

Defence Minister launches the Defence Library Service Portal: a virtual library at your desktop

Teresa Giuca, Defence Library Service

The Minister for Defence, Peter Reith, launched the Defence Library Service Portal at HMAS Cerberus in Victoria on 13 August 2001. At the launch, the Minister said, 'Defence's needs for current and accurate internal and external information is complex and dynamic. The [Defence Library Service (DLS)] Portal's research information – much of it in full-text and online learning capabilities — will help maintain the professional knowledge and skills of our people.'

The Defence Library Service Portal is the new Corporate Services and Infrastructure Group development within the Defence intranet. The portal was designed and implemented by DLS-

ElectronicLink in collaboration with Wizard Software Engineering, a Canberra based IT company. In recent months significant new content has been added including full-text services. This was a collective effort by all library staff Australia-wide and represents the areas researched for our client groups.

The portal utilises the latest technology to provide one-stop desktop access to current and authoritative electronic information services to Defence personnel. It includes:

- simple, convenient access to defence-specific electronic and print-based information including full-text journals, Jane's publications, Australian Standards, links to specialised websites and international reference sites;
- direct access to Defence Library Service staff, catalogue and research services which includes the ability to directly access the online reference help desk;
- the ability to personalise, customise and capture clients research; and
- twenty-four hour accessibility.

The portal is an 'information gateway' that will enable access to information



Teresa Giuca, acting director Defence Library Service and Minister for Defence, Peter Reith.

anywhere at anytime via the Defence intranet. Throughout regional bases the portal will provide access to library services regardless of their proximity to a Department of Defence library. This contributes to a new standardised service to clients irrespective of where they are located. It supports preserving essential specialist knowledge and skills in regional Defence establishments, as demonstrated by the launch at HMAS Cerberus.

This is an exciting development for the Department of Defence and places the DLS at the forefront of delivering electronic information, resources and services Australia-wide to defence personnel.

If you are interested in finding out more about the DLS Portal please contact me: Teresa Giuca, Defence Library Service, phone 02 6265 5682, fax 02 6265 3935, or e-mail Teresa.Giuca@cbr.defence.gov.au. ■

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