

THE IDEAS BOX

Libraries Without Borders and the state libraries of Queensland, Western Australia and South Australia have worked together to bring *The Ideas Box* to vulnerable and isolated communities across Australia. INCITE reports.

The Ideas Box is a portable library and media centre customised to each community. When unfolded, the unit creates a library and media centre with internet access, its own power source, a cinema module, an administration module as well as tablets, laptops, ebooks, games and, of course, books.

Created by French designer Philippe Starck, the Ideas Box is able to be stationed in any area that has a roof and 100 square metres of floor space. It can be easily set up in under 30 minutes. The space created is capable of not only fostering independent learning and creativity, but is also large enough to accommodate classes and tutorials.

Australia's first Ideas Box opened in Mapoon in Far North Queensland on 23 July 2015, where it will stay for six months before relocating to Kowanyama for six months. The books selected by the Mapoon community will be left with them so they can continue to learn and enjoy them after the Ideas Box leaves. In 2016, the program will be introduced to Western Australia's Indigenous communities. It is hoped that this initial run of the Ideas Box will spark the interest of the other Australian states so that its resources can be widely shared throughout the remotest communities so as to maximise access to education and resources in these vulnerable areas.

By giving isolated communities an opportunity to experience these resources it is hoped that their councils will be encouraged to prepare for the provision of ongoing library services in the future. ✨

SEEKING GREAT SCHOOL LIBRARIES

We're looking for great school libraries across Australia. Teacher librarians and school library professionals inspire their students every day of the term and we want to recognise the important services they provide to the school community.

FAIR is partnering with ALIA Schools, the Australian School Library Association, Queensland School Library Association, School Library Association of NSW, School Library Association of South Australia, School Library Association of Victoria and the Western Australian School Library Association to seek out these inspirational places of learning and discovery.

We're seeking libraries that help children and young people find reliable information, use the information effectively, think critically, make informed decisions, work productively with

others, build knowledge and understanding of the world, safely navigate the internet, communicate and share their ideas, and find great reads to meet personal interests and abilities.

Just one nomination will put the library in the running to be named one of Australia's great school libraries, but the more nominations, the better. There will be no first prize – the achievements of every school library that is nominated and endorsed by our panel of school library experts will be celebrated equally.

Nominate now and find out more information about this campaign from the FAIR website: fair.alia.org.au.

Follow the fun on Facebook – facebook.com/joinfair – and follow the #GreatSchoolLibraries hashtag on Twitter. ✨

HEAD IN THE CLOUDS

Courts, copyright law, company law, constitutional law and clouds? No, it's not a cryptic crossword clue, it is information that can be found in a tag cloud.

BARBARA WAHA and KAREN RANDALL from the University of the Sunshine Coast (USC) Library tell us more.

Barbara Waha, the Reference Librarian at USC Library, recently initiated the implementation of tag clouds as additional search tools for finding databases on a specific topic. Embedding this search tool into the database list for the different disciplines areas allows quick access to the tag cloud.

We can use the School of Law as an example:

Tags encompassing the key concepts in law that students would search for were created in collaboration with the Faculty Librarian Law, Karen Randall. This used an external tag cloud generator and was embedded into the database list. It enables students to select a key concept, such as copyright law, to obtain a list of databases containing related information. They also have the option to suggest key concepts for inclusion.

With this search tool, students are encouraged to use databases more effectively for finding information and to enhance their learning experience. USC students do not have their heads in the clouds; they use tag clouds to find relevant information in databases. ✨

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