

Museums Australia national conference 2005

MUSEUMS AUSTRALIA NATIONAL CONFERENCE

politics and POSITIONING 2005
May 1-4, 2005



Museums Australia is the national professional association representing museums and galleries and the people who work in them. Museums Australia has 9000 institutional and individual members and reflects the interests of the sector at regional, state and federal levels. The 2005 conference theme, *Politics and Positioning*, will explore the opportunities and challenges facing museums as they seek to reinvent and revitalise the sector in a time of contradiction and change.

Politics and Positioning will examine issues facing collections from digital technology to concerns about ongoing sustainability, the shifting focus to audience needs and accessibility, the claiming of the museum by an increasing range of stakeholders and interest groups, and questions about the position of museums in the 21st century, about identity and power, about permanence and change.

Members of ALIA are eligible to receive the Museums Australia membership rate, a saving of \$76! Visit <http://www.museumsaustralia.org.au/conference2005/> for more details.

The conference will be held in Sydney at the Powerhouse Museum and the Australian Broadcasting Corporation's Eugene Goossens Hall, 1-4 May 2005. We anticipate that over 500 delegates will attend the conference from Australia, New Zealand and the South Pacific, representing art, science, history, university and community museums, as well as the wider arts field including libraries, archives and cultural facilities. The conference will be held over four days, with each day devoted to one of the following topics:

Day one — Regional and remote

Day two — Controversy and challenge

Day three — Negotiation

Day four — Transformation

Contact the conference secretariat, Louise Pitney, Museums Australia National Conference 2005, c/o Conference Action Pty Ltd, PO Box 576, Crows Nest NSW 1585, ph 02 9437 9333, fx 02 9901 4586, louise@conferenceaction.com.au or visit our website <http://www.museumsaustralia.org.au/conference2005/> for more details. ■

RAILS2: call for papers

2nd Research Applications in Information and Library Studies Seminar, 16-17 September 2005, National Library of Australia, Canberra ACT

Following on from the success of the first RAILS seminar, held at Queensland University of Technology in September 2004, Charles Sturt University's School of Information Studies, with the generous assistance of the National Library of Australia, is organising a second RAILS seminar. This seminar will continue to build partnerships among educators, researchers and practitioners to ensure that a culture of informed and innovative practice is nurtured in the provision of library and information services (LIS).

RAILS2 has the theme of *Linking Research with Practice*. It aims to raise the profile of research in the information professions by:

- continuing to build a list of research required by Australian practitioners
- making practitioners aware of university-based research that is currently underway and encouraging debate about it
- making educators and researchers aware of practice-based research that is currently underway and encouraging debate about it

- promoting the research agenda of Australian LIS peak bodies.

If you are carrying out research into any aspect of the provision of library and information services and would like to participate in this seminar, you are invited to submit an abstract of a paper on your research. Research students, recipients of research awards, research-active practitioners, and research leaders are particularly encouraged to use this opportunity to showcase their work and gather input from others.

Enquiries: Ross Harvey, rossharvey@csu.edu.au, ph 02 6933 2369; Annemaree Lloyd, anlloyd@csu.edu.au, ph 02 6933 2468; or Bob Pymm, rpymm@csu.edu.au, ph 02 6933 2467.

Abstracts of no more than 350 words for papers of 20-30 minutes should be submitted as e-mail attachments to Ross Harvey, Annemaree Lloyd or Bob Pymm. Abstracts are required by **31 May 2005**. We anticipate that papers will be refereed and will be published in 2006. ■

Worldwide access to Australian music

On 15 March 2005 the Minister for the Arts and Sport, Senator Rod Kemp, launched Music Australia, a free online service allowing users to find and navigate information on all aspects of Australian music from a single access point.

The first national music service of its type in the world, MusicAustralia is being lauded in international forums for its ground-breaking approach. The database already provides information on almost 140 000 Australian musical resources, of which 10 000 are online in digital form, including scores, audio, pictures and theses.

Developed by the National Library of Australia in collaboration with the National Film and Sound Archive, the website features items from all state libraries, the Australian Music Centre, the Australian National University, the University of Melbourne and the Australian War Memorial.

A major infrastructure achievement for the National Library, MusicAustralia has encouraged the Library to develop its own digital and archival music collections and to build strong networks with other custodians and creators of music resources and information.

The MusicAustralia website is available at <http://www.musicaustralia.org>. ■