Inmagic Presto and the Inmagic Library Suite. They also sell the thesaurus and taxonomy tool Multites.

Maxus provides white papers on their website on topics such as innovation in B2B companies, using social knowledge networks, and Library 2.0 defined.

OCLC (http://www.oclc.org) "is a worldwide library cooperative, providing services and research to improve access to the world's information". Their products include OCLC WorldCat (to help people find resources available through libraries) and OCLC WorldShare (to allow libraries to share their resources).

Institutions automatically become members of OCLC when they become subscribers to Libraries Australia or the National Library of New Zealand (Te Puna Matauranga o Aotearoa), and the national libraries take on the related administrative duties.

WorldCat includes records for books, visual materials, computer files, maps and more. English language materials make up 39.2% of the database, and 486 languages are represented. There are 90,000 records with the date range 4800 BC to 1 BC, and there were 18 million ebook records as of 30 June 2013.

OCLC's CONTENTdm is a system for managing the description, access and display of digital resources. You can see an example of a collection from Institut del Teatre Barcelona displayed using CONTENTdm at http://escenadigital.institutdelteatre.cat. The site is available in Catalan, Castillian (Spanish) and English.

SirsiDynix (http://www.sirsidynix.com) provides software and associated services for libraries. Its products include integrated library systems (for example, BlueCloud Suite, for use with Horizon and Symphony library automation systems), patron discovery tools (for example, BookMyne library mobile app), and management and productivity tools (for example, SirsiDynix Voice Automation system).

Library vendors and subscription agencies

James Bennett (http://www.bennett.com.au) is a library vendor providing print, digital and entertainment products to libraries. Its library supply services include profiling and selection, new titles service, opening day collections, and shelf-ready services. It works with publishers to gather information and source products.

Most of its eResources are integrated with other products and are searchable on James Bennett Online (JBO); others are available as Standing Orders as they are subscription-based products. When looking for multimedia works you can search by "DVD/Blu-Ray" and "Music".

Prenax (http://www.prenax.com.au) is a subscription service providing a single contact point for all publications, and consolidated invoicing. Clients have access to a Prenax Online, a web-based administrative system on which they can search for 250,000 titles, order new subscriptions, make address changes and create management reports.

YBP Library Services (http://www.ybp.com) is a bookseller for academic libraries, and is owned by Baker & Taylor. It provides acquisition and collection development services for research and scholarly libraries and their consortia. GOBI3 (Global Online Bibliographic Information), its online interface, provides: flexibility to view all formats available in one bibliographic record; consolidation of digital and print titles with assurance of duplication control; full-text reviews and refined selection lists; access to out-of-print titles; and Demand-Driven Acquisition (DDA).

Multimedia resources and management

Alexander Street Press (http://alexanderstreet.com) publishes online scholarly multimedia resources in disciplines including history, literature, music, health sciences, business, and engineering.

ARTstor (http://www.artstor.org/shared-shelf/s-html/shared-shelf-home.shtml) provides Shared Shelf web-based media management software to enable institutions to store and publish their institutional media collections.

Shared Shelf includes cataloguing tools with customisable metadata schemas. The following Getty vocabularies are integrated: Union List of Artist Names, Thesaurus of Geographic Names, and Art and Architecture Thesaurus. Integration of the Cultural Object Name Authority is in development.

Digital Education Services (http://www.digitales.com.au) provides online resources, audio and visual streaming, DVDs, Blu-Ray, Music, Console Games and CD ROMs. Resources are provided shelf-ready for library lending. Titles are pre-tested by library and learning professionals.

Élan Media Partners (http://www.elanmediapartners.com) is an independent entertainment distributor that owns and operates online consumer retail sites. In addition, it provides online and fulfilment services to libraries and schools, specialising in the supply of CD, DVD, Blu-Ray, gaming and audio book titles. Its services include standing orders, end processing and full cataloguing.

Kanopy (http://www.kanopystreaming.com/shop) is a distributor of online educational videos, offering to educational institutions a one-stop shop for their streaming video needs. Kanopy's online video platform contains over 25,000 videos which can be identified in their catalogue. They will also host DVDs to which clients have digital rights, and they will track videos that clients wish to purchase. User analytics are provided so you can see how your videos are being viewed, including information on engagement levels.

Save Time Visuals (STV, http://www.prenax.com.au) provides audiovisual sales, installation, consulting, hire, maintenance and service. Their products include audio/video conferencing technology, control/integration systems, interactive boards, lecterns, and multimedia projectors.

VEA (http://www.vea.com.au) is a producer and distributor of educational video resources for primary and secondary schools, TAFE, universities and health care settings. vLearn Streaming offers access to over 4,000 educational videos, detailed reports, MARC records, multiple mobile platforms and viewing at multiple locations.

Software

Catalyst IT Australia (http://www.catalyst-au.net) provides development, integration and support services for users of free and open standards and technologies. Applications supported by Catalyst include Moodle elearning platform, Drupal content management system, Koha library management system and Mahara eportfolio product. Technologies supported by Catalyst include PostgreSQL, Debian/Ubuntu Linux distributions, the Git distributed version control system and Android and mobile applications.

Catalyst's staff contribute to the development of open-source projects including Drupal, Moodle, Git, and Perl modules on CPAN.

Collection HQ (http://www.collectionhq.com) is a modular collection performance improvement product used by 8000 public libraries worldwide. It is based on Evidence Based Stock Management (EBSM) methodology developed by public librarians for over the past 20 years (for background information on EBSM, go to http://www.ebsm.com; https://libwebrarian.wordpress.com/tag/evidence-based-stock-management).

Crandon Services (http://www.crandon.com.au/#) sells Thomson Reuters' EndNote bibliographic reference manager in Australia and New Zealand and provides open training, in-house training and free webinars.

DeepFreeze MyPC (http://www.aussietelecom.com.au) is a computer utility that protects and preserves baseline computer configurations; restarting the computer eradicates all changes and resets the computer to its original state. Technical support time is therefore reduced. Workstations can be managed in groups and powered-on using Wake-on-LAN.

LanSchool, also from Aussie Telecom, is a classroom tool that allows teachers to display their screen on students' screens and to blank students' screens to gain their attention, and iTS:MyPC is a computer booking and access management tool.

Softlink (http://www.softlinkint.com) provides Illumin, a web-based knowledge and request management system. Users submit requests for information; these are assigned to researchers, and the responses are added to the knowledge base. The knowledge base retains all information that passes through it, and therefore grows in value over time. Illumin is available on the cloud via a Software as a Service (SaaS) model.

Thomson Reuters (http://ip-science.thomsonreuters.com.au) is a publisher of legal and professional resources (including *Online Currents*), and was discussed in my article in this issue on ebook-related vendors at the VALA conference exhibition. It is also included here as the provider of the EndNote Online (previously EndNote Web) bibliographic reference manager.

EndNote Basic is free; it can store up to 50,000 references, outputs the 20 most popular bibliographic styles, and allows online search of the five most popular databases for retrieving citations. The paid version has no limit on the number of references, allows 5GB of file storage, provides automatic reference updating and can provide multiple bibliographies (http://endnote.com/basic).

Support services

Allied Pickfords (http://www.alliedpickfords.com.au/BusinessRelocations) relocates library and archive resources in sequence order. They also have an automated book cleaning machine for relocated books.

CAVAL + RELAIS (http://www.relais-intl.com) assists libraries by providing a range of interlibrary loan, document delivery and consortial resource sharing services.

CAVAL (http://www.caval.edu.au) is an Australian not-for-profit company established to provide services to libraries, including CAVAL Collections Storage and Languages Direct for bringing world languages into libraries.

The Relais system can be used to manage traditional interlibrary loans as well as to provide on campus and distance education services. An open systems approach allows libraries to optimise the system for their own needs.

Copyright Agency (http://www.copyright.com.au) is a not-for-profit rights management organisation that enables the use of copyright materials in return for payment to writers, visual artists and publishers. It provides some information and publications specifically for libraries, archives, galleries and museums (http://www.copyright.com.au/get-information/libraries).

It also provides information on statutory licences, which enable organisations to use copyrighted information with improved risk management.

Euromonitor International (http://www.euromonitor.com) provides information products and custom research on business trends in 206 countries and over 200 categories. Their market analysis is based

on global insights from industry specialists and local knowledge from desk research and store checks. Products include research by industry, country and company.

Passport is a global market research database providing statistics, analysis, reports, surveys and breaking news. Research Monitor is a business reference database offering an introduction to research on industries, countries and consumers worldwide. The Centre for Analytics, Modelling and Innovation (CAMI) is a modelling-driven business intelligence resource.

Insync Surveys (http://www.insyncsurveys.com.au) manages surveys and also offers consulting services to help improve organisational performance. It provides staff surveys, customer surveys, employee engagement surveys, employee surveys, exit interviews and 360-degree feedback reviews. Library surveys that have been performed have confirmed quality, provided evidence for change proposals, and inspired the introduction of new services.

ValueEdge Consulting (http://valuedge.com.au) provides organisational development services to improve productivity and staff development.

Technology services and equipment

3M (http://solutions.3m.com.au/wps/portal/3M/en_AU/3M%20Discovery/home/?WT.mc_id=www. 3mlibrary.com.au) provides a variety of products in categories including office (for example, Post-it Notes), health care and security. For libraries it sells self-checkout technology including SelfCheck System Tabletop, SelfCheck System Kiosk, Mobile Staff Workstation and an RFID Detection System.

The mobile workstation allows staff to perform check-out transactions and provide patron information away from the circulation desk by communicating with the library management system via the library's wireless network.

Bibliotheca (http://www.bibliotheca.com/1/index.php/us) provides RFID, hybridEM/RFID (electromagnetic/radio-frequency identification) and barcode-based self-service technology. Bibliotheca's featured articles cover what RFID can do for your library, the future of self-service and the future of libraries (http://www.bibliotheca.com/1/index.php/us/news/featured-articles).

DAMsmart (http://www.damsmart.com.au) provides a digitisation service, converting any type of film, video or audio to virtually any compressed or uncompressed digital format (JPEG2000, MPEG2 4:2:2/4:2:0 1-50Mbs, MPEG4 Part 10/ H.264, Windows Media, Flash, WAV, MP3 and more). They also provide hosted Digital Asset Management (DAM), giving access to all your digital assets.

DatacomIT (http://www.datacomit.com.au) provides ICT support services to industry, education and government. These services include data entry, book scanning, microfiche scanning, and electronic record hosting and retrieval.

Digital Microfilm Equipment – DME (http://www.microfilm.net.au) provides "all things micrographic plus book and fragile document scanning and imaging". The ScanPro 3000 microfilm scanner has a 26-megapixel camera, and creates small, archival-quality files. The on-screen magnifier lets you view text and image details at up to 800% magnification.

FE Technologies (http://www.fetechgroup.com.au) provides a suite of RFID solutions used across a range of markets. In libraries, RFID is used for self-checkout, stocktaking, and returns. In other fields UHF RFID has been used in retail item stocktaking and vehicle tracking.

InoTec (http://www.inotec.com.au/inotec_site/index.html) sells precision scanners, microfilm systems and overhead book copiers. SCAMAX scanners have a gigabit Ethernet interface, belt paper transport system, touch-screen communication panel and a contact feeder. The WideTEK scanner family includes sheet feed scanners for large documents.

Tag-Alert (http://www.tagalert.com.au) specialises in electromagnetic and RFID library security systems, equipment and tags. Their products include security gates, bookcheck units, circulation equipment and security tags.