



media release

Parkes Place, CANBERRA ACT 2600

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25 years of collaboration for Australian libraries

On 2 November the National Library of Australia, along with other Australian libraries will celebrate the long term collaboration and resource sharing of Australia's libraries with the reaching of a major milestone – the 25th birthday of the Australian National Bibliographic Database (ANBD).

The Australian Bibliographic Network (ABN), the network of libraries which underpins the ANBD, commenced operation on 2 November 1981 with just six libraries: the National Library, Canberra Public Library Service, University of Adelaide, the University of NSW, the State Library of South Australia and the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department.

In 1999 the ABN was redeveloped as Kinetica, a new technical platform which enhanced the services delivered by the ABN, and provided access to the US database – Research Libraries Information Network (RLIN) as well as the National Chinese and Korean Service (CJK) for library resources in non Roman script.

At that time almost 30 million items were available on the ANBD and over 1000 libraries belonged to Australia's library network.

In 2003, the National Library embarked on a major project to redevelop Kinetica with the focus more on access to information for all. It supported all activities in Australian libraries including cataloguing, interlending and the delivery of reference and information services.

The Kinetica redevelopment culminated in November 2005 with the implementation of the Libraries Australia service which provided access to databases both national and international.

Today the ANBD, available through Libraries Australia, provides access to 42 million items in Australian libraries – national, state and territory, university, TAFE, public, government, health and corporate. The database contains 16 million bibliographic records including the provision of access to over 600,000 digital resources – pictures, manuscripts, music, and government reports.

Through Libraries Australia, improved "finding" and "getting" options have further enhanced the service for both libraries and their clients. Users can check the availability of an item online, in their own or other libraries, or link through to an online bookshop.

In February 2006 the National Library, with the support of Australian libraries, made a free version of Libraries Australia available to anyone anywhere with an Internet connection.

<http://librariesaustralia.nla.gov.au>

Media contact: Yvonne Kennedy, Director Communications and Marketing 02 6262 1353; 0411 753 891; ykennedy@nla.gov.au