

ALIA Sector Watch

Nada Anderson, research officer

Informing Tasmanians. Tasmania. Department of Education

<http://www.education.tas.gov.au/informingtasmanians>

The Tasmanian Government has recently released its information policy entitled *Informing Tasmanians*. *Informing Tasmanians* will contribute to the Tasmanian public having full and equitable access to a wide range of information resources, services and technologies, together with opportunities for training and support in using them. Tasmanians should be able to access information from any part of the world, as they choose and as is most appropriate for their needs. The network of public information access points include libraries, Online Access Centres, Service Tasmania shops and cultural/heritage institutions. Enhanced access to public information will support the capacity of Tasmanians to make informed decisions about all aspects of their lives — personal, business, professional and community — and to participate more

fully in public decision-making at all levels.

Results of analysis of trends in public libraries, 1990–2002

US National Commission on Libraries and Information Science
<http://www.nclis.gov/statsurv/NCES/plu/trends/trendresults.html>

The US National Commission on Libraries and Information Science (NC-LIS) has announced the beginning of an examination of trends affecting public libraries in the United States, using data recently compiled by NCLIS. The recompilation of data from public libraries into longitudinal files allows historical trends to be examined. Public library statistics have been collected to support decision making, budgeting and planning, now the recompiled data can be used to come up with a predictive theory for describing how libraries operate in their environment. This information could be used in improving libraries and similar information agencies.

2004 Information format trends: content, not containers. Online Computer Library Center (OCLC)

<http://www.oclc.org/info/2004trends/nl/>

This report examines how information trends and format innovations have required libraries to manage a much more complex universe of resources. The trends include the unbundling of content from traditional containers, such as books and journals, as well as distribution methods. There is a growing phenomena of content being created, published and shared outside the traditional structure of the library. The report outlines the top trends in content and what they may mean for libraries in the next five years. These trends are the legitimacy of open-source publishing (such as blogs), rapidly expanding economics of e-learning, repurposing of 'old' content for new media and multimedia content as a service for an array of devices. ■

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