The Australian Digital Theses program takes young researchers to the world

DSTC selected to expand database of research theses and dissertations

A national initiative to create an online directory of all research theses and dissertations from Australian universities will be made possible through an upgrade and expansion of the Australian Digital Theses Program (ADT) [http://adt.caul.edu.au/].

The ADT's repository will expand to provide an index to all Australian higher degree theses, whether in digital form or not, no matter when or where they were awarded. The project complements the ADT's existing program, which currently provides links to the full-text of more than 2600 selected theses, to expand and enhance access to Australian research theses and dissertations.

DSTC Pty Ltd has been chosen by the ADT Technical Committee as the preferred software supplier to underpin the ADT Expansion and Redevelopment Project. The software chosen is MetaSuite, developed by DSTC to create and manage Dublin Core and AGLS metadata, and build websites based on metadata.

Welcoming the announcement, the Chair of the ADT Policy Reference Group, Dr Alex Byrne, said: 'This project will multiply the benefits of the Australian Digital Theses Program by enabling the work of even more Australian researchers to be available worldwide. We already know that many have benefited through offers of jobs and opportunities for research collaboration as a result of their theses being available via the existing ADT.'

The ADT Expansion and Redevelopment Project has been funded by the Department of Education, Science and Training (DEST) through the Australian Research Information Infrastructure Committee (ARIIC) program, part of the Australian Government's initiative, Backing Australia's Ability. Partners in the project are the University of New South Wales; Curtin University of Technology; the University of Melbourne; University of Technology, Sydney; the University of Queensland; and ProQuest Information and Learning. ■

Improving resource sharing

After a series of national meetings and discussions, the National Library of Australia established the National Resource Sharing Working Group (NRSWG) and the National Resource Sharing Policy Committee (NRSPC) to support the development of a national interlending infrastructure. After five years the groups have reviewed their achievements at a final meeting on 30 July and considered the issues which should be addressed to achieve improvements in resource sharing. ALIA has been a very important part of the NRSPC.

The Group has led on many issues which have improved the efficiency of interlending in Australia, including the issuing of the Australian *ILRS Code* (launched in 2001, see http://alia.org.au/interlibrary.lending/ilrs.code.html) with wide acceptance, a national interlending benchmarking study, training programs and conferences and seminars to discuss a variety of models for improved access to resources for end users. The final meeting included discussions based on specific papers, a paper summarising the achievements of the group, key issues and trends, the ARCLAP study, the work of the Australian Library Collections Task Force and perspectives from all library sectors.

Representatives from all library sectors — university, special, health, law, TAFE, public, state and national libraries — attended the final meeting. Key issues raised for further action include a review of the Australian *ILRS Code*, development of an up-to-date manual, performance indicators and benchmarking, new models for interlending based on consortia groups and sharing of research on end-user projects. Papers from the meeting and a summary of discussions and agreed actions can be found at http://www.nla.gov.au/initiatives/nrswg/finalforum.html.

Roxanne Missingham, National Resource Sharing Working Group

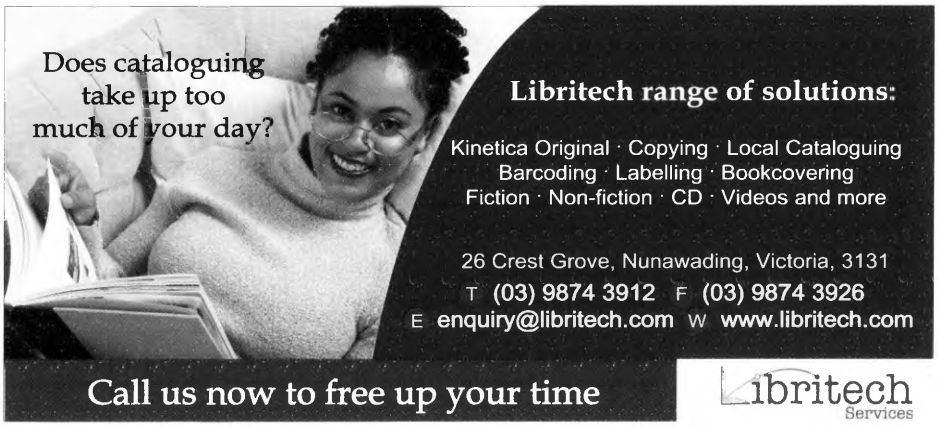
Research Exchange and Partnership (REAP)

Is your library and information service seeking to deliver a more interactive service to clients through its web interface? REAP and ALIA e-prints can help you find out how others have approached this challenge and how you might achieve it.

In *Service Please! Rethinking public library websites*, Ian Hildebrand examines some of the issues public libraries need to consider in order to better use the web to provide interactive, real-time online services.

Deidre Lowe and Alison Hunter describe, in their paper *Will they goggle if we look like Google?*, how the University of Southern Queensland library moved from a traditional static home page to an interactive one.

Access to both these articles is available through ALIA's e-prints repository http://e-prints.alia.org.au.

ALIA e-prints complements traditional publication routes and aims to increase the visibility and accessibility of research work in the sector. Through the e-prints repository you can share information with your colleagues about projects you are working on and innovations in your library or information service.

For more information about REAP and ALIA e-prints: marie.murphy@alia.org.au. ■