

ERA review results on the way

In July last year the Executive Committee for Electronic Resources Australia (ERA) initiated a review of the operation and vision of the program. The review was undertaken to ensure that ERA continues to benefit and meet the expectations of Australian libraries and continues to make progress towards its objectives for national licensing in the short and long term.

This review was undertaken by a committee of representatives from each of the library sectors. During the review, the Review Committee sought input from libraries and vendors through a call

for submission process. The Review Committee considered these submissions, as well as their own experience within their sectors, in developing the recommendations in the report. Earlier this year called for feedback from the sector on the report and the ERA Executive's response to the recommendations, and conducted an online product survey to determine priority products for libraries and sectors that could be candidates for national or sectoral licences through ERA.

As *INCITE* goes to press, this feedback is being collated. In next month's issue, we will bring you an in-depth report on plans for the future of ERA and the results of the review.

Government moves to include digital in NLA legal deposit

Blogs, e-magazines, interactive newspaper articles and more could soon be joining the archives of the National Library of Australia to keep them alive for future generations if proposals released by the Federal Government on March 7 are implemented. This will ensure digital works join printed works as part of the National Library's continuing remit in preserving Australia's documented heritage.

The Attorney-General Nicola Roxon and Minister for the Arts Simon Crean have launched a public consultation paper on the proposed reforms to the Copyright Act, designed to ensure that digital documents are kept by the National Library of Australia for future generations.

"The proliferation of electronic readers, smart phones and tablet computers means that publishers are increasingly making available and distributing works in an electronic only format," Ms Roxon said.

The Government is seeking views on proposed changes that would modernise the current system to extend to electronic documents by empowering the Director-General of the National Library to request certain electronic material to be deposited.

"We want to ensure that these works are collected by the National Library and safeguarded for the benefit of all Australians," Ms Roxon said.

Mr Crean said the proposed reforms were an appropriate response to changes within the arts and cultural sector.

"Australia's cultural landscape is changing dramatically with an increase in digital content and convergent art forms," Mr Crean said.

"As writers, publishers and creators move into digital formats, we need to ensure that we continue to preserve cultural content for all Australians to enjoy and appreciate.

"These changes will ensure future generations don't miss out on Australia's dynamic cultural heritage simply because the work was created digitally."

The consultation paper *Extending Legal Deposit* and instructions for providing submissions are available online at www.ag.gov.au/Consultationsreformsandreviews/Pages/Extending-Legal-Deposit.aspx

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