

LIS sector watch

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Crown copyright

Copyright Law Review Committee
<http://www.clrc.gov.au>

The report examines the history and effectiveness of the current law concerning government ownership of copyright material and considers whether government should continue to benefit from provisions more favourable than for other copyright owners. The report also considers the Crown's prerogative right in the nature of copyright, specific exceptions to infringement of Crown copyright and a discussion of which government entities should be considered the 'Commonwealth' or 'State'.

Public libraries, Australia 2003-04

Australian Bureau of Statistics
<http://www.abs.gov.au>

The publication presents the results of the 2003-04 Public Libraries Survey. It provides a detailed measure of the performance, structure and activity of public libraries operating in Australia. The main focus of the survey was on the composition of income and funding received, details of expenses incurred, characteristics of employment and activities of public libraries.

Achieving value from ICT: key management strategies

Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts
<http://www.dcita.gov.au/ie/publications>

This study identifies the key management principles that help to maximise the benefit of information and communications technology in Australian workplaces. The study is based primarily on a telephone survey of 1050 organisations of varying sizes from fifteen industry categories.

Library closures in Turkmenistan

The president of Turkmenistan, Mr Saparmurat Niyazov, has ordered the closure of libraries on the grounds that 'nobody reads books or [goes] to libraries'. IFLA has issued a statement strongly protesting the closure of libraries and its impact on freedom of access to information and freedom of expression in Turkmenistan.

The Turkmenistan president has stated that, other than central and student libraries which will remain open, additional libraries are unnecessary as most books that Turkmen need should already be in homes, workplaces and schools.

It has proved difficult for IFLA to get an exact status on the closure of libraries. While the National Library appears to have escaped closure, the Open Society Institute

Capturing cultural value: how culture has become a tool of government policy
Holden, John. Demos <http://demos.co.uk>

Cultural organisations are forced to justify their grants on the basis of their contribution to government goals such as economic development, tourism or social inclusion, rather than on cultural value. The report proposes a wholesale reshaping of the way in which public funding of culture is undertaken by using cultural value as an overarching principle for cultural funding. The argument has radical implications for policy, funding institutions and cultural providers.

Connecting the UK: the digital strategy

Great Britain. Prime Minister's Strategy Unit
http://strategy.gov.uk/downloads/work_areas/digital_strategy/digital_strategy.pdf

The strategy sets out the crucial role that information and communication technology will have for Britain's future prosperity, and addresses the digital divide which currently excludes some groups from benefiting from access to the internet.

Developing reading communities: linking secondary school reading clubs with public libraries through effective partnerships: final report
TRA Reading Agency and ContinYou (UK)
<http://readingagency.org.au>

This study was an attempt to research what benefits might accrue if readers groups in secondary schools could be linked in strong and meaningful ways to their local public library service. The action research set out to test the hypothesis that, by working together, these two partners might encourage young people to enjoy their reading more than if either were to work in isolation.

has confirmed the closure of libraries in the Dashoguz province. Supplies of books in university libraries have not been updated for ten years and many works have been removed and destroyed.

The closure of libraries is a recent example of violations of intellectual freedom in the country. With widespread censorship of information and the media, the government has also blocked access to online information resources.

IFLA has urged the Turkmenistan Government to reopen libraries, restock them and provide free internet access and support their staff in order to provide unrestricted access to information, in accordance with Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. ■

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