



Libraries Australia Advisory Committee

Report on Activities October 2005- September 2006

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And Chair of the
Libraries Australia Advisory Committee

Role and function

The Libraries Australia Advisory Committee (previously the Kinetica Advisory Committee) provides advice on strategic and policy issues affecting the delivery of the Libraries Australia service and the broad direction of service development.

Membership

The membership of the Committee is drawn from all sections of the Australian library community, with representatives from special libraries (Ms Sherrey Quinn), public libraries (Dr Naida Tattersall), university libraries (Mr John Arfield and Ms Linda Luther), state and territory libraries (Ms Elizabeth Ellis), and government libraries (Mr Lindsay Harris). In addition there are three elected members: Mr Chris Taylor, Ms Judy Engall (replaced during the year by Ms Joan Moncrieff), and Ms Pat Scott (replaced during the year by Ms Monika Szunejko). Both Pat and Judy made significant contributions to the work of the Committee which are gratefully acknowledged. The representatives of the National Library on the Committee are Ms Pam Gatenby and Dr Warwick Cathro.

The year's work

The Committee met twice during the year: in Canberra in February, which incorporated the launch of the free Libraries Australia service at Parliament House, and again by teleconference in August. It continued to take a close interest in the Kinetica Redevelopment Project throughout and beyond the implementation in November 2005, providing advice on all aspects of the implementation of Libraries Australia. One area in which the Committee was able to provide particularly valuable advice was the plan for communicating fully to all relevant constituencies what changes were involved in the move from Kinetica to Libraries Australia, and the strategic thinking that lay behind the changes. With the shift of the focus of Kinetica as a bibliographic utility of primary interest to libraries to Libraries Australia as a key element in the infrastructure for public

access to information the previous charging regime based on transactions was no longer appropriate. The Committee was able to play an important role in advising the National Library as it negotiated the practical difficulties of moving from a transaction-based charging model to a subscription model. In addition the Committee provided input to the 2007-2010 business plan for Libraries Australia.

The Committee also provided advice on, among other topics: the Libraries Australia Annual Forum; quality improvement of Australian National Bibliographic Database (ANBD); the content strategy for the ANBD; and relationships with other bibliographic services.

The minutes and publicly available papers of the Committee can be found on the National Library website at <http://www.nla.gov.au/librariesaustralia/laacpapers.html> .