

**LIBRARIES AUSTRALIA AND TROVE -
A SPECIAL NETWORK FOR SPECIAL LIBRARIES**

Background

A brief version of this article was published in *Incite*, in the August 2010 issueⁱ.

Introduction

All libraries are special. Libraries Australia, the national cooperative information serviceⁱⁱ, recognises this by supporting each sector of libraries through a separate funding modelⁱⁱⁱ. The group of libraries known as special libraries has to be broad-ranging in the scope of its responsibilities, because each special library has a particular remit to meet the subject-specific demands of its community. It is the premise of this article that Libraries Australia and its new offspring, Trove, provide an infrastructure which is rich in research content and functionality to suit all Australian special libraries and the communities they support.

Special library representation in Libraries Australia

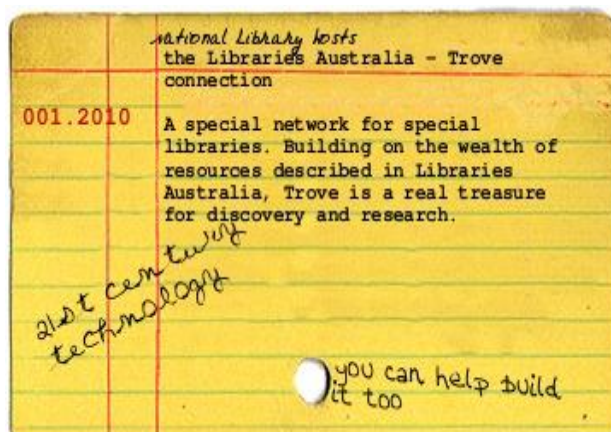
Libraries Australia has supported special libraries since its inception as the Australian Bibliographic Network in 1981. They were broadly defined: their library services may be delivered to federal, state and local government departments, the education sector, health service providers, the legal community or to corporate agencies. Since then, special library participation has ebbed and flowed. For example changes in government policy or economic fluctuations are reflected in the establishment and closure of libraries, but following the launch of the current service in 2006, the special library sector has contributed a modest proportion of Libraries Australia revenue (about 16%) while representing the largest number of libraries subscribing to the service (more than 500)^{iv}.

In addition to being able to exploit the ongoing investment made in enhancements to Libraries Australia, those 500 member libraries now reap the benefits of the newest service provided by the National Library – Trove.

The Libraries Australia – Trove connection

Trove has taken more than three years to develop.^v It is built on the 20 million bibliographic records and 47 million holdings in the Australian National

Bibliographic Database (ANBD) and the 250,000 name authority records in the Australian National Authority File (ANAF). Trove also combines the content of many other National Library services including Picture Australia and Australian Research Online (ARO) to provide a 'one-stop shop' discovery experience for all Australians. Other rich sources of information have been contributed via the People Australia program and external sources of interest such as Wikipedia are linked in. However, it is the complementary features in Libraries Australia and Trove which can be tailored to each special library community that make their connection valuable for individual special libraries.



The federal, state and territory governments' libraries are experiencing changes which have often been initiated from the outside. The closure of some federal libraries and the creation of new ones as policy requirements change, and the development of shared service models in some states, may have contributed to uncertainty about the future of service delivery by these libraries. There is, however, a guaranteed plank of support which special libraries can use to rescope their services – Libraries Australia members have committed to a common good to by supporting the network, especially those libraries which send their holdings to the ANBD.

Why are holdings important? When libraries share their holdings on the ANBD, keep location and availability information up-to-date and ensure web links are current, many processes are streamlined for any library.^{vi} Collection development and analysis are far easier, interlibrary loan requests are also streamlined. For international coverage and to arrange interlibrary loans, Libraries Australia provides an advanced search option to simultaneously query government publications held by the British Library^{vii}, the Library of Congress^{viii}, and the National Libraries of New Zealand^{ix} and Singapore.

Australian Library Collections (Australian National Bibliographic Database) ([more info...](#))
 Picture Australia (Pictures from Australian cultural agencies) ([more info...](#))

Australian Research Online ([more info...](#))
 British Library Catalogue ([more info...](#))
 Canada Institute for Scientific and Technical Information (CISTI) ([more info...](#))
 Chinese University of Hong Kong ([more info...](#))
 Research Libraries UK (RLUK) ([more info...](#))
 Informit Collections ([more info...](#))
 Hong Kong University of Science and Technology ([more info...](#))
 Library of Congress Catalogue ([more info...](#))
 National Film And Sound Archive OpenSearch ([more info...](#))
 OCLC WorldCat ([more info...](#))
 Powerhouse Museum OpenSearch ([more info...](#))
 Singapore National Union Catalogue ([more info...](#))
 Te Puna (New Zealand National Bibliographic Database) ([more info...](#))
 University of Hong Kong ([more info...](#))
 National Museum of Australia OpenSearch ([more info...](#))

There is a charge per search for this database - except for Small Libraries ([Am I a small library ?](#))

Australian Journal Articles (APAFT incl. APAIS) ([more info...](#))

Authorities Databases - These databases can only be searched one at a time:

Libraries Australia Authorities (Names and Subjects) ([more info...](#))
 OCLC WorldCat Authorities ([more info...](#))

Trove does not provide access to these international catalogues, but does spotlight the shared Australian holdings in new light. If you need to know where government publications reside in your state or federal counterpart because you are considering a collaborative purchasing, an exchange or a shared repository arrangement, then Trove can help to provide the answer.

Information about you, Trove user: GovPubsForMe

[Your details](#) [Libraries](#) [Tags](#) [Recent comments](#) [Text corrections](#) [Recent merge/splits](#) [Lists](#)

Your libraries

Department of Community Safety (Qld). Queensland Combined Emergency Services Academy Library. [QES]
 Education Queensland. Library Services, Department of Education & Training, QLD. [QED]
 Queensland Department of Public Works. Library & Information Centre. [QWQ]
 Queensland Department of Transport and Main Roads. Queensland Department of Transport and Main Roads Library. [QMR]
 Queensland Department of the Premier and Cabinet. Department of the Premier and Cabinet Library. [QPD]
 Queensland Health. Central Library. [QDH]

Find your libraries

We encourage you to tell us which libraries you use or can access. This information helps us to:

- add details to your search results on which books and other materials are held by your libraries
- let you restrict your search to materials held by your libraries

Search for your libraries based on their name:

While Trove offers this functionality to its fullest extent (any number of libraries of interest can be declared in a profile), it is building on the data contributions received by Libraries Australia and the agencies who list themselves in the Australian Libraries Gateway. The functionality could also be exploited to create a virtual shared catalogue. This is true for any group of libraries which have an interest in

affiliating with each other. Given the flexibility of the Trove design, the addition of bespoke branding could also be considered, so in the example above, a virtual Queensland government catalogue could be hosted by a lead Queensland agency. Similarly, a virtual discovery experience could be constructed for the network of federal government libraries known as AGLIN.^x The power of a shared discovery layer across a range of open sourced and vendor-sourced integrated library management systems should not be underestimated, especially for research communities.

The intermediate step of submitting records to the ANBD is satisfied by a range of technologies supported in Libraries Australia. They include the Record Import Service, SRU Record Update, and the Open Archives Initiative's Protocol for Metadata Harvesting. These technologies also work in reverse for local catalogue refreshment and enrichment. On behalf of Libraries Australia members, through a virtual catalogue experience or through its entire corpus, Trove returns researchers to their individual member services. Dempsey describes it as indirect discovery: "Another approach is to 'leverage' a discovery environment which is outside of your control to bring people back to your environment."^{xi}

Over 170 of Australia's medical and health libraries belong to Libraries Australia^{xii}. Like other libraries, they are able to take advantage of 30 years of shared content and expertise. Ninety-six (56%) of these members use the free Libraries Australia Document Delivery service and its associated national Payments Service. Trove extends the availability of research information by including several sources of international digitised content as search targets, including the Hathi Trust and the Open Library.

Trove also contains more than 20 million records from the service known as OAIster, the international equivalent of ARO, which link to research across a large number of academic communities and sources such as PubMed Central, a free digital archive of biomedical and life sciences journal literature and Project Muse^{xiii}. The National, State and Territory libraries are contributing an extraordinary amount of rich longitudinal detail via digitised historical Australian newspapers, a program which will continue to June 2011.

The value of the historical content is reinforced by the ability to discover the combined works of the scientists and practitioners themselves in one place, and some results are co-located with the biographical details of Australian scientists and organizations, extending it even further. Similarly, the importance of discovery of early research in the form of a thesis which may not have made it into published form is significant.

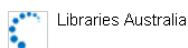
	Check copyright status Cite this
Title	Studies of tritanopia and related colour vision defects with special reference to the inheritance of tritanopia together with a review of the inheritance of all types of colour vision defects / Geoffrey H. Henry.
Author	Henry, Geoffrey H.
Published	1965.
Physical Description	202 leaves, bound : ill. ; 27 cm.
Subjects	Color blindness.
Notes	Typescript. Thesis (M.App.Sc.)--University of Melbourne, Dept. of Science, 1965. Includes bibliographical references (leaves 200-202)
Language	English
Libraries Australia ID	25265951
Record ID	NBD25265951
Contributed by	Libraries Australia

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/work/10187949>

The legal community is well-served by the amount of legislation available online, but as for departmental libraries, the shared virtual public access catalogue is an attractive solution for reducing duplicated services. However for materials which only exist in print form, a situation likely to continue for a few decades at least, the ability to allow staff to activate unmediated requesting in these agencies (known as enhanced requesting in Libraries Australia) is a value-added service which works most efficiently at the network level because it invokes interlibrary lending seamlessly^{xiv}.

Corporate entities can trace their story through all of the collection views in Trove – each view exposes different formats of material which may not have been thought of prior to searching. For agencies with less recognisable or less unique names, the work of libraries to keep track of personal and organisational name changes or journal title changes, as represented in the ANAF, provides a useful trail through their history, possibly even assisting with accountability.

Contributors



Child Accident Prevention Foundation of Australia.

Persistent Identifier <http://nla.gov.au/nla.party-783735>

Biographies

▼ Libraries Australia

The Child Accident Prevention Foundation of Australia was first established in 1979, and State divisions were established soon after. The name Kidsafe was adopted nationally in 1993. In July 2003, the foundation adopted a federated structure, with each of the state branches becoming independently incorporated associations.

View the full record at [Libraries Australia](#)

A new feature, known as lists, extends this usefulness. Lists are a real-time alternative to handcrafted subject guides. They are real-time in the sense that they can be created and updated at the point of discovery without leaving the Trove interface. For this function, the choice of Trove signon is significant, as it will provide a stamp of authority, although that can be strengthened by a statement in the description. It is possible to add links into a list which are not for resources found in Trove, thereby connecting external resources. When made public by each creator, lists are returned in results sets.

List: Australian education research Public

Items referenced in research into Australian education. Strong bias towards ICT in teaching and learning


2 items created by: [public:pritchell](#) on 2010-06-14 18:21:43.0

Tags: [Add tag\(s\)](#) **Comments:** No comments yet - [Add one!](#)

Rating: unrated

List items:


Showing: 1 - 2 of 2



Rethinking learning in early childhood education / Nicola Yelland ... [et al.]
 Yelland, Nicola
 [Book : 2008] At 24 libraries

Note 2010-06-14 18:22:50.0

Ramifications of no change



Shift to the future rethinking learning with new technologies in education / Nicola Yelland
 Yelland, Nicola
 [Book : 2007] Available online (access conditions apply)
At 30 libraries

Note 2010-06-14 18:28:19.0

Informal learning and home/school/community connectedness

Doing more with Trove technology

Another national network of special libraries in Australia is the group known as Australasian Libraries In the Emergency Sector (ALIES). Not all of the participating ALIES are members of Libraries Australia. Although Trove does not mandate membership or registration, it is still possible for groups such as ALIES to engage with it in certain ways. For example, it is possible to install a pre-defined search or a Trove search box for the home page of any group^{xv}. Another type of interaction is the ability to add a tag to any item found. Each tag could be specifically chosen to be shared by a group, becoming a useful shorthand way of pooling research efforts.

There is no question though, that a richer experience takes place if the investment in Libraries Australia is made. The ability to locate unique information in libraries which are not part of the group is one. The Kidsafe example leads to this work held at seven libraries around Australia.

 Check copyright status  Cite this	
Title	Quarterly journal / Child Accident Prevention Foundation of Australia.
Uniform Title	Quarterly journal (Child Accident Prevention Foundation of Australia)
Also Titled	Quarterly journal (Child Accident Prevention of Australia)
Later Title	Safe guard 0818-0474
Former Title	Journal (Child Accident Prevention Foundation of Australia) 0728-8778
Other Creators	Child Accident Prevention Foundation of Australia
Published	Melbourne : The Foundation, 1981-1986.
Physical Description	20 v. ; 30 cm.
Subjects	Child Accident Prevention Foundation of Australia -- Periodicals. Children's accidents -- Australia -- Prevention -- Periodicals.

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/work/25773730>

The Libraries Australia team takes very seriously the need to implement service improvements, and is experimenting with a mobile phone application to enable queries from hand-held devices whether on the road or in a hospital, or even in court.

Unlocking special library collections

The value of all of these features becomes significantly greater when special libraries share the details of their unique collections across the Libraries Australia network. The national, state and territory libraries have been working on a project to help unlock the value of undiscovered collections^{xvi}. Recognising that individual item description and/or digitisation is costly and time-consuming, the project “aims to identify ways of achieving faster, simpler, and less resource-intensive record creation and to agree on the metadata standards that should apply to different categories of material.” The new rules for describing materials and sharing them via Libraries Australia and hence Trove will be available in the next few months.

Conclusion

In an age of globalisation, when library services are being redefined, the National Library has used 21st century technologies to deliver their continued promise. However, the technologies used by libraries are successful because of their commitment and contribution to national platforms. It does not require loss of regional or local identity, rather the National Library deploys national infrastructure which recognises local input, is responsive to Australian needs, works in Australian time zones, and is managed by Australian residents. All Libraries Australia member libraries are able to leverage this commitment for their own services.

Acknowledgements

The author is very grateful for the advice provided by colleagues Ann Ritchie, editor of the Australian Library Journal, Karen Hansen, Manager of Library Services at the department of Families, Housing, Community Services & Indigenous Affairs and Cheryl Petroschevsky, Chair of the Queensland Government Library Consortium.

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Endnotes

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- ⁱ Incite, August 2010
alia.org.au/publishing/incite/2010/08.
- ⁱⁱ The word 'cooperative' is used in the same way to describe the global catalogue WorldCat.
- ⁱⁱⁱ *Libraries Australia subscriptions*
nla.gov.au/librariesaustralia/charges.html#subscriptions.
- ^{iv} *New Subscription Model for Special Libraries*
www.nla.gov.au/librariesaustralia/laac/documents/laac-paper-2008-1-5-new-subscription-for-special-libraries-progress-report.pdf.
- ^v Trove is at trove.nla.gov.au.
- ^{vi} There has been a significant impact on the general public who are finding this out-of-date information in Trove. The problem is described in the Libraries Australia newsletter, Issue 6, 30 April 2010
nla.gov.au/librariesaustralia/news/newsletter.html.
- ^{vii} An arrangement to support InterLibrary Loan requesting to the British Library (but not in reverse) using the Libraries Australia Document Delivery service, is currently in test.
- ^{viii} An arrangement to support InterLibrary Loan requesting to WorldCat is currently under discussion.
- ^{ix} The Trans-Tasman InterLoan arrangement has been operating since 2006.
- ^x The Australian Government Library and Information Network
nla.gov.au/aglin.
- ^{xi} *Indirect discovery*, Lorcan Dempsey, 13 June 2010
orweblog.oclc.org/archives/002105.html.
- ^{xii} As at July 2009.
- ^{xiii} The OAIster content harvested into Trove is listed at trove.nla.gov.au/general/faq#what.
- ^{xiv} Enhanced requesting
nla.gov.au/librariesaustralia/docdel/enhanced.html.
- ^{xv} Search Trove using URLs <http://trove.nla.gov.au/general/searchURLs>;
add a search box to your website, <http://trove.nla.gov.au/general/marketing#searchbox>;
add Trove to your browser, <http://trove.nla.gov.au/general/opensearch>.
- ^{xvi} Reimagining Libraries Project 8, Flexible Cataloguing
nsla.org.au/projects/rls/description-and-cataloguing.