

# Australian Libraries Gateway

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The National Library is very pleased to announce that Phase II of the Australian Libraries Gateway (ALG) is now available. The redeveloped service was released on the World Wide Web in time for the new year and enables libraries within the Gateway to reveal a wider range of new information about their collections and services. Australians can now discover a great deal more about their 5,250+ libraries!

The features which have been included in the new service have been developed from feedback from the listed libraries, site users and other interested parties within the library and cultural heritage community. The enhancements include:

## 1. New fields:

- Telephone typewriter (TTY) and document exchange (DX) number/s (freetext field).
- automated library system in use (freetext field).
- library classification scheme/s in use (freetext field).
- details of dial-up catalogue access and links to any catalogue FAQs and/or a 'Read-me' file about using your library's catalogue (freetext field).
- URL of online policy documents with a literal display (collection development policy, strategic plan, customer service policy or charter).
- URL of opening hours.
- URL of online image collection.
- URL of library staff directory.
- URL of library street location map.
- URL of digitisation project information.
- number of records and percentage of library collection recorded on the

National Bibliographic Database.

- URL of library's friends organisation.
- URL of 'virtual' tour of a library.
- additional (searchable) comments about subject collecting levels — for all ALG subjects.

## 2. Other features and improvements:

- quicker searches and response times;
- new library types are: 'Science/Technology', 'Music', 'Agriculture', 'Toy', 'Research', 'Mobile' and 'Parliamentary', and the 'Defence' library type has been revised to 'Defence/Military';
- significantly updated information within the 'For Libraries' section;
- 'advanced' search options, for example, users can now search for and display only those libraries which have online catalogues or contribute to the NBD;
- search for multiple library types, or search by keyword/phrase within any all fields;
- inclusion of Australian libraries which are located overseas (libraries in Australian embassies and diplomatic missions, or Australian territories, including Antarctica);
- combination library type searches with a geographic filter (for example search for 'Law' and 'University' libraries in Victoria or 'Government' and 'Cultural organisation' libraries in New South Wales);
- freetext searching of subject collecting level comments;
- revision of the 'static' pages which link to resources for libraries and library users;
- a search engine for the static pages on the ALG site; and

- improved administrative tools for easier reporting to ALG administration.

## 3. Changes to library details display:

- 'Other names and acronyms' have been separated from 'Former' names and are displayed separately;
- provision for the display of multiple-parent organisation names within the database, and libraries may now update their official name within the database themselves;
- libraries with oral history collections within 'Australia's Oral History Collections: a National Directory' (another new service at <http://www.nla.gov.au/ohdir/>) link directly to these from within their ALG entry.

We encourage libraries to visit the Gateway: <http://www.nla.gov.au/libraries/> and populate the new fields available through the online update forms. If passwords need to be reset for online update, contact ALG Administration on 02 6262 1137 or send an e-mail to [alg@nla.gov.au](mailto:alg@nla.gov.au).

Further information about how to search and update information on the Gateway is available within the ALG 'Help' pages on the site, <http://www.nla.gov.au/libraries/help/>, and letters will be sent to all libraries on the Gateway in the first week of February 2000.

Your comments about the new service are most welcome. Please e-mail [alg@nla.gov.au](mailto:alg@nla.gov.au) or telephone the Coordination Support Branch of the National Library on 02 6262 1522. ALG-L is a useful forum for libraries on the Gateway to keep up-to-date with site development. More information about the list is available from <http://www.nla.gov.au/libraries/help/alg-l.html>. ■

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