

AIATSIS thesauri recognised internationally

The Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS) now has all of the AIATSIS Thesauri available on its website.

The three AIATSIS thesauri contain headings for language groups and peoples, subjects relating to Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander studies, and place names. These headings are used to describe items held in Mura®, the AIATSIS Collections Catalogue – for both the Library and Audiovisual Archive.

As from January 2008, all three thesauri have been approved by the Library of Congress for use in catalogue records internationally. The Library will now make the majority of its catalogue records available on Libraries Australia, raising the awareness of the AIATSIS Library and its collections. These records will contain the thesauri terms.

AIATSIS recognises the need for libraries and other collecting agencies to use more appropriate headings to catalogue Indigenous collections. The thesauri will also be useful for Indigenous knowledge centres and keeping places. The thesauri will be regularly updated and can be downloaded as pdfs. The Central Land Council and FaHCSIA Libraries now use the AIATSIS Thesauri.

AIATSIS Library has used the Multites web server which enables the thesauri to interact with our online catalogue. Once a term is selected, the user can select the item type (books, manuscripts, pictorial etc), and a search of the catalogue is automatically made.

Launching the thesaurus on March 18 at AIATSIS, Chairperson Professor Mick Dodson encouraged people to use the new resource. "The thesauri are now available to browse and search on the AIATSIS website and can also be downloaded for free. They are AIATSIS' gift and I strongly encourage others to use them." he said.

March 18 marked another milestone for Indigenous research and researchers in Australia.

"Today we not only launch a national thesaurus that will make the search for information about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples easier, we also mark the 10th anniversary of the Institute's online collections catalogue, Mura®," Professor Dodson said.

Launched in 1998 and named after the Ngunnawal word meaning "pathways", Mura® has demonstrated how Indigenous materials should be sensitively and appropriately described.

Mura® will be further enhanced at the end of 2008 with the AIATSIS Library using Ex Libris' Primo Direct interface providing improved searching and browsing as well as many web 2.0 features.

The AIATSIS Thesauri is available at <http://www1.aiatsis.gov.au/thesaurus/>



Some of the collections described by the AIATSIS thesauri (Photo by Kate Travis)

Rod Stroud
Library Director
Rod.Stroud@aiatsis.gov.au

SirsiDynix
Bringing knowledge to life

SirsiDynix software products support libraries in their mission to assist people in discovering and using information, resources, expertise, and other valuable content for their educations, jobs, and even entertainment. It's really about bringing knowledge to people and helping them meet their needs and achieve their objectives. SirsiDynix supports this strategic role for libraries by offering a comprehensive integrated suite of technology solutions for improving the internal productivity of libraries and enhancing their individual capabilities for serving people and communities.

Make enquiries at sales-apac@sirsidynix.com