

CASL Libraries 2003 – A Snapshot of their History, Services and Key Facts.

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1. ACT Library and Information Service

Mission

ACT Library and Information Services facilitates access to a range of information and related educational, heritage, cultural and recreational services and resources.

History

- 1927 No public library services for the new city of Canberra when Parliament House opened.
- 1935 Small building erected in Kings Ave to house the National Library collection, including a lending service for the people of Canberra.
- 1947 National Library Extension Division established to develop public library services for ACT.
- 1952 Pilot children's library opened in Kingston, with another at Corroboree Park in 1953.
- 1960 The name Canberra Public Library Service was adopted and in 1963 the Canberra Public Library Service Advisory Committee was established to advise the Council of the National Library. Canberra's population increased from 46,000 in 1959 to 121,000 in 1969.
- 1961 Civic Library opened in March 1961, followed by Hughes Library in 1964 and a childrens library in Lynham. Also Downer, Red Hill and Narrabundah.
- 1969 First permanent district library opened in Dickson, then Woden Library in 1977. Smaller service points closed and these larger libraries added new services such as paperback lending, music listening facilities, music score lending and Print Handicapped cassette service.
- 1981 In July 1981 the Canberra Public Library Service was transferred from the National Library to the Dept of the Capital Territory and changed its name to the ACT Library Service.
- 1981 Belconnen Library and Home Library Service commenced operations, followed by Erindale in 1983 and Tuggeranong in 1990.
- 1995 ACT Heritage Library, the local history service, commenced operations.

- 1996 Free public internet service became available and collections broadened to include videos, CDs.
- 2000 ACT Virtual Library and the centralised Customer Information Centre launched. Gungahlin Library opened in 2001. ACT Library Service changed its name to become the ACT Library and Information Service, incorporating ACT Public Library, and Specialist Services – the Women’s Information and Referral Service, the ACT Government and Assembly Library and the ACT Heritage Library.

Collections and Services

1. Public Library Collection size – 600,000 items
2. Collection value - \$ 5.8 million
3. Annual budget - \$11 million
4. Staff size – 111.5 full time equivalent
5. Public Library loans – 2.3 million (2002-03)
6. Public Library customers – 1.8 million (2002-03)
7. Public Library customers on line data base use – approximately 31,200 (2002-03)

2. State Library of New South Wales

Mission

To promote, provide and maintain library and information services for the people of New South Wales through the State Library and through cooperation with local libraries and other libraries and information agencies.

History

- 1826 The Australian Subscription Library, precursor of the State Library of New South Wales is established.
- 1869 The New South Wales Government assumes responsibility for the Library, which becomes the Sydney Free Public Library.
- 1895 The name changes to the Public Library of New South Wales
- 1910 The Mitchell Library opens in its new building.
- 1942 The Public Library extensions to the Mitchell Library, including the new reading room, are opened.
- 1975 The name changes to the State Library of New South Wales
- 1988 The new State Library building opens in Macquarie Street

2001 The first major restoration to the 1942 reading room, now the Mitchell Library Reading Room, is completed.

Collections and Services

1. Over 5 million items in the State Library collections, valued at \$1.509 billion.
2. Major collection strengths include Australian history, culture and literature, including Aboriginal studies; Antarctic exploration; family history; business and management; social science and applied science; biography; health and law.
3. Collection highlights include:
 - a. Original accounts of the voyages of the great explorers Abel Tasman, James Cook, Bass and Flinders, and William Bligh, including nine of the 11 known journals of the First Fleet
 - b. Paintings and sketchbooks by great colonial artists John Glover, Conrad Martens, Eugene von Guerard, Tom Roberts
 - c. Literary papers of famous authors Patrick White, Elizabeth Jolley, James McAuley, Miles Franklin
4. 16.5 million page requests from the State Library site, and 7 million page requests from hosted sites in 2002/03.
5. 386.8 equivalent full time staff (average) in 2002/03.
6. Budget of \$75.843 million in 2003/04, including the administration of \$21.897 million in public library grants and subsidies.

3. State Library of Queensland

Mission

Build a smart library network of physical and virtual spaces, creatively linking diverse groups of Queenslanders to information, knowledge and each other.

History

1902 The Public Library of Queensland opened.

1934 The Oxley Memorial Library opened as a centre of research relating to Queensland

1947 The Country Extension Service was established to provide a library service to persons living outside of Brisbane

1951 A model children's library travelled throughout Queensland via the rail network

- 1954 Library services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities commenced, with loans to Woorabinda, Cherbourg, and Palm Island libraries, and to schools on Darnley, Thursday and Yorke Islands in the Torres Strait

- 1972 The renamed State Library of Queensland established a Public Library Service to liaise with local authorities regarding public libraries

- 1973 Thursday Island and Cooktown were the first libraries to join what was later to become the Country Lending Scheme (where the State Library provides participating local governments with a population of less than 20,000 with a high level of service including quarterly rotations of bookstock)

- 1974 A flood damaged over 80% of the State Library's stock, with restoration impossible. Flood insurance payments (taken out only months before) replaced stock and also helped to establish a new subsidy scheme for small local authorities

- 1988 The State Library moved to a new building at Brisbane's South Bank. The James Hardie Library of Australian Fine Arts opened in the new building.

- 2000 The Queensland Government announced the \$55 million Millennium Library Project which includes a major redevelopment of the existing State Library building, the development of new library services and resources, and the implementation of projects to increase the accessibility collections to people throughout Queensland. The redeveloped State Library of Queensland is due to open in 2005.

Collections and Services

As Queensland's major public reference and information library, the State Library is committed to:

1. meeting Queensland's reference and research needs through the development and delivery of services and collections
2. collecting, preserving and making Queensland's documentary heritage accessible
3. providing leadership to the Queensland public library network and other key stakeholders
4. developing library services responsive to diverse community needs, including services for persons from regional, rural and remote Queenslanders, persons culturally diverse backgrounds, Indigenous peoples, and children and young people
5. supporting lifelong learning through the development of statewide programs.

Current statistical information :

1. In 2002-03, The State Library of Queensland's budget was \$41.469M, including a funding contribution to the public library network of \$17.6M.

2. In 2001-02, there were an estimated 255,048 onsite visits to the State Library of Queensland and a total of 6,003,091 hits to the website and catalogue.

3. As at 30 June 2002, the size of the collection was 4,628,050 and the estimated value of the collection was \$73,950,000.
4. As at 30 June 2002, there were 248 staff (full time equivalent).

4. State Library of South Australia

Mission

The State Library of South Australia enriches the lives of South Australians by :

- Providing access to world wide information and knowledge
- Collecting, organising and preserving the South Australian story
- Working with other libraries and agencies to support life long learning
- Developing imaginative and inclusive public programs
- Supporting the economic development of the State

History

- 1834 Formation of the South Australian Literary Association in London, pre-dating the colony of South Australia. They sent 117 books on the *Tam O'Shanter* in the first ships to arrive in South Australia in 1836. Some of these books are still held in the Library.
- 1844 South Australian Subscription Library founded, replaced in 1856 by the South Australian Institute, a partly public and partly subscription funded organisation.
- 1861 Institute Building purpose built to house the South Australian Institute.
- 1884 Library in the Institute Building became too small, new building opened under the aegis of the new Public Library, Museum and Art Gallery Board.
- 1920 Archives Department established.
- 1932 Friends of the Public Library of South Australia formed, earliest Friends group attached to a state library in Australia.
- 1939 *Libraries and Institute Act* established the Libraries Board of South Australia.
- 1967 Bastyan Wing opened and Public Library of South Australia renamed the State Library of South Australia.
- 1980 Libraries Board received \$1.8 million from the John Andrew Tennant Mortlock Bequest, which enabled it to form the Mortlock Library of South Australia in the restored 1884 building.
- 1989 State Library Foundation formed.
- 2001-2004 Major building redevelopment undertaken.

Collections and Services

1. The State Library's collection size in round figures as at 30 June 2002 is:

- monographs and government publications 778,000
- serial titles 38,000
- newspaper titles 1,100
- map sheets 109,000
- ephemera items 153,000
- photographs 360,00
- audiovisual items 85,000
- realia and games 2,700
- oral history in hours 5,000
- archives in metres 4,000.

2. In 2001-02 funds spent on electronic subscriptions were 19% of collection purchases, which represents expenditure of \$157,000 out of the total government funded expenditure of \$825,000.

3. Visits to the State Library in person in 2001-02 (when the Bastyan Wing was closed for the building redevelopment) were 370,000, compared with 542,500 the previous year. Online visits in 2001-02 were 9.7 million website hits and 535,000 website hits.

4. The collections were valued at \$40 million as at 30 June 2003, excluding the South Australian collections, published and unpublished, which were considered by the valuer not able to be valued.

5. The government allocation to the Library in 2003-04 is \$11 million. Staff size of the State Library as at 30 June 2003 is 142 FTE.

5. State Library of Western Australia

Mission

To provide and promote equitable access to information resources and services which support the intellectual, economic, cultural, social and recreational needs of the people of Western Australia.

History

1887 Library established as the Victoria Public Library to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of Queen Victoria's reign (later the Public Library of Western Australia).

1954 Following the death of J.S. Battye the library was put under the control of the Library Board of Western Australia, which had been established in 1951 to develop a state-wide public library system.

1985 State Library moved to the Alexander Library Building in the Perth Cultural Centre.

Collections and Services

1. There are three main operational areas of Western Australia's State Library: Public Library Services, the State Reference Library and the J.S. Battye Library of West Australian History. Public library services are delivered through a partnership between the State and local governments and other participating bodies. To cater for a very large State with a scattered regional population, the State Library provides the State Government's library subsidy in the form of centrally purchased and processed library materials, as well as consultancy services and training. To keep the stock in public libraries fresh, particularly in small libraries which face the possibility of being "read out", stock is exchanged regularly between libraries, and inter library loans are coordinated centrally so that each person has access to more than 2.3 million items. There are currently 238 public libraries in the State, 171 of them in regional areas.
2. For the 2003-04 financial year the State Library has a budget of \$38.6 million and a staff of 234 FTE. The library collections, excluding the private archives and ephemera collections, are valued at \$81 million.
3. Collections of more than 500,000 items are supplemented by access to remote electronic databases, many of which include the full text of journal articles. Over the years specialist collections have been developed in the areas of music, film, genealogy, performing arts, Australian children's literature and a business information service.
4. The J.S. Battye Library of West Australian History has 102,000 monographs and more than 15,000 serial titles, as well as collections in many other formats. The Library has digitised and linked 10,000 images, most of which are available over the Internet via the Library's catalogue.
5. Each year, approximately 650,000 people visit the library, with many more using the other facilities available including the theatre and meeting rooms, exhibition area and shops. Services are also provided via the Library's website which now has more than 11 million page hits per year.

6. Northern Territory Library & Information Service

History

- 1877 Library service in the Northern Territory commenced, with the opening of the Palmerston Institute in the township of Palmerston, later to be renamed Darwin.
- 1912 Administrative responsibility for the Territory transferred from South Australia to the Commonwealth and federal subsidy of the Institute library service commenced.
- 1937 Northern Territory Administration, in conjunction with National Library, took over operation of the library, with the assistance of funding from the Carnegie Corporation.
- 1941 Library service transferred to the Army Education Service from 1941-1944, with a significant part of the collection being moved to Alice Springs following the bombing of Darwin in 1942.

- 1965 Northern Territory Administration took over responsibility from the National Library for staffing and managing the service, now called the Northern Territory Library Service. It included Darwin Public Library, public library branches and deposit stations across the Territory, auxiliary services, and library services to Commonwealth government department offices.
- 1974 Darwin Public Library destroyed by Cyclone Tracy. Library staff relocated to the National Library with salvaged remnants of the collection placed in frozen storage in Canberra. Library services restored in 1978 and responsibility transferred to the newly-formed Northern Territory Government.
- 1978 Since self-government in 1978, the Northern Territory Library and Information Service has been located in eight government agencies.
- 1980 State Reference Library of the Northern Territory opened, followed by development of computer-based systems to optimize usage of the Territory's bibliographic resources, and the support and development of public library services in major centres and in Aboriginal communities.
- 1995 State Reference Library of the Northern Territory amalgamated with the Northern Territory Parliamentary Library to form the Northern Territory Library, located in the newly opened Parliament House, Darwin.

Collections and Services

1. The Northern Territory Library and Information Service (NTLIS) is unique in that it has a special responsibility for ensuring that the appropriate capacity and infrastructure is available for the delivery of library and information services to the Territory's Indigenous population. The 2001 ABS Census indicates that Indigenous people comprise 25% of the overall Territory population of 202,729 persons, with 59% of Indigenous people residing in very remote areas, as against 11% of non-Indigenous people.
2. The Northern Territory Library is the largest reference and research library available to members of the public in the Northern Territory, and has responsibility for delivering heritage services for the management of the Territory's documentary heritage, for the delivery of integrated reference services through the utilisation of electronic information products, and for the delivery of reference and information services to the Members and staff of the Legislative Assembly of the Northern Territory.

7. State Library of Tasmania

Mission

The mission of the State Library is to actively promote the cultural, economic, social development and well-being of Tasmanians by providing access to knowledge, information, and creative literature.

History

- 1850 Tasmanian Public Library established by Act of Parliament, following the opening of a subscription library in Hobart in 1849.
- 1907 Free lending library service began, made possible by Carnegie Foundation funding. The Foundation also provided funding for construction and maintenance of a building, on the condition that a free lending library be established for the public.
- 1938 Free Library Movement began, urging provision of free public libraries throughout the State (Hobart has the only free library at this time).
- 1941 Government gave a grant to the Free Library Movement to encourage establishment of libraries in municipalities and by 1943 eleven free libraries had opened.
- 1943 *Libraries Act 1943* established the State Library of Tasmania under the administration of the Tasmanian Library Board. Municipal libraries were subsidised by the State upon their adopting the Act.
- 1945 Network of children's libraries established, 1945-1952, as a memorial to Lady Clark, wife of Sir Ernest Clark, Governor of Tasmania from 1933 to 1945.
- 1962 State Library moved from the Carnegie building to current site at 91 Murray Street, Hobart with the opening of the Wray building. Second stage of building was completed in 1972.
- 1970s State Library advanced the integration of public library services when responsibility for municipal library services moved from local to state government.
- 1984 *Libraries Act 1984* addressed the anomaly of the State Librarian reporting both to the Tasmanian Library Board and to the Minister. The executive management role of the Library Board was transferred to the State Librarian and the Tasmanian Library Advisory Board was established as the body providing advice to the Minister on the delivery of library and information services in Tasmania.
- 1991 Regional structure of the State Library became an area structure with two areas of administration, north and south. This structure was abolished in 1994 in favour of a statewide administration.

Collections and Services

1. The State Library of Tasmania is a statewide library service with a network of seven city libraries, 41 branch libraries and six reference and specialist collections available to all Tasmanians.
2. The reference and specialist collections include:
 - State Reference Service - including specialised services for research, business, electronic databases and Internet services;

- Tasmaniana Library - a comprehensive collection of historical and contemporary Tasmanian publications;
 - W. L. Crowther Library - a collection of mainly Tasmanian printed, manuscript, pictorial and museum material;
 - Allport Library and Museum of Fine Arts - an outstanding collection of 18th and 19th century antiques, colonial paintings and books;
 - Tasmanian Parliamentary Library; and
 - Launceston Local Studies Library - historical material (printed, manuscript and photographic) - relating to Launceston and northern Tasmania.
3. All libraries are linked through the Tasmanian Automated Library and Information System (TALIS) network, a library management system which includes an integrated catalogue and electronic information databases. TALIS, accessible through the Internet and available in all libraries at <http://www.talis.tas.gov.au:8000> , contains the holdings of all public libraries in the State, together with those of eight senior secondary colleges and 156 school, eight TAFE and six community (within a school) libraries. The State Library network uses the one universal Librarycard which allows customers to borrow and return library materials at any branch and gives them remote access to electronic resources from their homes or offices.
 4. The State Library of Tasmania has in recent years developed a number of innovative electronic services for whole of government information including *Tasmania Online* which is the official web entry point for information about Tasmania; and *Service Tasmania Online* which enables the community to easily access online government information and services located across Tasmanian Government Agencies, Federal and Local Government.
 5. During 2002-2003, there were 2,926,821 onsite visits to all State Library service points, and 5,994,378 offsite visits to the State Library website.
 6. The State Library collection size is 881,745 library materials available for loan or research. (This does not include the Heritage Collections). The approximate ratio of expenditure on print resources to electronic resources is 80:20.
 7. The State Library of Tasmania's annual budget is \$16.05 million and the staffing FTE is 209.895 (these figures exclude the Department of Education Information Services unit and the *Tasmanian Communities Online* program).
 8. The Director (Library and Information Services) is also responsible for the Department of Education Information Services Unit which includes the Department's Library and Information Centre, Records Unit and Web Service Support Unit. Also part of the portfolio is the *Tasmanian Communities Online* program which operates a network of 64 online access centres across the state.

8. State Library of Victoria

Mission

The State Library of Victoria will help to create a knowledgeable society through :

- Collecting, preserving and making available Victoria's recorded heritage and providing access to the world's information resources
- Developing the state network of information resources and libraries
- Promoting the world of ideas and the culture and heritage of the state.

History

- 1854 Founded as the Melbourne Public Library in 1854, opening to the public in 1856.
- 1913 Construction of the Domed Reading Room completed
- 1966 La Trobe Library building opened
- 1990 Major building redevelopment project begins.
- 1994 VICNET and Foundation established
- 2002 Experimedia, a new flexible space for the community to engage with emerging technologies and new media, opens.
- 2003 Domed Reading Room reopens, providing access to the La Trobe Australiana collections.
- 2004 Cowan Gallery, Queens Hall due to reopen. Building redevelopment scheduled for completion.

Collections and Services

1. The State Library of Victoria supports the statewide library and information network through VICNET, providing consultative and project management services for public libraries. VICNET provides internet connections for all Victorian public libraries and has trained more than 94,000 Victorians to use the internet through its Skills.net programs. It has also pioneered multilingual access to online resources through the Open Road web site.
2. Other State Library of Victoria initiatives include :
 - a) Writers on the Road, where leading authors visit their audiences throughout the state;
 - b) Australian Centre for Youth Literature, running programs for young writers in metropolitan and regional centres;
 - c) Schools programs, catering for more than 6,000 school students in the last year;
 - d) Premiers Literary Awards;
 - e) Educational programs and tours for the wider community focusing on the collections and services of the State Library;

f) Creative Fellowships for scholars and for staff; g) an extensive Exhibitions program.

3. There were 1,025,497 visits to the State Library in Swanston Street from July 2002 to June 2003 and more than 21.5 million online visits to the State Library's web sites.
4. Expenditure on the collections in the 2002-2003 financial year was \$2,224,000, with 9% or \$195,000 of this amount used to purchase electronic resources and online access.
5. Total agreed value of the collections is \$301.13 million, as at 30 November 2001.
6. Annual budget for 2002-2003 was \$25.8m and the Library employs 326.13 staff (fte).

9. National Library of Australia

History

- 1901 Commonwealth Parliamentary Library established in Melbourne at Australia's Federation.
- 1927 Moved to Canberra, new site for the national capital, in 1927.
- 1960 Separation of the National Library and the Parliamentary Library with the passing of the National Library Act in 1960.
- 1968 National Library moved to present lakeside building in Canberra.
- 1981 Launch of the Australian Bibliographic Network.
- 1995 Launch of National Library website.

Services and Collections

1. National Library collections total 5.4 million items and are valued at 1.5 billion.
2. The collections include 2.75 million monographs, 690,000 photographs, 56,000 pictorial works, 182,000 music scores, 618,000 maps and 2,500 electronic items, with a further 8,000 electronic titles on subscription. The Library has major collections of pictures, oral history and folklore recordings, manuscripts, maps, Asian language resources and ephemera.
3. \$9.2 million is spent annually on acquiring collection materials. To complement the more traditional collections, the National Library is building an online archive (PANDORA) of Australian Internet publications and web pages.

4. The Australian Bibliographic Network is provided through the Kinetica Service and includes over 14 million bibliographic records and 36 million holdings from over 1,000 member libraries.
5. A key strategic direction for the Library is the provision of services to Australians remote from Canberra, through digitisation of collection items for online access, the provision of information and guides on the web site, and through a travelling exhibitions program. Information services are increasingly being offered online, and the National Library is participating in the AskNow chat reference service in Australia, as well as the Questionpoint service based in the United States.
6. During 2002-03, over 470,000 people visited the National Library in Canberra, there were 4.4 million visits to the Library's website, and 125,000 saw a National Library travelling exhibition outside Canberra.
7. The National Library of Australia has an annual budget of \$58,901,000 (2003-04). It is a statutory authority within the Federal Communications, Information Technology and the Arts portfolio. Governance is the responsibility of the National Library Council, and management of the Library is undertaken by the Corporate Management Group headed by Ms Jan Fullerton, Director General.
8. There are six administrative divisions within the Library, and a staff of 437 (FTE).

Council of Australian State Libraries
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