

LIS sector watch

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This new column is aimed at keeping you up-to-date with reports and legislation relating to the sector

Australian Social Trends 2004

Australian Bureau of Statistics, ABS 4102.0

Australian Social Trends provides statistical information on social issues and describes the changing trends over time. The core areas of social concern are population, family and community, health, education and training, work, economic resources and housing. There is also a chapter on other areas of social concerns including overseas travel and recent world events, environmental concerns and related activities, religious affiliation and activity, and women in prison.

Evidence-based practice for information professionals: A handbook

London: Facet Publishing, 2004,

1 85604 471 8, Andrew Booth and Anne Brice

The authors have adapted evidence-based practice, which originated in the healthcare sector, to the library and information sector. The handbook discusses how evidence-based practice can be used in problem solving, decision making and improving service.

Age Discrimination Bill 2003

The Bill prohibits discrimination on the basis of age in key areas of public life including employment, education, and access to goods, services and facilities. It is intended that the Bill will promote a change in people's attitudes about the contributions of younger and older people to society. The Bill received Royal Assent on 23 June 2004. The commencement date is 24 June 2004.

Cultural funding by government, Australia

Australian Bureau of Statistics, 4183.0

The publication contains estimates of Australian public funding for arts and cultural activities, including libraries, between the years 2000-01 to 2002-03. Information is provided on the changes over time, funding per person, recurrent and capital expenditure and funding by level of government.

Culturally diverse communities and the public library: a review of NSW public library multicultural services

Cultural Perspectives Pty Ltd for the Library Council of New South Wales,
<http://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/pls/publications/pdi/multicultural2004.pdf>.

It reports on research into current multicultural library services, library visitor needs and opportunities for wider engagement of non-English speaking background audiences.

Public Library Network Research Program

<http://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/pln/projects.cfm>

A research project of the Public Library Network Research Program (PLN) is

exploring the impact of NSW Government electronic service delivery on NSW public libraries. The PLN was established in July 2002 to inform the promotion, planning, development and review of the NSW Public Library Network, including the State Library with quality research and evaluation. The first phase, a review of e-initiatives and their current and potential impact on public libraries, has been completed.

Crimes Legislation Amendment (Telecommunications Offences and Other Measures) Bill 2004

This legislation will make the use of the internet to access, transmit or make available child pornography punishable by ten years jail. The new offences targeting child sex abuse are part of a package of new and revised telecommunications-related offences that address a range of issues which have arisen in today's telecommunications environment. The Bill was introduced in the Senate on 24 June 2004 and is still before Parliament.

Reading at risk: a survey of literary reading in America

(US) National Endowment for the Arts survey,
<http://www.nea.gov/pub/ReadingAtRisk.html>

The survey found a dramatic decline in literary reading with fewer than half of American adults now reading literature. The steepest rates of decline in literary reading was recorded in the youngest age groups, those aged 18 to 24. The survey was conducted in 2002 and these results were compared with similar surveys carried out in 1982 and 1992. The survey studied the correlations between literary reading and demographic groups such as age, gender, education, family income, ethnic groups, as well as lifestyle.

Connecting government: whole of government responses to Australia's priority challenges

Management Advisory Committee's Report N° 4, April 2004, <http://www.apsc.gov.au/mac/connectinggovernment.htm>.

This report is about public administration of the future. It offers links and connections to the global community of ideas, knowledge and understanding essential for the Australian Public Service to face the governance challenges of the 21st century. One of the challenges identified in the report is information management and infrastructure. It concludes that better information sharing between government agencies and the private sector can only be achieved through structured approaches to the collection, reuse and sharing of data and information. ■



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