

AUSTRALIA

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF AUSTRALIA

MS JAN FULLERTON AO — DIRECTOR-GENERAL

ANNUAL REPORT TO CDNL 2007

In line with its strategic directions, the National Library of Australia has commenced a wide range of projects and activities that aim to improve access to our collections for all Australians.

We are pleased to report on the following highlights for 2006-2007:

NEWSPAPER DIGITISATION PROJECT

In March 2007 we commenced the first phase of our newspaper digitisation project. We will digitise the out-of-copyright years of a major daily newspaper from each Australian state capital city, resulting in approximately three million digitised pages. The database, whose working title is 'Australian Newspapers Online', will be freely available. While content will build progressively, we will make the database available from late 2007. It is anticipated that the second phase will begin to encompass regional newspaper titles and remaining major dailies.

ELECTRONIC RESOURCES AUSTRALIA

In May 2007 a national electronic journal licensing scheme, known as Electronic Resources Australia (ERA), was launched. ERA is the result of a collaborative project involving all library sectors in Australia. ERA uses an 'opt in/opt out' license model for a suite of general electronic products covering public affairs, general reference and health and well being. ERA's aim is to provide all Australian libraries with a competitively priced suite of electronic databases in order to improve the availability of online content through the public, technical education and school sectors in particular.

PEOPLE AUSTRALIA

Work is underway on a single search interface to bring together information from different online databases, including authority files, around Australia that host information about Australians of note. People Australia will be launched later in 2007. It will provide access to biographical information currently distributed throughout services such as MusicAustralia, the Online Dictionary of Australian Biography and the Australian Dictionary of Artists Online.

NATIONAL TREASURES FROM AUSTRALIA'S GREAT LIBRARIES

The *National Treasures* exhibition has travelled to every state capital city in Australia over the past two years. It will open at its final destination in June. The exhibition showcases treasures from the National, state and territory libraries in Australia. A final visitor number of over 400,000 is expected by the time the exhibition closes in August 2007. *National Treasures* has significantly raised the profile of Australia's heritage libraries in the general community. For more information see <http://nationaltreasures.nla.gov.au/index/Treasures/about>.

GENERAL

The Director-General, Jan Fullerton, has recently been reappointed for a five year term. The Library's status as a statutory authority has been reviewed and we have received confirmation that the Library will retain its current status and functions. The Library operates under the *National Library Act 1960* and is governed by a Council. The Chair of Council is Sir James Gobbo AC. For further information see <http://www.nla.gov.au/council/>.

The Library's website contains a significant amount of information about our activities, plans and policies. Please see <http://www.nla.gov.au/>.

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