

Review of library deposit for Australian government publications

Australian government publications in hard copy are identified and distributed to the National Library of Australia, state libraries and university libraries through the combined Library Deposit and Free Issue Schemes (LDS). The schemes are co-ordinated by the Australian Government Information Management Office (AGIMO), with publications distributed by CanPrint.

In May 2004 AGIMO engaged Sage Consulting to undertake a review of the LDS distribution service. The review was prompted by:

- significant changes in Australian government publishing over the last five years, particularly the strong trend towards publishing online (in many cases exclusively) which reduces the volume of publications for deposit; and
- the withdrawal of two university libraries from the distribution service, citing concerns about the relevance of the majority of deposit material to their collections, duplication with material being received from other sources, and the wide availability of material online.

The aim of the review was to examine the operation of the distribution service and identify:

- whether there is a continuing need to provide a mechanism, such as the current distribution service, to support Australian government agencies to comply with their LDS obligations; and, if so, how such a mechanism might best be administered

and the estimated cost of operation; and

- how agency compliance with the LDS might otherwise be encouraged or supported.

Consultations were held with a range of stakeholders, including the National Library, the Council of Australian State Libraries, the Council of Australian University Librarians and ALIA's Expert Group on Government Publications.

A draft report on the LDS review was produced by the consultant. However, in June 2005 a spokesman for the LDS project in AGIMO said that the report would not be published. The move of AGIMO to the Department of Finance delayed work on the review and the department is waiting to implement some changes in the area covered by the review. AGIMO is currently trying to improve the claiming process for print publications in the LDS scheme run by CanPrint.

The review confirmed that there is a decline in print publishing and an increase in electronic-only publishing from Australian government agencies. AGIMO is working with the National Library to develop plans for the future of a deposit scheme for electronic publishing.

Penny Scott, ALIA Expert Group on Government Publications

Museums Australia national conference, 14–17 May 2006

Exploring dynamics: cities, cultural spaces, communities

Call for papers

Exploring dynamics: cities, cultural spaces, communities will examine the dynamics and priorities that exist both within and outside museum and gallery walls and will ask how these concerns are reflected in strategic thinking and programs. It will endeavour to advance discussion on key tasks of the sector:

- exploring the dynamics of design, cultural space and collections, place and the public
- understanding the social and political drivers and the diversity of our communities
- establishing and sustaining mutually beneficial, creative and profitable collaborations with individuals and organisations.

The 2006 conference will also aim to foster a dialogue on relevance and engagement with a wider world.

Museums Australia invites contributions from individuals and groups within museums, galleries, the wider arts and natural history fields, and beyond to address one of the following sub-themes:

Exploring dynamics: cities

What is a city? Who belongs to a city?

Can we understand the city as a museum or collection? What is the role of art galleries and museums in the life of a city?

Exploring dynamics: cultural spaces

What were and what are our cultural spaces? How do people claim and subvert them? What marks a cultural space?

Exploring dynamics: communities

What do communities want from museums and art galleries? Do we generate social capital or erode it? Do people use or visit us?

Exploring dynamics: remote and regional issues

How can we sustain regional and remote museums and art galleries? What are the strategies, challenges and successes in working with local government, engaging communities and broadening audiences?

Closing date for abstracts:

16 September 2005

Details on preparing and submitting an abstract can be found at <http://www.museumsaustralia.org.au>.

Register your interest for additional conference information at the Museums Australia website. ■

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