

# State librarian announces resignation

**S**tate librarian Des Stephens announced his resignation to take effect from 27 July 2001. The resignation is due to health and lifestyle issues.

Mr Stephen's association with the State Library of Queensland began in 1977 when he was appointed assistant state librarian, user services. Prior to that he was chief librarian at Rockhampton City Library Service. In 1988 he was appointed state librarian.

Des said that in his thirteen years as state librarian he has seen a remarkable number of developments in public library services around the Queensland. There has been a major expansion in the Country Lending Service and library collections have improved considerably.

One of the key achievements of the library was attaining State Government approval for the Millennium Library Project. The announcement in May last year that the project would go ahead was the culmination of years of lobbying and planning by the Board and senior staff.

Queensland has also benefited by devising effective strategies to improve Indigenous library services. The next ten years will see unprecedented growth in this area, says Des.

'Other developments were to provide a much-needed new building for Queensland State Archives in the early 1990s, and the extremely successful OPAL project, which has been going since 1997, and now provides computer and internet access in seventy-five of Queensland public libraries.'

Minister for the Arts Matt Foley said that Mr Stephens has made a major contribution to the development of the Queensland public library system. 'Mr Stephens has overseen a critical period in the development of public libraries. In the past thirteen years technology and its effects have unleashed many changes throughout society. Libraries have responded magnificently, becoming centres of community influence and information throughout the State,' said Minister Foley.



*Des Stephens, retiring state librarian of Queensland*

The procedure to find Mr Stephens' replacement will commence soon. The library is seeking a wide candidate pool to ensure they have the best possible leader in this decisive phase of the State Library's development. ■

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