



State User Groups

2005/2006 Report

State User Group meetings provide a forum for Libraries Australia practitioners to share information, network, learn and raise issues about their experiences using the Libraries Australia service. The meetings are also a valued venue for liaising with and providing feedback to Libraries Australia Advisory Committee representatives and Libraries Australia staff. Some states also have specialist document delivery and cataloguing interest groups.

State User Groups meet regularly between 2-4 times yearly. The majority of User Groups have reported increased attendance at meetings. The presence of National Library staff usually boosts attendance. Public library and reference staff representation at some User Group meetings can be improved.

User Groups adopted a name change from Kinetica to Libraries Australia.

A number of State User Groups have undertaken to broaden their agenda to include a range of issues and information of interest to library staff in addition to specific Libraries Australia information. Discussions and presentations have included topics such as e-prints, metadata and organisational re-structures.

Activities held during the period have included workshops and seminars on searching, document delivery and cataloguing using the respective Libraries Australia modules; use of Libraries Australia 'personalisation' and 'alerts' for end users; managing the delivery and resource discovery of electronic resources and attendance at State launches of the Libraries Australia Free Search Service.

Issues:

- The Libraries Australia Record Import Service (RIS) and to a lesser extent the Record Export System (RES) have been discussed by all User Groups. Problems with RIS resulted in delays in loading of records from contributors and increased the cataloguing workloads of many member libraries.
- Duplicate records appear to be more evident and commented on by practitioners
- With the introduction of the Libraries Australia Free Search Service, some Special Libraries have reported receiving enquiries for document delivery from members of the public. End users are being directed to their academic institution or public library.
- There is uncertainty by practitioners about charging and pricing costs associated with the Libraries Australia service.
- The need for a national document for best practice in resource sharing, more than what is currently in the ILRS Code.

State User Group Convenors:

Australian Capital Territory – Julie Philips

New South Wales – Susanne Moir

Northern Territory – Marilyn Hawthorne

Queensland – Karen Feehey

South Australia – Jay Douglas

Tasmania – Di Worth

Victoria – Gehan Aboud

Western Australia – Jane Jones