

## ANNUAL REPORT TO CDNL 2005

<b>Name of Country</b> : Australia
<b>Name of Library</b> (please print) : National Library of Australia
<b>Name of Chief Executive</b> (please print) :

A priority for the National Library of Australia is to provide easy, direct access to information resources for all Australians. During 2004-2005 this goal has been considerably enhanced with the implementation of two major new online services, *Libraries Australia* and *MusicAustralia* and the Library's participation in several major infrastructure projects with the university sector.

*Libraries Australia* (<http://www.nla.gov.au>) was launched in December 2004 and provides access to about thirty nine million resources held in Australian libraries and other collecting institutions. Users can locate information about books, journals, pictures, music, maps and private papers in a single search. *Libraries Australia* will revolutionise the way that Australian libraries deliver resources from their collections to users. From early 2006, a free public search interface will be launched, significantly enhancing the public's access to the diverse information resources available through the Australian library sector. Resources found on *Libraries Australia* are available immediately online, while copies of other resources can be requested online and delivered to the user either electronically, by fax or post.

*MusicAustralia* (<http://www.musicaustralia.org/>) is a new collaborative online service launched in March 2005 providing free integrated access to over 140,000 Australian music resources across a range of formats, including printed music, sound recordings, multimedia and audiovisual materials, artists' websites, pictures and manuscripts held in music collections across Australia. It also provides additional information on more than 5,000 composers, performers and music organisations and services. *MusicAustralia* resources are also available through the *Libraries Australia* service.

Additionally, the Library has entered into partnerships with the university sector for several major infrastructure projects to further develop future access to information resources at the national level. For example, the Library has contributed to the development of Australian Research Repositories Online to the World (ARROW), which provides a single search interface to research papers held in electronic form in university archives. This content will also be searchable on *Libraries Australia*. In another project, Australian Partnership for Sustainable Repositories (APSR), the Library has been working with the university sector to develop strategies for long term access to the content of university repositories.

During 2004-2005 the Library hosted several national forums to bring together stakeholders in particular communities to develop agendas for national action. In December 2004 the Library held a forum of peak Australian library organisations (<http://www.nla.gov.au/initiatives/meetings/peakbod/2004.html>) to determine areas in which the library sector is seeking leadership from the Library. An issue important to many libraries is access to government publications. The Library has made this issue a priority and is currently discussing collaborative action to improve current and long term access to government publications. In December 2004, the Library also hosted a Site Licensing Forum (<http://www.nla.gov.au/initiatives/meetings/sitelicense/slindex.html>) to discuss ways to broaden access to electronic journals sold in large datasets but beyond the budgets of many small and medium small libraries. A working group was established to examine the feasibility of purchasing a core set of Australian electronic journals by a national consortia.

During 2004-2005 the Library participated in many international forums, including:

- an *Archiving Web Resources International Conference* (<http://www.nla.gov.au/webarchiving/>) held at the Library in November 2004. The conference, which was attended by a large number of Australian and overseas delegates, stimulated much debate about challenges and issues associated with the collection and preservation of digital content and has also inspired the Library to review some aspects of its digital archiving program.

- participation in the work of the International Internet Preservation Consortium (IIPC) (<http://netpreserve.org/about/index.php>), which is developing software tools to extend the capability of national libraries to collect, archive and preserve publications in digital form on the world wide web.
- co-hosting the *International Newspapers Conference* with the Newspapers Section of the International Federation of Library Associations in February 2005. (<http://www.nla.gov.au/initiatives/meetings/newspapers/about.html>). Newspaper digitisation programs from the British Library, Library of Congress and the national libraries of New Zealand, Finland and France were presented.

The digitisation of the Library's Australian collection continues to be a significant priority in terms of improving national access to the collection and meeting growing user demand for access to online resources and providing digital content for services such as *MusicAustralia* and *PictureAustralia*. In response to a need to significantly improve access to Australian newspapers, the Library is undertaking a major newspaper digitisation project. Initially the Library will digitise out-of-copyright years of nine national daily newspapers, followed by regional newspapers. The Library is also considering a national action plan on managing ongoing access to digital information resources. A proposal has been prepared for a coalition of relevant agencies to develop a national plan.

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