

# RE-IMAGINING LIS EDUCATION



Re-conceptualising and Re-positioning Australian Library and Information Science Education for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century is a research project funded by the Australian Learning and Teaching Council. Led by Professor Helen Partridge from Queensland University of Technology, the project has been undertaken with a team of 12 university and vocational library and information science educators from 11 institutions around Australia between November 2009 and December 2010. The final report is now completed.

Collectively, these 11 institutions represented the broad spectrum and diversity of library and information science education in Australia, and enabled the project to examine education for the information profession in a holistic and synergistic manner. The purpose of the project has been to establish a consolidated and holistic picture of the Australian library and information science profession, and identify how its future education and training can be mediated in a cohesive and sustainable manner.

The project's primary objective was to develop a *Framework for the Education of the Information Professions in Australia*. The intent of this framework is to present a series of recommendations to progress the national approach to library and information science education, and to guide Australia's future education for the information professions.

The final report for the project is now complete and is currently awaiting endorsement for publication by the Australian Learning and Teaching Council. This report presents the key findings and observations from the project along with the *Framework for the Education of the*

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*Information Professions in Australia*. It is anticipated that the report will be published by the end of 2011 and made available for download from the project website at [www.liseducation.org.au](http://www.liseducation.org.au).

In the meantime, dissemination activities to communicate other facets of the project's findings will continue. Recent examples of this include two presentations delivered during September in Perth at the ALIA National Library and Information Technicians Conference and the 5<sup>th</sup> New Librarians Symposium. Two further discussion papers are also planned for release in the coming months and will likewise be made available through the project website.

The project team would like to extend our thanks to all members of the library and information science profession who generously gave their time to participate in data collection activities, and to all members of the project reference group for their support and contributions to the project.

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## INTERNATIONAL STAR FOR SHARING

CSIRO Library Services and University of Newcastle Library recently qualified as the first Australian libraries to be awarded a Rethinking Resource Sharing Star.

Awarded by the *Rethinking Resource Sharing Initiative*, the Star acknowledges libraries that demonstrate best practice in improving users' access to information through resource sharing. The Initiative itself is an international ad hoc group first established in 2005 and endorsed by a wide range of groups, including IFLA. The Resource Sharing Star arose from the work of a group of library professionals, product vendors and library technology specialists and has resulted in a manifesto for putting the user ahead of the system in developing resource sharing protocols ([rethinkingresourcesharing.org/manifesto.html](http://rethinkingresourcesharing.org/manifesto.html)).

Libraries can apply for a Star by achieving a sufficient score through an online checklist covering areas such as the simplicity of resource sharing transactions between libraries, ease of identifying materials, straightforward requesting for borrowers, user friendly services, access to materials across formats, and fees. The checklist ([rethinkingresourcesharing.org](http://rethinkingresourcesharing.org)) also provides library staff with an opportunity to review resource sharing policies and processes, ensuring the library is committed to international best practice.

Qualifying libraries will then receive a *Rethinking Resource Sharing Star* certificate and a letter of recognition which affirms the library's commitment to rethinking resource sharing.

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