

MULTICULTURALISM AND DIVERSITY

language anthologies or single-author collections continue to appear each year, and the online periodical *Hontanar* publishes both Australian and international writing in Spanish. AustLit now has detailed records for this Australian material, with links to full-text where available.

AustLit provides nearly complete coverage of separately published Australian literary works, regardless of language of publication. Its records for works in languages other than English that have appeared in periodicals or newspapers are somewhat less comprehensive, but building data in this area remains a goal. For example, the Greek language periodicals *Antipodes* and *O Logos* both feature literary work by established and emerging Greek-Australian writers. AustLit records for these periodicals had previously been patchy, but thanks to work carried out in 2008 by researcher and author Pipina Elles, the most recent issues have been indexed, illustrating some of the diversity of literary activity that takes place in Australia in languages apart from English. Similar work remains to be undertaken for literary periodicals in other languages, including Arabic and Vietnamese. To illustrate, the quarterly literary journal *Kalimat*, published between 2000 and 2006, appeared in alternating English and Arabic issues, aiming to further cross-cultural communication and understanding; AustLit has just begun to index its contents.

Anthologies have been an important means for multicultural writers to reach a wide Australian readership, beginning in the 1970s and continuing today, and another part of my AustLit research is to stay abreast of such publications. One recent collection, *Culture Is...: Australian Stories Across Cultures, An Anthology*, includes works by writers from over thirty cultural backgrounds. With each contribution indexed and details provided for subjects and settings as well as the authors' biographies and links to other publications, readers can follow intriguing or unusual textual trails. For example, a story of a woman whose family fled Iran and came to Australia mentions the significance of her Baha'i faith and the AustLit record, therefore, provides links to other works that relate to Baha'i. Interestingly, three such texts appear in another anthology, *Shoalhaven Voices From Faraway Places*, and AustLit records that these three authors are also Iranian-born and that they became refugees due to religious persecution.

As Australian stories come from around the globe, so too do these stories travel to unexpected places, and tracking overseas published responses to Australian literature is another aspect of my research. To give a brief and closing example, AustLit lists two critical responses to Salvado's memoir: one in *The West Australian* in 2008; the other in a Mexican-based, Spanish language online journal, *Razon y Palabras*, in 2007. One of the co-authors of this latter publication is a University of Queensland academic, born in Mexico, who coincidentally – the AustLit database shows – has also published in *Hontanar*. Providing researchers with these intersections of texts, language, and culture is what AustLit does so well, making it easier than ever to explore the cultural diversity of Australian literature.

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Curtin library supports multiculturalism with an Australian first

Curtin University of Technology has more Indigenous students enrolled than any other Australian university and also has Australia's third largest international student population, so it is imperative that the library supports diversity on campus.

In 2008 Curtin was the first Australian university to launch a Reconciliation Action Plan as part of its commitment to turning good intentions into measurable actions. The Plan was launched by the Hon Fred Chaney, Director of Reconciliation Australia. The library quickly followed by developing its own Reconciliation Action Support Plan (RASP) to help the university achieve its vision.

RASP consists of three programs: Student and Academic Support, Public Programs, and Collaborative Collection Programs. The library is keen that each area has defined actions and targets for measuring outcomes. Actions already undertaken, or planned, include a joint digitisation project to digitise an out-of-print Indigenous language dictionary, a photographic display of Indigenous works, and production of subject guides and a booklet to assist students to make effective use of the library.

The Plan is a living document that will continue to evolve during the library's planning cycles and has already become a template for other areas within the university. It will be registered with Reconciliation Australia for ratification and will be the first such plan for an Australian university library.

Also in 2008 Curtin Library adopted a strategic initiative to further strengthen its Asian Languages Collection which was based on generous donations primarily from the Chinese Embassy, the Japan Foundation, the Korea Research Foundation, and the National Library of Australia.

The collection is focused on three main client groups: students learning the languages, researchers, and international students looking for material in their own language, and – judging by the loans statistics for Chinese novels in particular – awareness of what we have is certainly increasing!

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Storytime

Providing library services across language barriers: Nhulunbuy Community Library and Yirrkala Storytime

Yirrkala Storytime developed from the need to provide library services to the Indigenous population around Nhulunbuy. The town of Nhulunbuy was built in 1971 on Aboriginal land to service the bauxite mine on the remote east coast of Arnhem Land.

Nhulunbuy Community Library is a joint-use high school and community library, managed by the Northern Territory Library. However, although the town is in a region where the majority of the population is Indigenous, almost none of the local Yolngu