State Library of Queensland – Expanding Horizons with public libraries

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Our Mission
“Creatively linking Queenslanders to information, knowledge and each other”

• primary collector of Queensland’s documentary heritage

• a major reference and research library

• a financial supporter, advocate and partner with local government in the provision of over 340 public libraries
State Library of Queensland
Heritage Collections

Banks’ Florilegium

Ferdinand Bauer
Illustrationes floriae novae hollandiae
Queensland: the facts

Population

Queensland = 3,904,532

Queenslanders born overseas
= 18% of total Qld population

Indigenous population of Queensland
= 127,578 (3.3% of total Qld population)
Queensland: the facts

Size

Queensland = 1,852,642 sq km
[7 times the size of United Kingdom]

Diversity of Queensland's regions
Public libraries in Queensland

- 342 Total library sites
- 73 Local governments
  - 240 Independent Libraries
  - 85 Country Lending Service Libraries
  - 17 Indigenous Knowledge Centres
  - More than double the number of McDonald restaurants in Queensland
Public Library Services

• Grants to public libraries

• Partnerships

• Country Lending Service collections - regular exchange of book stock including new releases

• Exchange is calculated on the size of the population serviced by the individual library

• Access to specialised collections – Languages other than English, Literacy, Audio books & the reserve collections of out of print & last copy items.

• State wide online information resources

• Training & professional development

• Statewide initiatives

• Standards & statistics.

• Along with access to advice and assistance
Independent libraries
- Located in both city and regional areas, these libraries receive cash grants, training, loans of specialised resources and professional advice from State Library

Country Lending Service libraries
- These libraries are in local governments under 20,000 population, and they receive shelf ready resources, exchanges, training and support from State Library

Indigenous Knowledge Centres
- Libraries or Keeping Places in an Aboriginal Council or the Torres Strait Islander Council, with shelf ready resources, training and support from State Library
Elanora Branch Library - Gold Coast City Council
Excelsior Library Charters Towers
Winton Library Winton Shire Council
Kubin Indigenous Knowledge Centre
Torres Strait Islands
Hope Vale Indigenous Knowledge Centre
Expanding Horizons

- Welcoming Spaces
- Connecting People
- Learning and Leisure
- Embracing Technology
Consultation with peak bodies

Local Government Association of Queensland
- peak body representing local government in its dealings with other governments, unions, business and the community

Queensland Public Libraries Association
- peak body for public libraries in Queensland. Liaises with key stakeholders and decision makers on current issues, arranges learning and networking opportunities for members, markets the role and value of public libraries and facilitates co-operative projects.
Welcoming Spaces

Good practice –

• delight visitors
• flexible, vibrant use
• location
• co-location
• future focused
• reach the community
Developing strategies and tools that promote libraries as places for gathering, learning, and social and cultural expression.

Focusing on programs which support multicultural communities, people with disabilities, Aboriginal People and Torres Strait Islanders.
Connecting People

Good practice –

• promote as gathering places
• develop partnerships
• engage Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders
• opportunities for learning
• connect in virtual worlds
• maximise access to digitised information
• employ staff with a range of skills
Welcoming Places

A package of practical ideas for creating programs and services for Aboriginal People and Torres Strait Islanders in public libraries.

‘Welcoming Places’ training for Public Library staff
- Pilot sites Redlands, Paroo and Rockhampton

Emphasis on
• Library staffing / training
• Creating a reference group
• Look and feel of your library
• Programs
• Funding
Connecting People
Learning and Leisure

Good practice –

• support the love of reading
• add value
• provide 24/7 access
• extend services
• create partnerships
• support people
Public and Indigenous Library Services develops and delivers professional development to public library staff throughout Qld via publications, online resources and learning programs. Public library staff become enablers in their community to promote lifelong learning and community wellbeing.
Learning and Leisure

Cartooning Workshops
Embracing Technology

Good practice –

• provide greater opportunities
• exploit Web 2.0
• use technology to improve customer service
• digitise collections
• provide access to broadband and wireless
Embracing Technology
Key initiatives

- Showcase examples of excellence
- Measure value
- Establish a leadership program
- Review and enhance standards
- Target services and programs
- Maximise access
- Build partnerships
- Promote role in documenting Queensland’s memory
- Promote as places for community activity