

adults struggling with English literacy. Many of the items are non fiction and should have a wide appeal to the broad cross section of the community needing literacy and reading support.

Building partnerships and synergies with educational institutions, community agencies, and businesses is a logical way for public libraries to continue supporting their local communities. Literacy is an important issue for all of us and is an area where public libraries are ideally placed to showcase their resources, services, and programs. Partnerships and synergies give us opportunities to get more out of the resources available to us – staff, time, promotion, good will, and money.

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## Assistance for bi-literacy through AIATSIS

The Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS) Library holds the world's premier collection devoted to Australian Indigenous studies. Teachers and librarians can access resources from the library to facilitate the inclusion of Indigenous perspectives in the curriculum and enhance literacy outcomes for Indigenous Australians. The resources include web resources, subject guides, databases (eg. Australian Education Index- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders subset), readers, teachers notes, kits, and a variety of print resources, including Indigenous education journals. They can be accessed through the AIATSIS website (http:// www.aiatsis.gov.au) or through the Mura® online catalogue (http://mura.aiatsis.gov.au). Any queries can be directed to the Client Services Reference Desk (library@aiatsis.gov.au, 02 6246 1182).

Librarians and teachers have a role in ensuring that their collections include resources related to bi-literacy or bilingual programs. Bi-literacy or bilingual programs involve children learning to read and write in their own languages and then transferring these skills to reading and writing in Standard Australian English (SAE). The Australian Indigenous Languages Collection of the AIATSIS Library holds 3700 titles including picture dictionaries, grammars, and readers in Indigenous Australian languages as well as items in language and English.

There are also a number of publishers as sources of material acquisition for libraries. They all publish items by and about Indigenous Australians. Aboriginal Studies Press (http://www.aiatsis.gov.au/asp/about.html) publishes the *Little Red, Yellow and Black Book*, a resource that provides an entry-point to Indigenous culture and history. It includes online links to teacher's notes, further readings and is freely available from the following web page: http://lryb.aiatsis.gov.au/. When used as a teaching resource, the book introduces almost all areas required for study in secondary Indigenous Studies curricula throughout Australia, as well as large parts of Australian History and studies of society and environment (SOSE). ASP also publish a variety of children's readers dealing with traditional life, kinship, landscape, and cultural knowledge. Some have been written and illustrated by children with the support of their teachers.

Magabala Books (http://www.magabala.com/), based in Broome is Australia's oldest independent Indigenous publishing house. They publish the *Aussie Kids'* board book series, which aims to encourage early childhood literacy. They also publish readers dealing with Indigenous cultural subjects.

Indij Readers (http://www.indijreaders.com.au/) publishes a series of culturally appropriate, contemporary Indigenous classroom readers. It consists of three series, which are made up of readers, teachers' guides, audio CDs, a 10-minute film, and some titles

available in big book format. The readers are significant because the stories have been gathered using extensive consultations with Indigenous Elders and communities. The Teachers' Guides contain many methods for addressing literacy building upon the Indigenous focus, including cultural notes, guided reading lesson plans, and blackline masters.

**IAD Publishing**, is based at the Institute for Aboriginal Development (IAD) in Alice Springs and publishes language dictionaries and learner's guides, books for children and young adults. Each language project produces a comprehensive and detailed language dictionary, as well as basic learners' guides, teaching materials, specialised books, and other reading and audio materials. Their picture dictionaries are an important feature of sustaining, retaining and promoting language and literacy.

The AIATSIS Library and ASP are involved in Indigenous Literacy Day as a means of promoting the types of resources that are available on the subject and to raise money for the Indigenous Literacy Project (ILP). On Indigenous Literacy Day, which this year was held on 2 September, ASP contributes \$5.00 from every copy sold of the Aboriginal Australia map to the ILP, which is an initiative between the Australian Book Industry and The Fred Hollows Foundation. Every school library ought to have one of these maps and if you are considering buying one, this would be the day to do it! For further details on ILD, see http://www. worldwithoutbooks.org/ILD/Index.aspx

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