

One voice

Public Libraries Australia initiative

Public libraries, library associations and local government around Australia have all joined forces in a collaborative effort to establish a formal body for national representation that actively represents, advocates and promotes the interests of all public libraries in Australia.

The initiative builds upon the 2001 study, sponsored by the Council of Australian State Libraries, which investigated the business case for creating a new national body to represent public libraries. The study showed a strong support for the initiative amongst the public library stakeholders.

At a meeting earlier this year in Adelaide the crucial elements in forming a peak representative body were discussed and the following outcomes were achieved:

- 'Public Libraries Australia' was the agreed name for the proposed network.
- A business plan framework was developed.
- It was decided that a project manager's position will be created, funded from a seeding fund.
- An interim steering committee was appointed comprising: Lynne Makin (chairperson, Upper Murray Regional Library); Ian Chalmers (Australian Local Government Association); Councillor Beverley Giegerl (NSW Local Government Association); Lea Giles-Peters (State Library of Queensland); Robert Knight (Wagga Wagga City Council); David Toll (National Library of Australia); and Chris Williams (State Library of New South Wales).

The committee is now working on establishing Public Libraries Australia as a separate legal entity and recruiting a project manager. The next stage of the project will involve development of a membership model and branding for Public Libraries Australia.

Visit <http://www.nla.gov.au/apln/> to access further up-to-date information about the Public Libraries Australia initiative. ■

LISEKA Project update

The LISEKA Project Working Group (PWG) thanks all members and other stakeholders who responded to the call for submissions to the LISEKA discussion paper *Models for the education of information practitioners in the 21st century*. More than sixty responses were received from members, ALIA groups, LIS educators and other stakeholders, indicating the importance of the project in the work of the Association.

Information obtained through the responses to the discussion paper has provided the base for the next phase in the work of the PWG. Following in-depth analysis of responses the group met in July to develop a series of recommendations to present to the August meeting of the Board of Directors for decision about the future direction of the project including further consultations prior to the NPC.

A report outlining feedback received in response to the discussion paper has been prepared and is available on the website at [<http://www.alia.org.au/education/liseka>]. Queries about the project may be directed to Marie Murphy e-mail: marie.murphy@alia.org.au. ■

SPYDUS

Library Solutions

POWER AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

- Powerful indexing and retrieval tools offer highly flexible and super-fast search capabilities to both library staff and customers.
- Web-centric **SPYDUS** empowers borrowers to access library services via the internet, boosting staff productivity.
- Backed by library professionals who understand technology, libraries and customer service.



www.civica.com.au