

AUSTRALIAN PUBLIC LIBRARIES

COMPARATIVE REPORT

1998 - 2004

**Presented to CASL meeting Sydney, NSW
July 2005**

The data used to prepare this report is available from each individual State or Territory authority. Please note that caution should be used when comparing data between the States or Territories, as there are widely varying social and geographic environments. These conditions create differing demands and needs which affect the type and scope of public library services provided. Further difficulties in comparing data are caused by the diversity in funding arrangements and service delivery methods used to provide public library services.

2003-04 data from New South Wales is not included in the following comparative statistics as it was unavailable at the time of publication.

It should also be noted that the data may vary from that published separately by the States.

The Convenor wishes to thank members of the CASL Public Libraries Performance Measures Working Group for their contributions and cooperation in the compilation of this document.

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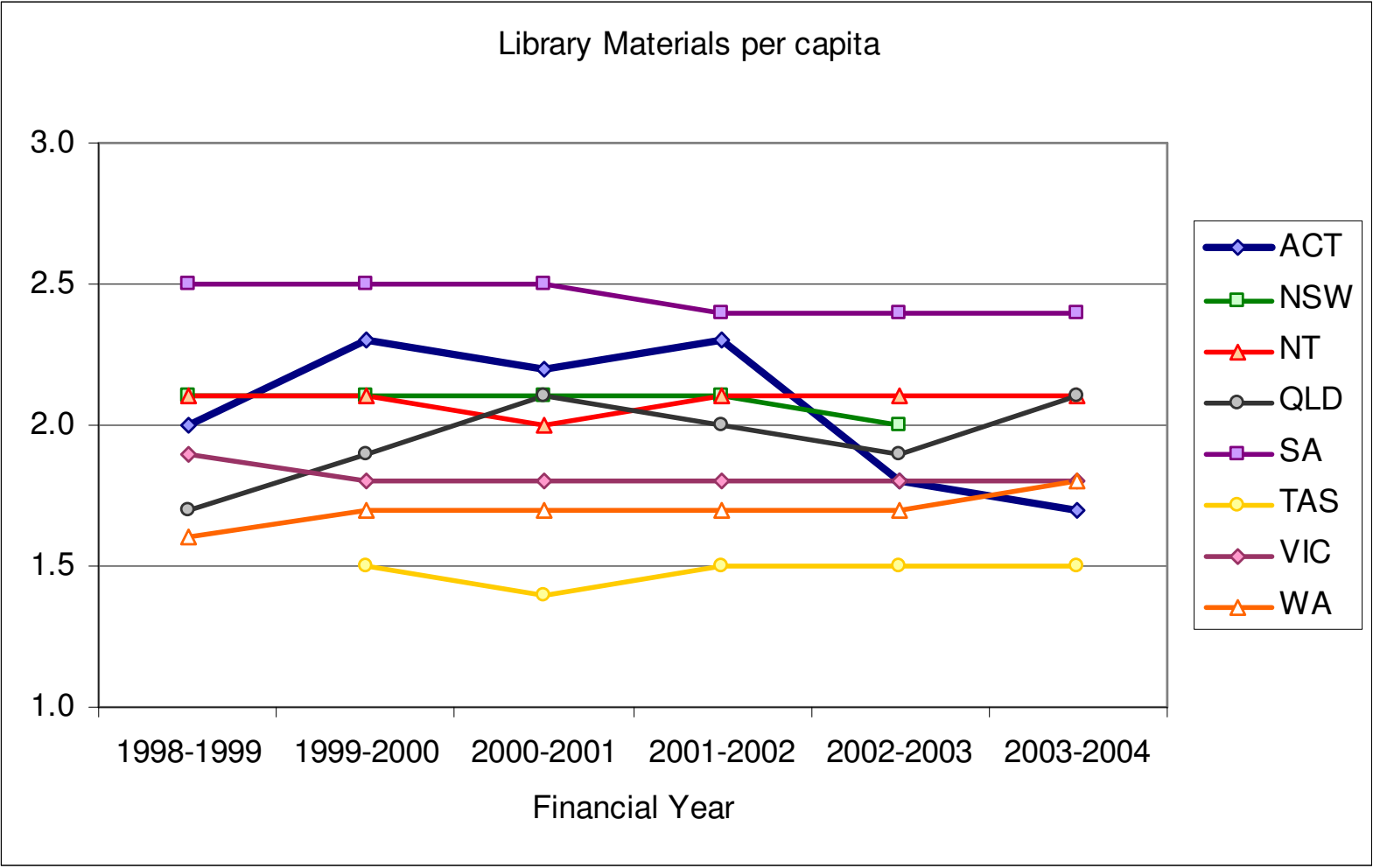
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1. Library Materials per capita

Library materials per capita have increased in the six years since 1998-99 in Queensland and Western Australia with slight decreases recorded in Australian Capital Territory, South Australia and Victoria. On available 2003-04 data South Australia has the highest number of library materials per capita (2.4) and Tasmania has the lowest at 1.5.

Library Materials per capita						
	1998-1999	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004
ACT	2.0	2.3	2.2	2.3	1.8	1.7
NSW	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.0	*0
NT	2.1	2.1	2.0	2.1	2.1	2.1
QLD	1.7	1.9	2.1	2.0	1.9	2.1
SA	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.4	2.4	2.4
TAS	§0	1.5	1.4	1.5	1.5	1.5
VIC	1.9	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8
WA	1.6	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.8

* New South Wales has been unable to provide figures to date on 2003-2004 data
 § Tasmania has been unable to provide figures on 1998-1999 data

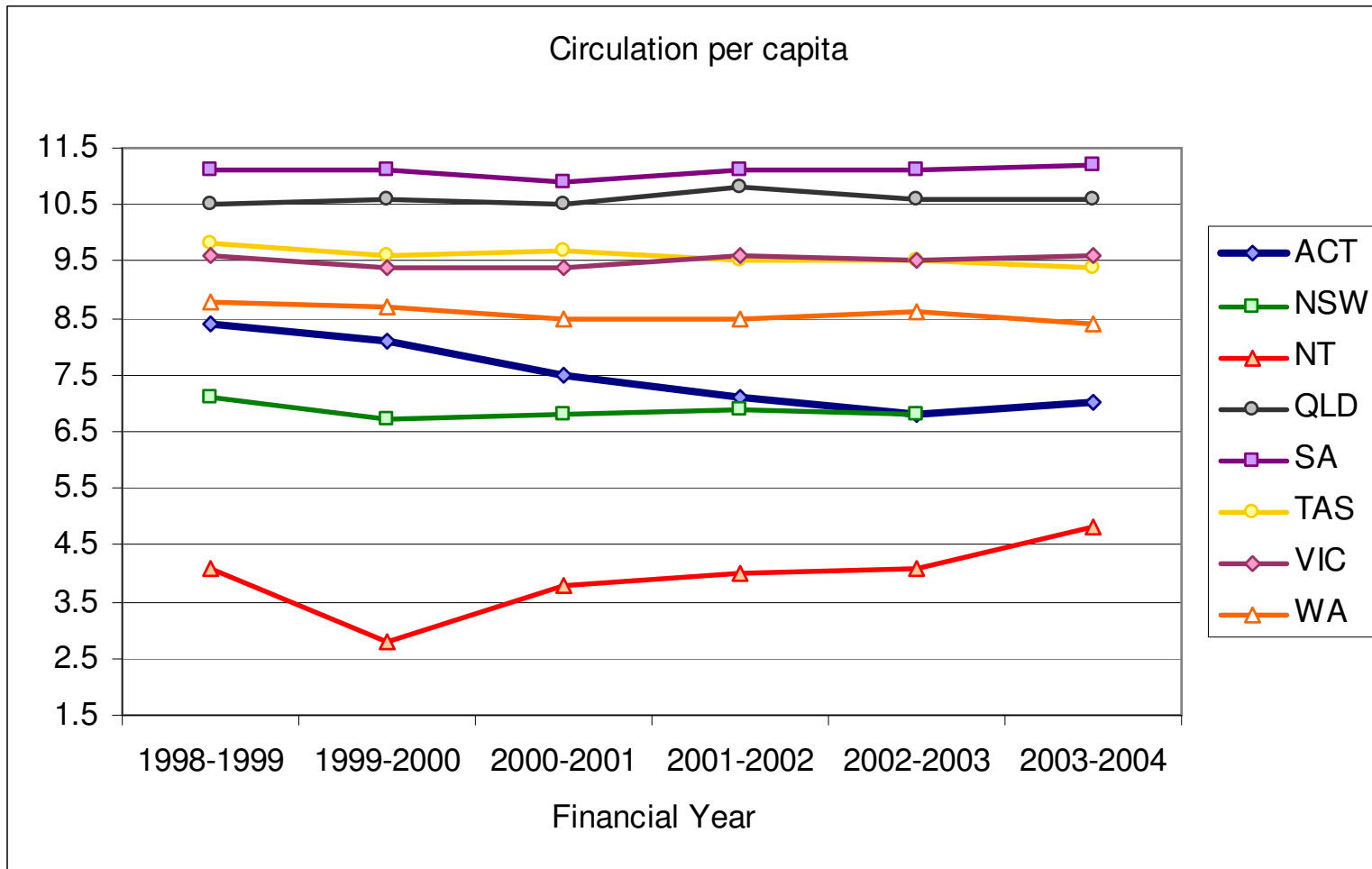


2. Circulation per capita

The highest loans per capita are recorded in South Australia (11.2) and Queensland (10.6). South Australian figures also indicate the highest library materials per capita in Australia (see page 2). Although the Northern Territory has the lowest circulation per capita, the figures show a steady increase over the past six years.

Circulation per capita						
	1998-1999	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004
ACT	8.4	8.1	7.5	7.1	6.8	7.0
NSW	7.1	6.7	6.8	6.9	6.8	*0
NT	4.1	2.8	3.8	4.0	4.1	4.8
QLD	10.5	10.6	10.5	10.8	10.6	10.6
SA	11.1	11.1	10.9	11.1	11.1	11.2
TAS	9.8	9.6	9.7	9.5	9.5	9.4
VIC	9.6	9.4	9.4	9.6	9.5	9.6
WA	8.8	8.7	8.5	8.5	8.6	8.4

* New South Wales has been unable to provide figures to date on 2003-2004 data



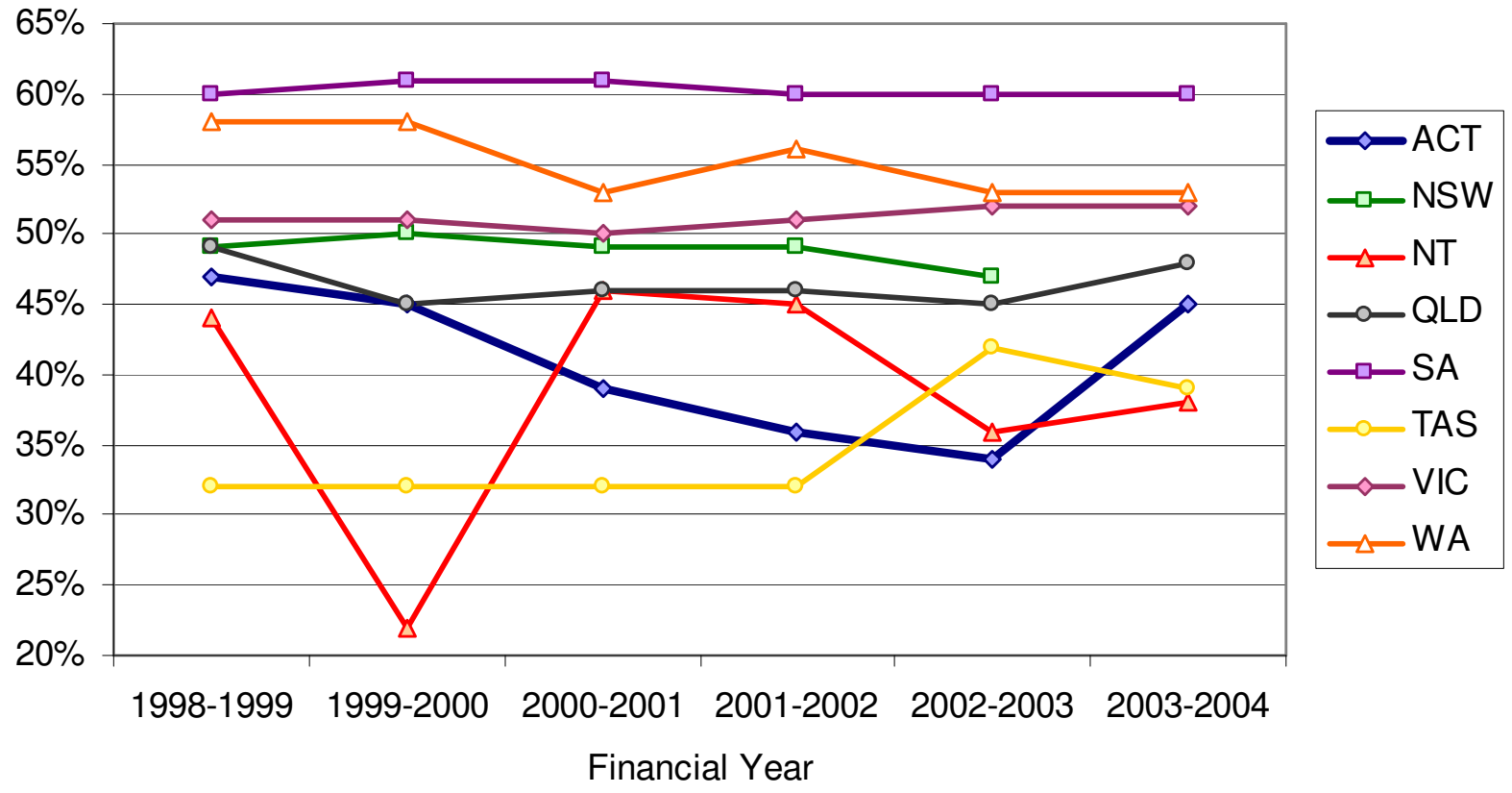
3. Percent of population who are Library Members

South Australian membership remains static at 60% and also represents the highest figure Australia wide. Slight decreases are evident in the Australian Capital Territory, Northern Territory, Queensland and Western Australia. Tasmania records the highest increase in membership over the six year period.

Percent of Population who are Library Members						
	1998-1999	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004
ACT	47%	45%	39%	36%	34%	45%
NSW	49%	50%	49%	49%	47%	*0%
NT	44%	22%	46%	45%	36%	38%
QLD	49%	45%	46%	46%	45%	48%
SA	60%	61%	61%	60%	60%	60%
TAS	32%	32%	32%	32%	42%	39%
VIC	51%	51%	50%	51%	52%	52%
WA	58%	58%	53%	56%	53%	53%

* New South Wales has been unable to provide figures to date on 2003-2004 data

Percent of Population who are Library Members



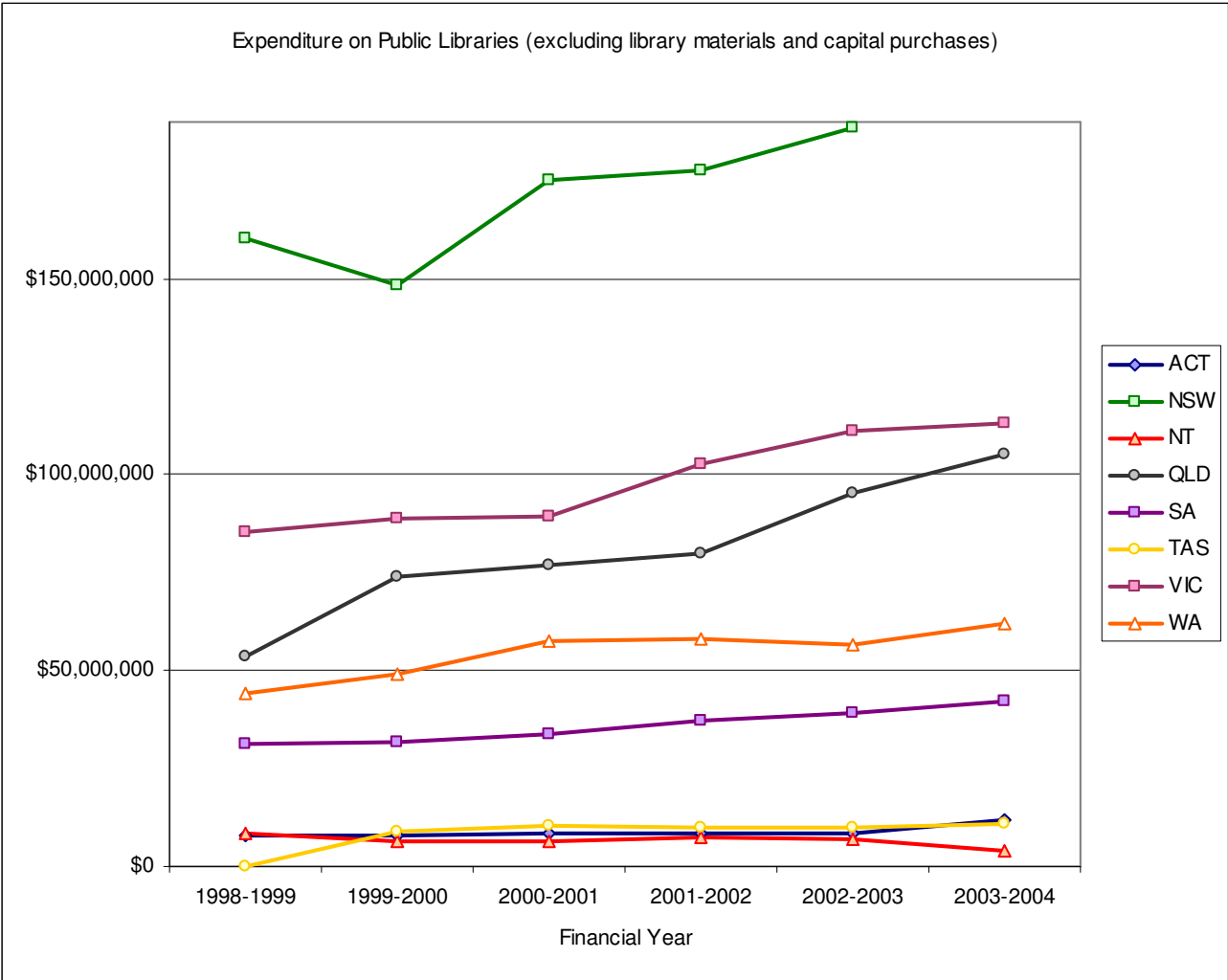
4. Expenditure on Public Libraries (excluding library materials and capital purchases)

Please note that expenditure on capital purchases and library materials has been excluded from this table. As States and Territories differ in regard to the inclusion of these expenditure items in calculation of their total expenditure on libraries, their removal aims to provide a consistent baseline for comparison. See also page 13.

With the exception of the Northern Territory, all States and Territories have demonstrated increases in expenditure on public libraries over the six year period. The most significant increase has occurred in Queensland which now records over \$105 million expenditure. The highest expenditure on public libraries occurs in Victoria, with a total of over \$ 112 million spent and the lowest in the Northern Territory at \$4,015,905.

Expenditure on Public Libraries (excluding library materials and capital purchases)						
	1998-1999	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004
ACT	\$7,966,511	\$8,129,391	\$8,300,000	\$8,210,000	\$8,301,287	\$11,710,484
NSW	\$160,458,924	\$148,560,252	\$175,045,886	\$177,795,865	\$188,607,589	*0
NT	\$8,198,842	\$6,211,791	\$6,373,727	\$7,326,714	\$7,123,183	\$4,015,905
QLD	\$53,777,820	\$73,773,268	\$76,737,582	\$79,871,095	\$95,093,217	\$105,397,121
SA	\$31,362,936	\$31,938,571	\$33,693,022	\$37,202,777	\$39,026,853	\$42,087,780
TAS	§0	\$9,134,016	\$10,338,956	\$9,877,483	\$10,126,013	\$10,853,235
VIC	\$85,154,305	\$88,596,156	\$89,372,517	\$102,934,052	\$111,032,793	\$112,927,052
WA	\$44,356,973	\$49,185,297	\$57,747,631	\$58,051,792	\$56,403,175	\$62,174,065

* New South Wales has been unable to provide figures to date on 2003-2004 data
 § Tasmania has been unable to provide figures on 1998-1999 data



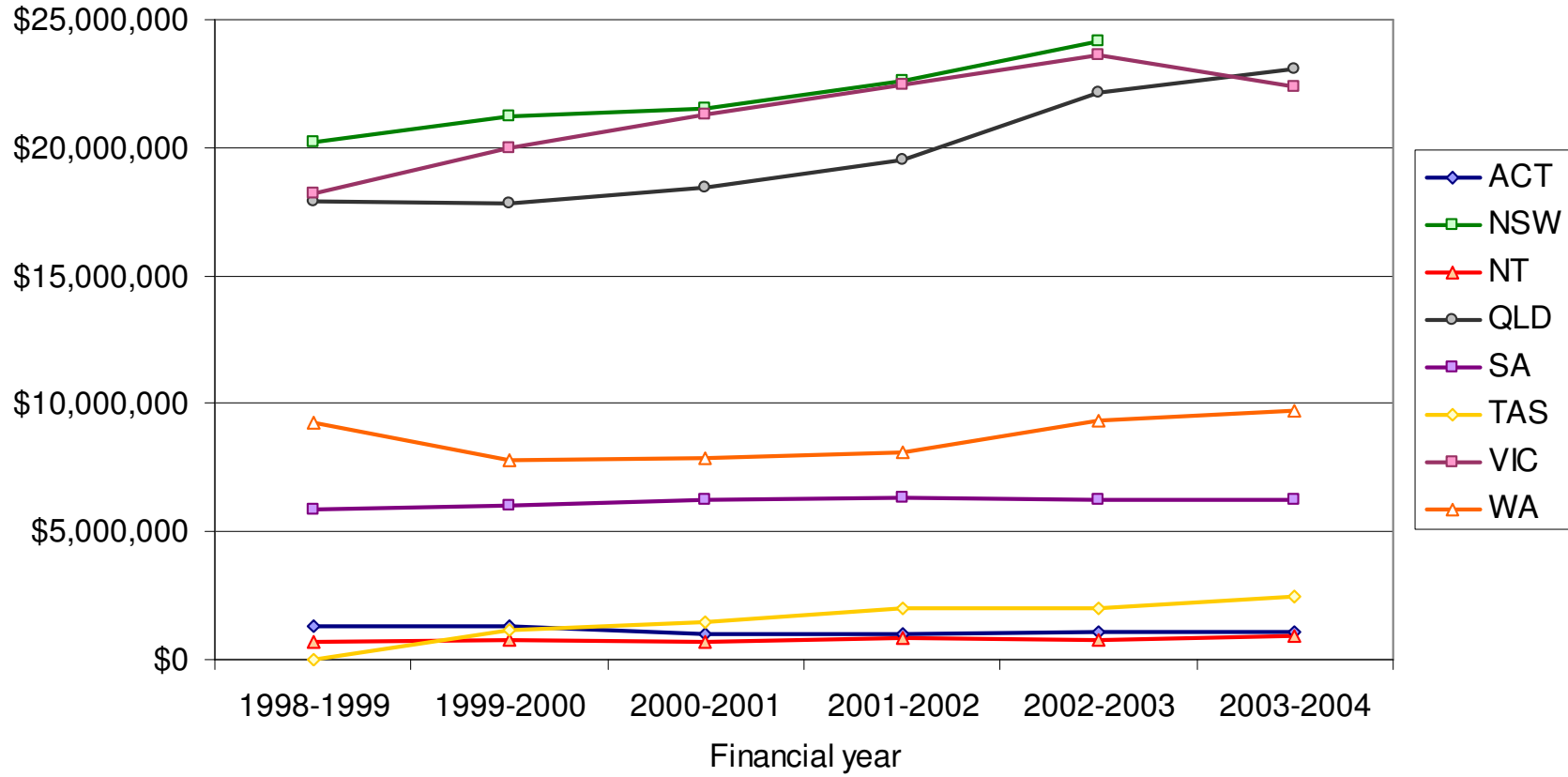
5. Expenditure on Library Materials

An increase in expenditure on library materials has been recorded in all States and Territories with the exception of the Australian Capital Territory. The largest increase has occurred in Tasmania which doubled its expenditure in the last five years, although its total of \$2,499,632 remains the lowest. Queensland records the highest expenditure on library materials at over \$ 23 million. Expenditure in the Australian Capital Territory has dropped by 17% during the six year period.

Expenditure on Library Materials						
	1998-1999	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004
ACT	\$1,343,141	\$1,324,899	\$1,009,000	\$1,019,750	\$1,096,010	\$1,110,255
NSW	\$20,233,855	\$21,214,734	\$21,561,714	\$22,600,215	\$24,165,382	*0
NT	\$732,038	\$739,271	\$722,360	\$831,721	\$786,660	\$919,122
QLD	\$17,939,017	\$17,818,437	\$18,435,400	\$19,511,954	\$22,366,854	\$23,033,092
SA	\$5,889,140	\$6,043,358	\$6,254,695	\$6,302,898	\$6,235,338	\$6,262,598
TAS	§0	\$1,130,000	\$1,443,215	\$1,999,632	\$1,999,632	\$2,499,632
VIC	\$18,192,765	\$19,961,932	\$21,315,380	\$22,442,666	\$23,579,055	\$22,370,124
WA	\$9,258,697	\$7,822,251	\$7,845,598	\$8,077,450	\$9,342,813	\$9,693,231

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Expenditure on Library Materials



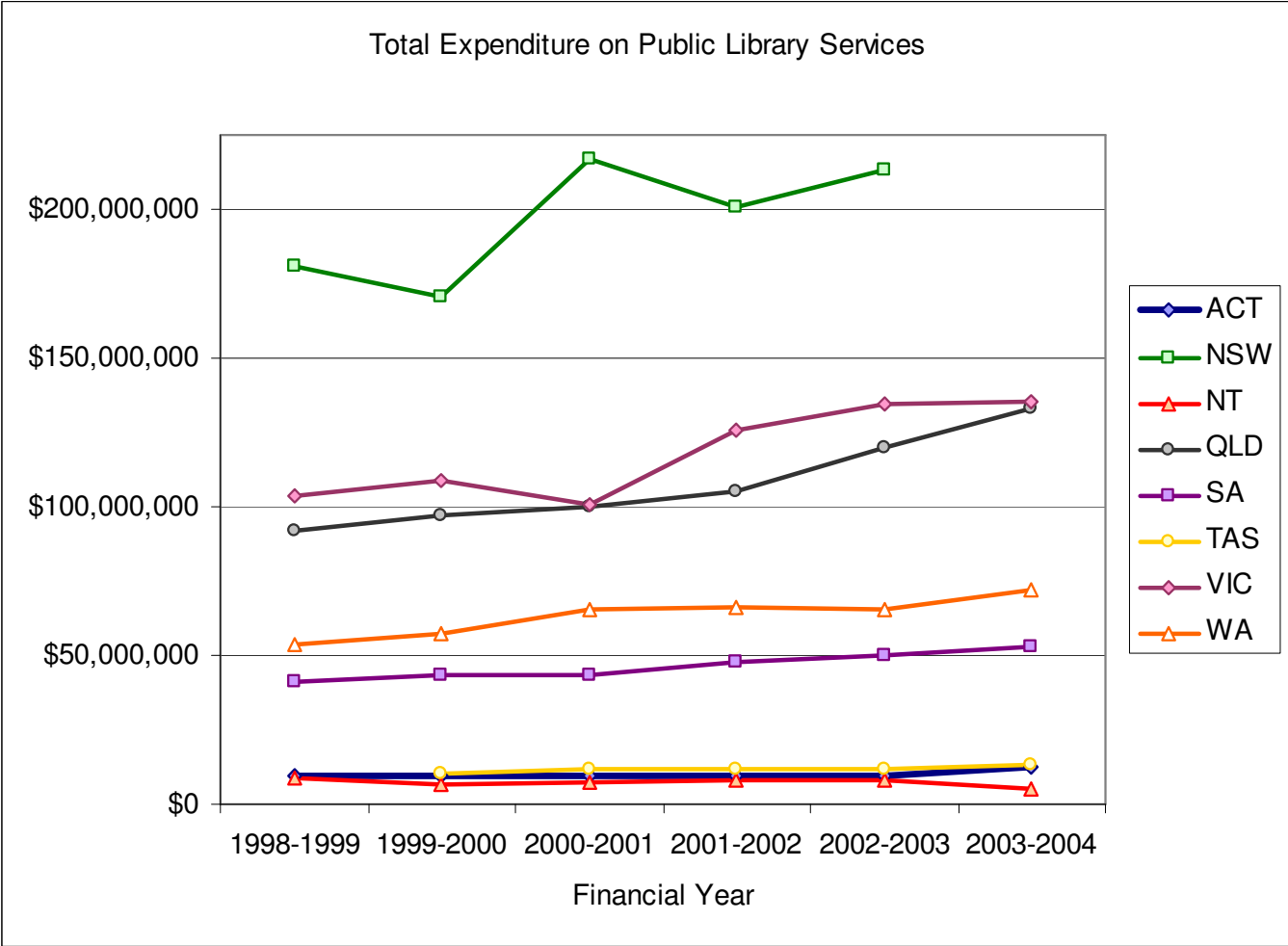
6. Total Expenditure on Public Library Services

Caution should be used when comparing total expenditure on public library services of individual States and Territories. Expenditure in some States will include capital works expenditure for public library buildings and improvements whereas in other states this figure is not included. Please see also page 8.

With the exception of the Northern Territory, all States and Territories have considerably increased their total expenditure on public library services over the six year period. The largest increase has occurred in Queensland where expenditure has grown by 45%, while the others record increases of between 30% and 40%. Victoria spends the highest amount on its libraries at over \$135 million, while the Northern Territory spends the least at \$5,361,116.

Total Expenditure on Public Library Services						
	1998-1999	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004
ACT	\$9,309,652	\$9,454,290	\$9,309,000	\$9,229,750	\$9,397,297	\$15,062,379
NSW	\$181,201,621	\$170,261,906	\$216,837,435	\$201,083,082	\$213,529,111	*0
NT	\$8,930,880	\$6,951,062	\$7,096,087	\$8,158,435	\$7,909,843	\$5,361,116
QLD	\$91,572,837	\$96,696,125	\$100,024,064	\$104,849,406	\$122,638,881	\$133,452,486
SA	\$41,405,962	\$43,205,908	\$43,607,310	\$47,734,651	\$49,634,082	\$52,821,909
TAS	\$0	\$10,264,016	\$11,782,171	\$11,877,115	\$12,125,645	\$13,352,867
VIC	\$103,347,070	\$108,558,088	\$100,687,897	\$125,376,718	\$134,611,848	\$135,297,176
WA	\$53,615,670	\$57,007,548	\$65,593,229	\$66,129,242	\$65,745,988	\$71,867,296

* New South Wales has been unable to provide figures to date on 2003-2004 data
 § Tasmania has been unable to provide figures on 1998-1999 data



7. Total State/Territory costs related to the delivery of Public Library Services

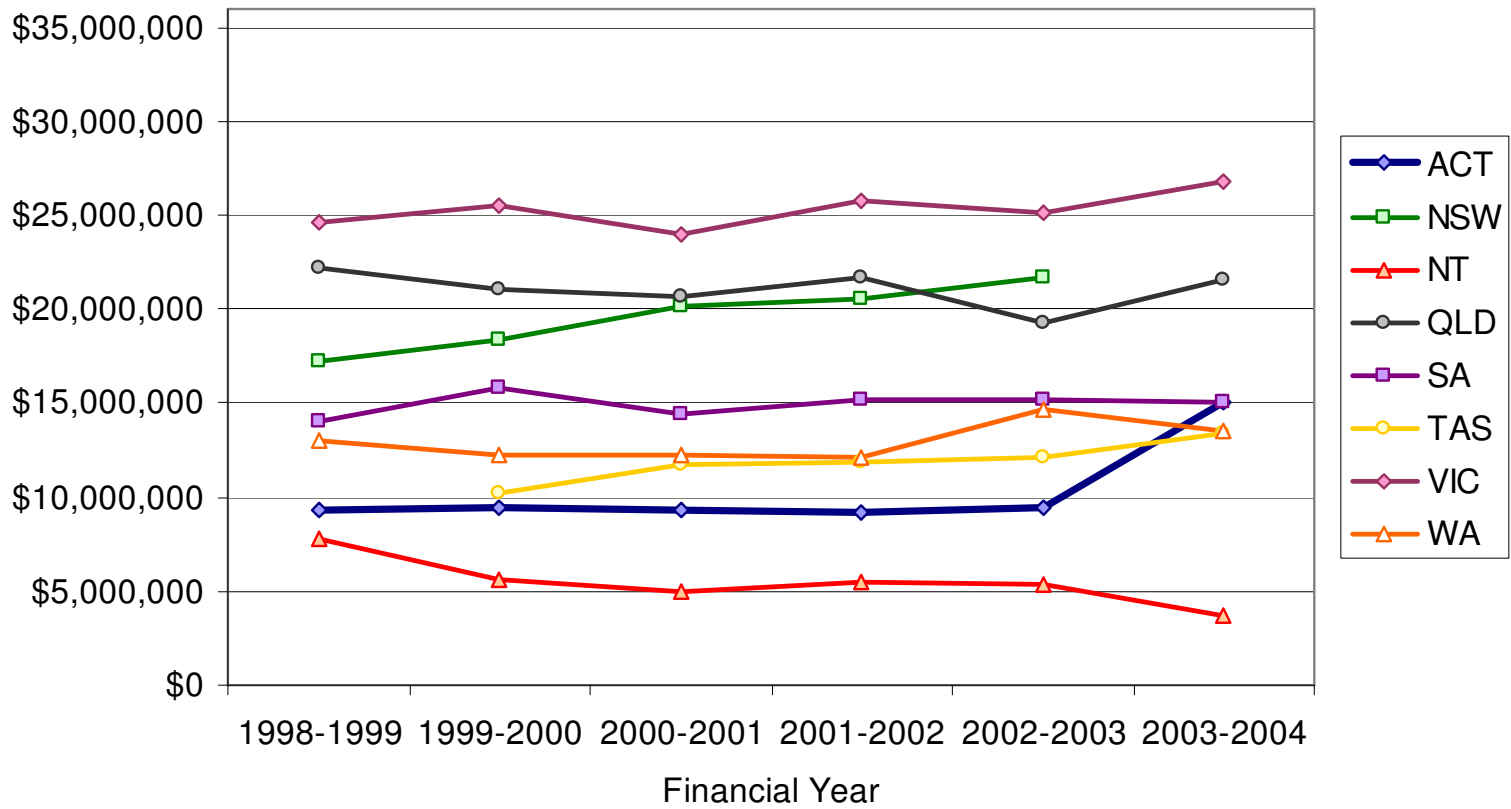
Over the six year period, increases in total State and Territory costs related to the delivery of public library services have occurred in South Australia, Tasmania, Victoria, Western Australia and the Australian Capital Territory. The most significant is a growth of over 60% in the Australian Capital Territory. Queensland and the Northern Territory have both reported decreases. The highest costs (over \$26 million) are recorded in Victoria and the lowest (\$3,684,246) in the Northern Territory.

Total State/Territory costs related to the delivery of Public Library Services						
	1998-1999	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004
ACT	\$9,309,652	\$9,454,290	\$9,309,000	\$9,240,750	\$9,440,104	\$15,062,379
NSW	\$17,178,842	\$18,406,920	\$20,229,835	\$20,607,002	\$21,675,139	*0
NT	\$7,742,193	\$5,610,345	\$5,027,304	\$5,533,041	\$5,397,128	\$3,684,246
QLD	\$22,164,000	\$21,121,215	\$20,624,025	\$21,651,168	\$22,012,438	\$21,600,758
SA	\$14,097,088	\$15,824,996	\$14,480,155	\$15,130,270	\$15,139,556	\$15,088,695
TAS	§0	\$10,264,016	\$11,782,171	\$11,877,115	\$12,125,645	\$13,352,867
VIC	\$24,651,343	\$25,491,592	\$23,949,821	\$25,828,025	\$25,165,870	\$26,859,864
WA	\$12,967,838	\$12,254,097	\$12,207,969	\$12,129,256	\$14,723,920	\$13,476,845

* New South Wales has been unable to provide figures to date on 2003-2004 data

§ Tasmania has been unable to provide figures on 1998-1999 data

Total State / Territory Costs related to the delivery of Public Library Services



8. State/Territory Funding as a percent of Public Library Expenditure

State and Territory funding in the Australian Capital Territory and Tasmania comprises 100% of public library expenditure. In all other States, the State and Territory funding comprises only a percentage of this total expenditure. Without exception, decreases in these percentages have been recorded over the six year period. Apart from the Australian Capital Territory and Tasmania, the highest percentage of total funding is recorded in the Northern Territory (69%) while the lowest occurs in Queensland (16%).

State/Territory Funding as a percent of Public Library Expenditure						
	1998-1999	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004
ACT	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
NSW	9%	11%	9%	10%	10%	*0%
NT	87%	81%	71%	68%	68%	69%
QLD	24%	22%	21%	21%	18%	16%
SA	34%	37%	33%	32%	31%	29%
TAS	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
VIC	24%	23%	22%	21%	19%	20%
WA	24%	21%	19%	18%	22%	19%

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State/Territory Funding as a percent of Public Library Expenditure

