AUSTRALIAN PUBLIC LIBRARIES STATISTICAL REPORT 2007 - 2008

Final Report

Compiled by Public Library Services

State Library of Queensland

September 2009

Foreword

The National Library and the State and Territory libraries throughout Australia are represented by the peak body, National & State Libraries Australasia (NSLA). NSLA members also represent the interests of the public library networks within their States and Territories. The public library network, represented by 1,515 public library service points across Australia, provides information, collections and services to meet the information needs of the general public including those of diverse user groups. While the ongoing demands for print and audio media continue to be met, the public library network is assisting to break down the digital divide through increasing the scope and availability of digital materials, equipment and associated training.

The Australian Public Libraries Statistical Survey is a NSLA project that identifies and measures the usage and activities of Australia's public library services. The survey highlights the range of services provided by public libraries across the National, State and Territory libraries. NSLA publishes national public library statistics on a regular basis, and highlights are accessible at http://www.nsla.org.au/

September 2009

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1 Selected National Statistics 2007 - 2008

Australia's public libraries provide quality information services that support lifelong learning to the Australian community, significantly impacting on the cultural and information industry.

Access to services is provided through a network of 1,515 public library service points (1,437 fixed point libraries and 78 mobile libraries) throughout Australia, one service point for every 14,107 persons. Over 67% of public libraries are open for more than 30 hours each week, with more than 31% of libraries being open more than 45 hours per week.

Over the five year period usage of libraries has increased to 177 million items being lent to the 9.9 million members of Australia's public libraries. Over 109 million visits by customers were recorded in 2007-2008 (9.1 million visits per month), with customer visits per head of population increasing from 4.74 to 5.13 in the five year period.[1]

Library services were delivered by 8,551 (FTE) staff employed in Australian Public libraries and library collections of more than 40 million items (1.9 items per person) were made available for the use of the community. Over $108 million was spent on ensuring that these collections remain up to date and relevant.

Public libraries have continued to support the ever growing demand for access to information technology and resources, with an overall increase in the number of public access Internet terminals. A total of 7,821 terminals provide Internet access, and in addition a further 1,566 public access computer terminals were provided for word processing, CD-ROM use etc.

Total expenditure on public libraries has increased from $651 million in 2003-2004 to $830 million in 2007-08, representing a 28% increase. Expressed on a per capita basis, funding for public libraries has increased by 20% over the same period to $38.86.

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[1] Western Australia reported visitor figures for the first time in 2005-2006.

Table 1 – Services

	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Total loans	176,275,147	176,409,857	178,740,362	182,934,975	177,428,161
Loans per capita	8.8	8.7	8.7	8.7	8.3
Reported information enquiries	8,728,814	9,211,093	10,194,879	9,737,346	6,901,137
Information enquiries per 1,000 persons[2]	478	453	495	463	322
Internet terminals per 10,000 persons	2.7	3.0	3.3	3.6	3.7

Table 2 – Customers

	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Customers	95,221,932	95,145,429	108,124,046	111,738,333	109,607,524
Customers per month	7,935,161	7,928,786	9,010,337	9,311,528	9,133,960
Customer visits per capita	4.74	4.68	5.25	5.32	5.13
Registered Library Members	9,918,540	10,033,152	9,903,233	9,882,493	9,900,252
Members as a percentage of total population	49%	49%	48%	47%	46%
Percentage Adult Members	81%	82%	83%	83%	82%
Percentage Junior Members	19%	18%	17%	17%	18%

[2] South Australia and Victoria unable to supply data

Table 3 – Collections & Resources

	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Total number of library materials	39,318,951	40,031,892	40,462,313	40,033,893	40,306,255
Total number of Public Access Internet terminals[3]	5,301	5,965	6,456	7,142	7,821
Number of Public Access Computers for Word Processing etc	978	1,154	1,628	1,418	1,566
Library materials per capita	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.9	1.9
Total library materials expenditure	$93.34m	$99.01m	$104.36m	$105.46m	$108.31m
Library materials expenditure per capita	$4.64	$4.87	$5.07	$5.02	$5.07
Average percentage of resources purchased in last 5 years[4]	47.1%	47.6%	47.4%	52.2%	49.6%

[3] Large increase partly due to Tasmania including Online Access Centre terminals since 2006-07

[4] This measure is not an overall national percentage, rather an average of the available figures from the states and territories that report this measure. It has not been reported consistently during the 5 year period.

Table 4 – Service Points

	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Number of Service Points (including each mobile library[5] as a single service point)	1,503	1,487	1,522	1,513	1,515
Population served per service point	13,379	13,669	13,537	13,890	14,107
Service Points per 100,000 persons	7.5	7.3	7.4	7.2	7.1
Libraries open more than 45 hrs per week[6]	30%	30%	31%	30%	31%
Libraries open 30 to 44 hrs per week	39%	39%	38%	38%	37%
Libraries open 10 to 29 hrs per week	23%	23%	23%	24%	25%
Libraries open less than 10 hrs per week	8%	8%	8%	8%	7%
Percentage of service points with Internet terminals[7]	74%	87%	91%	92%	94%

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[5] 78 mobile libraries visit 1,093 locations.

[6] Victoria is unable to provide the range of opening hours and has been excluded from the percentage measures.

[7] Percentages for 2003-04 do not accurately reflect the national average. NSW was only able to supply individual Library Service details for these years, resulting in a very low percentage being recorded. Since 2004-2005 the national figure has been adjusted to reflect the correct NSW figure.

Table 5 – Staff

	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Total Staff (full time equivalent)	7,735	7,922	8,107	8,269	8551
Population served per staff member	2,600	2,566	2,541	2,542	2,317
Staff members (FTE) per 10,000 persons.	3.85	3.90	3.94	3.93	3.51
Loans per full-time equivalent staff member	22,790	22,269	22,047	22,124	23,649

Table 6 – Expenditure (including the purchase of library materials)

	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Total Expenditure on Public Library Services	$651.01m	$694.12m	$743.19m	$757.57m	$830.45
Total Public Library expenditure per capita	$32.37	$34.15	$36.07	$36.05	$38.86

2 Comparative Data

2.1 Items lent

Overall, lending from libraries has increased by 0.7% over the past five years, with a significant 3.0% decrease from the previous year. The strongest growth was achieved in the ACT (18.5% increase), with Victoria experiencing a 6.8% decline in the same period. Smaller declines were reported by Western Australia (-1.7%) and Queensland (-1.3%).
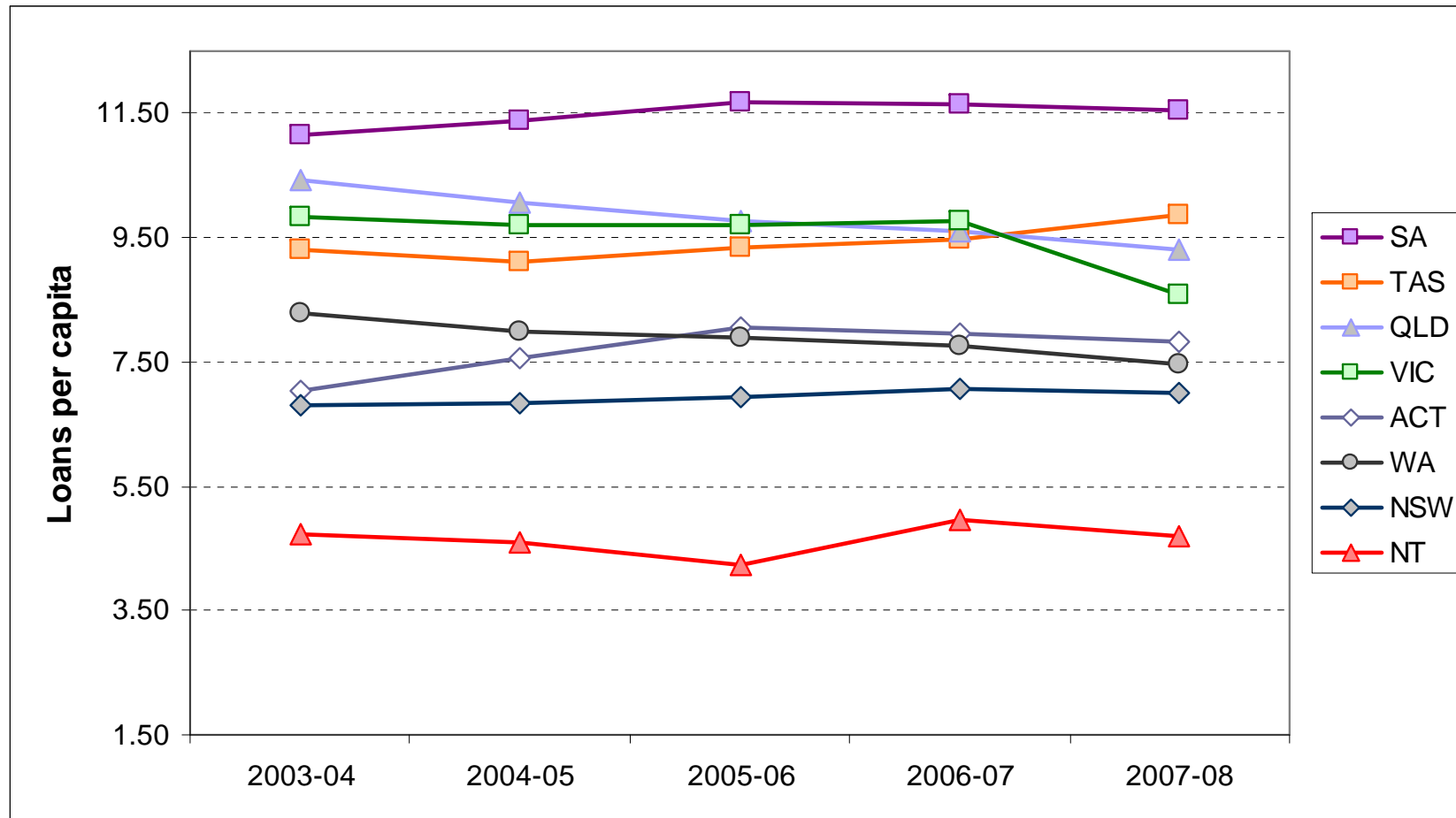
Table 7 – Total items lent

	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	Australia
2003-04	2,274,116	45,777,024	946,790	40,411,410	17,086,189	4,493,263	48,843,028	16,443,327	**176,275,147**
2004-05	2,453,143	46,335,942	932,982	39,930,225	17,562,163	4,420,969	48,743,783	16,030,650	**176,409,857**
2005-06	2,648,366	47,317,223	875,876	39,577,161	18,139,631	4,565,061	49,454,767	16,162,277	**178,740,362**
2006-07	2,701,306	48,664,526	1,068,102	40,168,087	18,434,372	4,666,366	50,891,985	16,340,231	**182,934,975**
2007-08	2,695,495	48,753,212	1,031,724	39,869,017	18,496,186	4,917,095	45,505,301	16,160,131	**177,428,161**
Change over 5 year period	18.5%	6.5%	9.0%	-1.3%	8.3%	9.4%	-6.8%	-1.7%	0.7%
Change to previous year	-0.2%	0.2%	-3.4%	-0.7%	0.3%	5.4%	-10.6%	-1.1%	-3.0%
% of national	1.5%	27.5%	0.6%	22.5%	10.4%	2.8%	25.6%	9.1%	100.0%

Table 8 – Items lent per capita

Over the past five years the overall Australian total for loans per capita has declined significantly (-5.3%), though the greatest reductions have been recorded in Victoria (-12.5%), Queensland (-10.5%) and Western Australia (-9.9%). South Australia continues to report the highest loans per capita (11.55), with Queensland, Tasmania and Victoria above the national average of 8.30.

	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	Australia
2003-04	7.02	6.80	4.74	10.41	11.14	9.32	9.82	8.30	**8.77**
2004-05	7.54	6.84	4.60	10.07	11.39	9.11	9.71	7.98	**8.68**
2005-06	8.05	6.93	4.24	9.76	11.67	9.34	9.71	7.88	**8.68**
2006-07	7.95	7.06	4.97	9.60	11.63	9.46	9.78	7.76	**8.71**
2007-08	7.83	7.00	4.69	9.32	11.55	9.87	8.59	7.47	**8.30**
Change over 5 year period	**11.6%**	**2.9%**	**-0.9%**	**-10.5%**	**3.7%**	**5.9%**	**-12.5%**	**-9.9%**	**-5.3%**
Change to previous year	**-1.5%**	**-0.9%**	**-5.6%**	**-0.3%**	**-0.7%**	**4.3%**	**-12.1%**	**-3.7%**	**-4.6%**

Figure 1 – Items lent per capita

2.2 Expenditure on Public Library Services

Total expenditure on public libraries has grown significantly over the past five years, with an overall increase of 28% bringing the Australian total to over $828 million. The largest increases were recorded in Victoria (41%) and Western Australia (34%). Funding decreases have occurred in both the Australian Capital Territory (-27%) and the Northern Territory (-25%).

Table 9 – Expenditure on Public Library Services (including the purchase of library materials)

	ACT[8]	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	Australia
2003-04	$13.97m	$224.89m	$5.36m	$133.45m	$52.82m	$13.35m	$135.30m	$71.87m	**$651.01m**
2004-05	$13.97m	$240.51m	$6.27m	$139.67m	$57.55m	$13.52m	$144.93m	$77.71m	**$694.12m**
2005-06	$14.89m	$256.42m	$6.43m	$156.58m	$60.73m	$15.18m	$144.73m	$88.26m	**$743.19m**
2006-07	$11.59m	$269.52m	$5.69m	$155.07m	$64.32m	$14.81m	$155.92m	$80.66m	**$757.57m**
2007-08	$10.26m	$282.47m	$3.99m	$165.56m	$66.45m	$15.24m	$190.30m	$96.18m	**$830.45m**
Change over 5 year period	-27%	26%	-25%	24%	26%	14%	41%	34%	28%
Change to previous year	-11%	5%	-30%	7%	0%	3%	22%	19%	9%

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[8] Reported funding increases in the ACT during the 5 year period are due to the construction of a new library, including additional funding for collections.
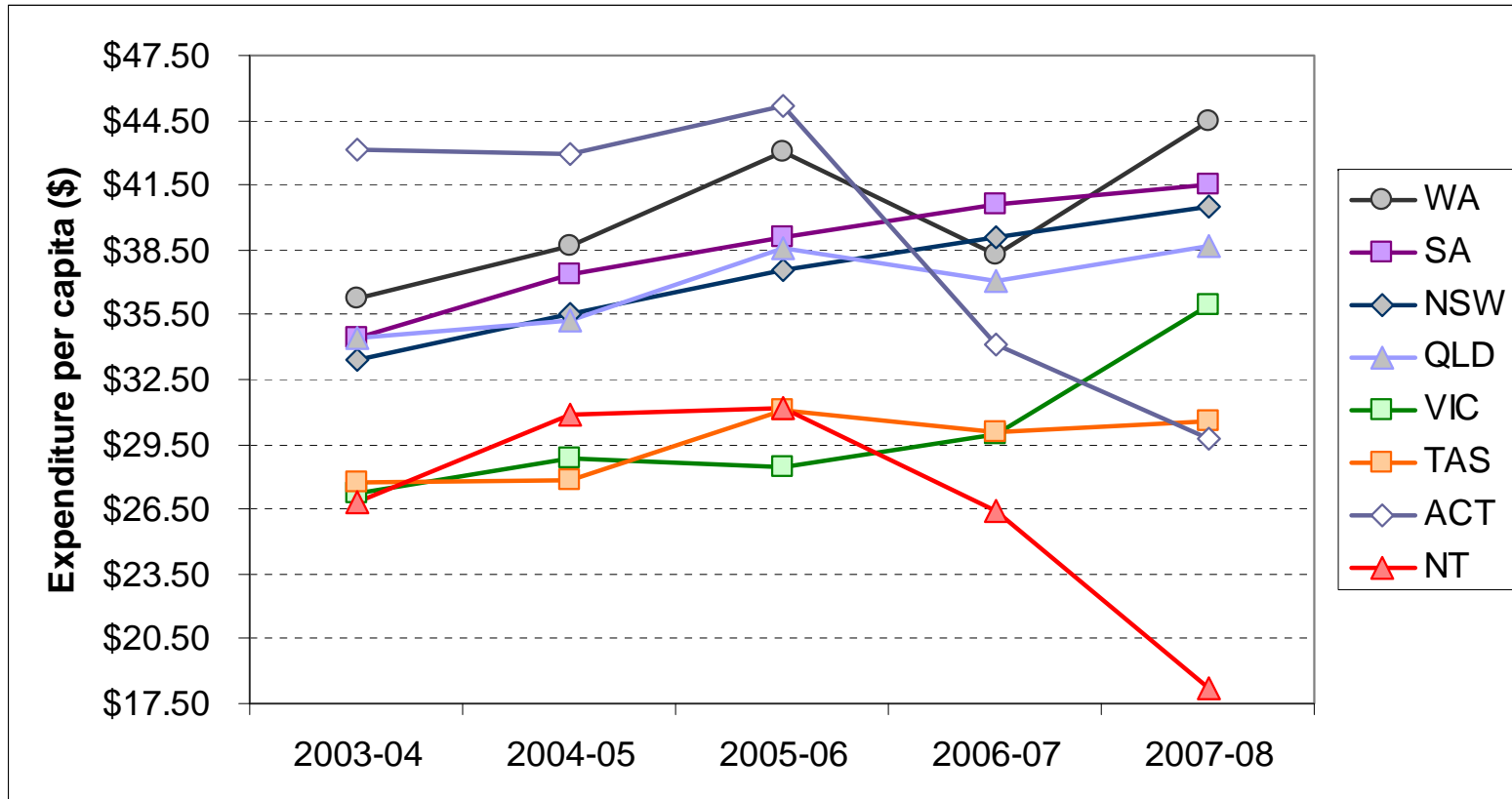
Total expenditure per capita across Australia has grown by 20% to $38.86. Western Australia has the highest expenditure per capita of $44.46, while the lowest figure of $18.16 is recorded in the Northern Territory.

Table 10 – Total Expenditure per capita (including the purchase of library materials)

	ACT[9]	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	Australia
2003-04	$43.12	$33.41	$26.82	$34.38	$34.43	$27.70	$27.21	$36.26	**$32.37**
2004-05	$42.92	$35.50	$30.91	$35.23	$37.32	$27.85	$28.86	$38.66	**$34.15**
2005-06	$45.22	$37.56	$31.14	$38.63	$39.06	$31.05	$28.43	$43.02	**$36.07**
2006-07	$34.09	$39.12	$26.44	$37.08	$40.59	$30.02	$29.95	$38.30	**$36.05**
2007-08	$29.81	$40.54	$18.16	$38.69	$41.49	$30.58	$35.92	$44.46	**$38.86**
Change over 5 year period	-31%	21%	-32%	13%	21%	10%	32%	23%	20%
Change to previous year	-13%	4%	-31%	4%	2%	2%	20%	16%	8%

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[9] Reported increases during the 5 year period due to construction of a new library, including additional funding for collections.

Figure 2 – Expenditure on Public Library Services per capita (including the purchase of library materials)

2.3 Expenditure on Library Materials

Expenditure on library materials has grown by 16% over the five year period from 2003-04 to 2007-08, with all states and territories recording increases. South Australia and Victoria both recorded increases of over 20%.

Table 11 – Expenditure on Library Materials

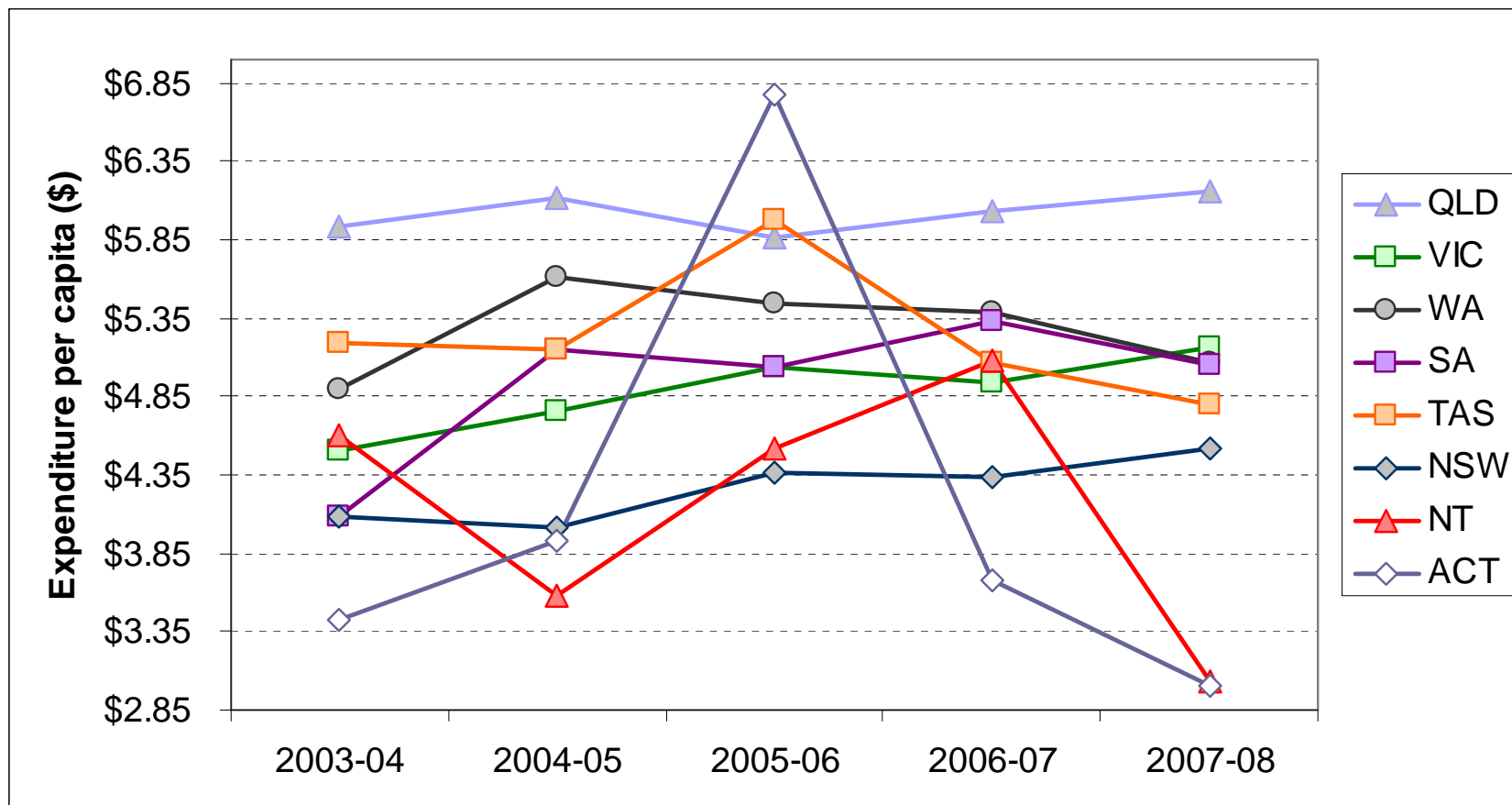|	ACT[10]	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	Australia
2003-04	$1.11m	$27.45m	$0.92m	$23.03m	$6.26m	$2.50m	$22.37m	$9.69m	**$93.34m**
2004-05	$1.30m	$27.17m	$0.73m	$24.23m	$7.93m	$2.50m	$23.91m	$11.28m	**$99.01m**
2005-06	$2.23m	$29.84m	$0.93m	$23.77m	$7.83m	$2.92m	$25.66m	$11.17m	**$104.38m**
2006-07	$1.25m	$29.84m	$1.09m	$25.25m	$8.45m	$2.50m	$25.72m	$11.35m	**$105.46m**
2007-08	$1.03m	$31.48m	$0.67m	$26.36m	$8.09m	$2.39m	$27.36m	$10.96m	**$108.31m**
Change over 5 year period	-7%	15%	-28%	14%	29%	-4%	22%	13%	16%
Change to previous year	-18%	5%	-39%	4%	-4%	-4%	6%	-4%	3%

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[10] For the ACT, additional funding allocated in 2005/06 for library materials in conjunction with construction of a new library. A corresponding fall in per capita terms is reflected in Table 12.

Per capita expenditure on library materials also increased by 9% over the same period, with South Australia, Victoria and New South Wales recording increases above the national average. The highest increase recorded in South Australia (24%).

Table 12 – Expenditure on Library materials per capita

	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	Australia
2003-04	$3.43	$4.08	$4.60	$5.93	$4.08	$5.18	$4.50	$4.89	**$4.64**
2004-05	$3.92	$4.01	$3.58	$6.11	$5.14	$5.15	$4.76	$5.61	**$4.87**
2005-06	$6.77	$4.37	$4.52	$5.86	$5.04	$5.97	$5.04	$5.45	**$5.07**
2006-07	$3.68	$4.33	$5.07	$6.04	$5.33	$5.07	$4.94	$5.39	**$5.02**
2007-08	$3.00	$4.52	$3.03	$6.15	$5.05	$4.80	$5.17	$5.06	**$5.07**
Change over 5 year period	-12%	11%	-34%	4%	24%	-7%	15%	4%	9%
Change to previous year	-19%	4%	-40%	2%	-5%	-5%	5%	-6%	1%

Figure 3 – Expenditure on Library Materials per capita

2.4 Expenditure on Electronic Resources

2007-2008 represents the third year that expenditure on Electronic Resources has been listed as a separate measure. Victoria was unable to provide any data for this year. Inconsistent reporting of this figure makes comparisons difficult.

Expressed as a percentage of total collection expenditure, the Australian Capital Territory allocated the highest proportion of funds to electronic resources at 20%, with New South Wales and South Australia the least at 3%.

Table 13– Expenditure on Electronic Resources[11]

	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD[12]	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	Australia
2005-06	$173,358	$596,287	$152,442	$240,466	$198,415	$156,730	$845,754	$360,932	**$2,724,384**
2006-07	$233,804	$691,568	$71,000	$1,205,766	$266,526	$226,483	$1,005,806	$509,811	**$4,210,764**
2007-08	$202,601	$816,900	$73,000	$1,555,754	$227,145	$240,884	n/a	$598,315	**$3,714,599**
Per capita	$0.59	$0.12	$0.33	$0.36	$0.14	$0.48	n/a	$0.28	**$0.23**
Change to previous	-13%	18%	3%	29%	-15%	6%	n/a	17%	**16%**
%'age of Collection Expenditure	20%	3%	11%	6%	3%	10%	n/a	5%	**5%**

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[11] Victoria has been excluded from the per capita, change to previous and percentage of collection expenditure measures.

[12] Queensland figure includes $410,704 for state wide consortium purchasing.

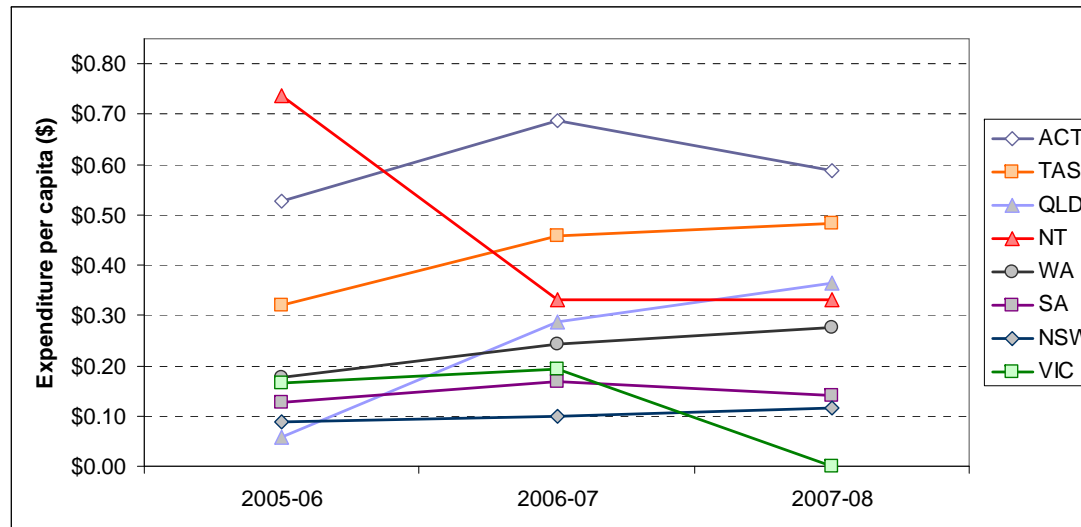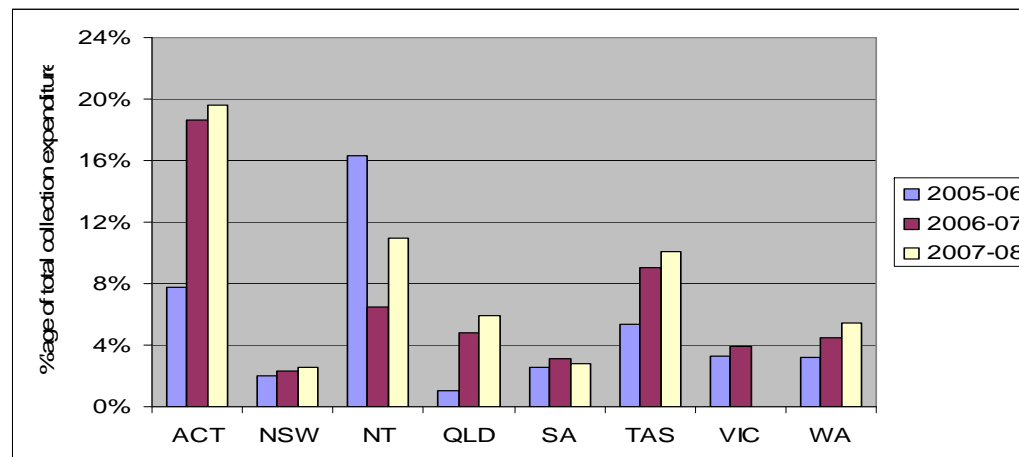# Figure 4 – Expenditure on Electronic Resources per capita

Figure 5 – Expenditure on Electronic Resources as percent of total collection expenditure

2.5 Public Access Internet Terminals

The number of public access Internet terminals provided nationally has continued to grow, with 7,821 available, an increase of 46% since 2003-2004. News South Wales has the largest number of terminals at 2,414 followed by Victoria at 1,630.

Table 14 – Total Public Access Internet Terminals provided in Australian Public Libraries (including mobile libraries)

	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS[13]	VIC	WA	Australia
2003-04	72	1,773	70	976	586	173	1,154	570	**5,374**
2004-05	77	1,963	122	1,194	628	192	1,251	630	**6,057**
2005-06	72	2,082	133	1,388	636	424	1,354	676	**6,765**
2006-07	72	2,216	96	1,781	685	462	1,476	736	**7,524**
2007-08	60	2,414	61	1,615	746	484	1,630	811	**7,821**
Change over 5 year period	**-17%**	**36%**	**-13%**	**65%**	**27%**	**180%**	**41%**	**42%**	**46%**
Change to previous year	**-17%**	**9%**	**-36%**	**-9%**	**9%**	**5%**	**10%**	**10%**	**4%**

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[13] Tasmania's figures have been revised since the 2005-06 bulletin to include co-located access centres which have been integrated into the public library network. The changes to the overall national figures since 2003-04 have been revised accordingly.
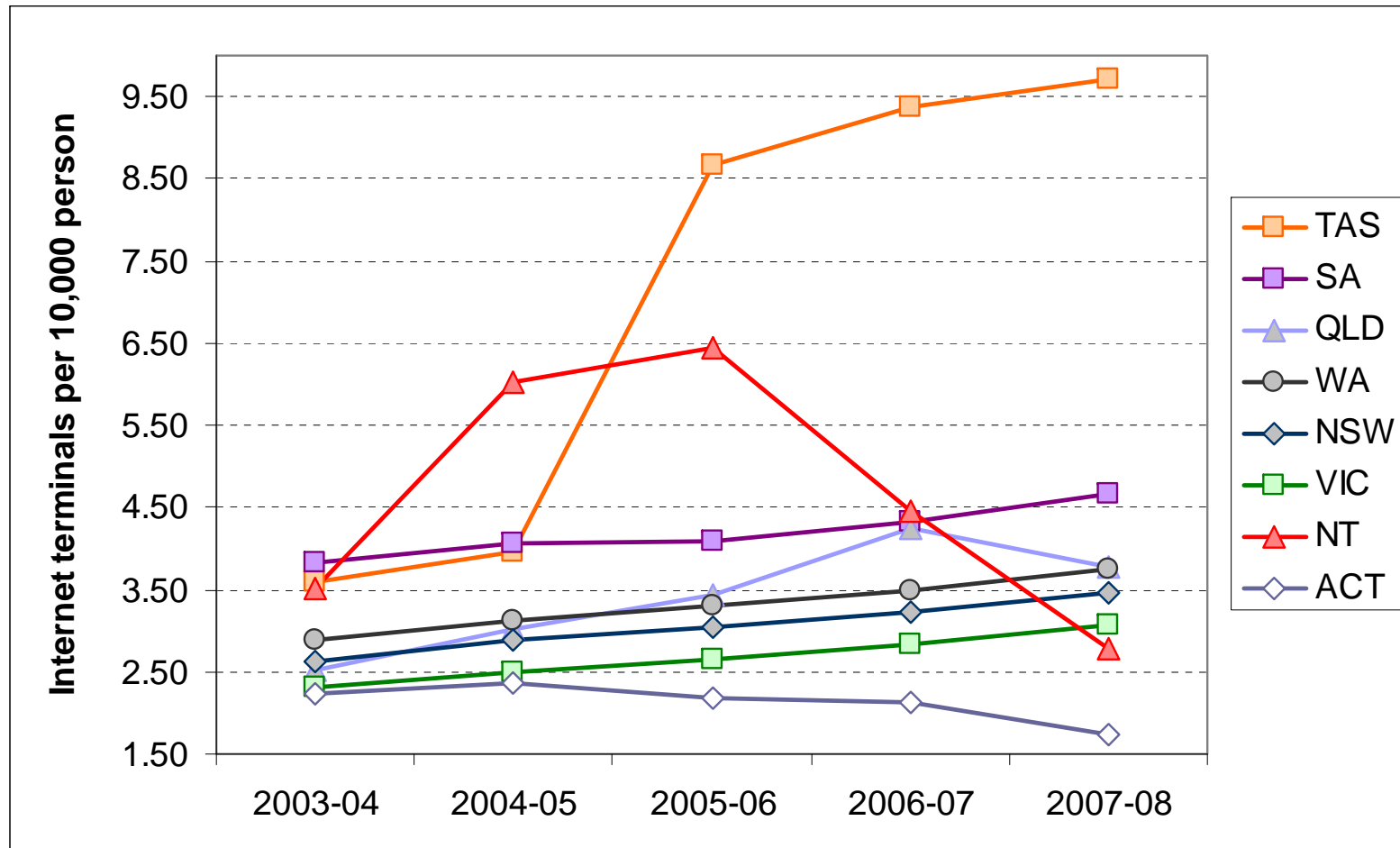
Expressed as the number of public access terminals per 10,000 persons the national total is 3.66, an increase of 37% over the same period. Only the Australian Capital Territory (-22%) and the Northern Territory (-22%) experienced declines during the period.

Table 15 – Public Access Internet terminals per 10,000 persons[14]

	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	Australia
2003-04	2.22	2.63	3.50	2.51	3.82	3.59	2.32	2.88	**2.67**
2004-05	2.37	2.90	6.02	3.04	4.07	3.96	2.49	3.13	**2.98**
2005-06	2.19	3.05	6.43	3.42	4.09	8.67	2.66	3.30	**3.28**
2006-07	2.12	3.22	4.47	4.26	4.32	9.37	2.84	3.50	**3.58**
2007-08	1.74	3.46	2.77	3.77	4.66	9.71	3.08	3.75	**3.66**
Change over 5 year period	**-22%**	**32%**	**-21%**	**50%**	**22%**	**171%**	**33%**	**30%**	**37%**
Change to previous year	**-18%**	**8%**	**-38%**	**-11%**	**8%**	**4%**	**9%**	**7%**	**2%**

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[14] Changes to previously published figures are a result of the revised totals for Tasmania since 2003-04.

Figure 6 – Public Access Internet terminals per 10,000 persons

3 Public Library Services in Australia

Public Library services are delivered by a variety of administrative arrangements. These vary both between and within each State and Territory, ranging from services wholly delivered by the State / Territory through to services wholly delivered by Local Government.

Australian Capital Territory

The Australian Capital Territory is a single administrative entity that combines both State and Local Government functions. Community Service and Information within the Department of Territory and Municipal Services is responsible for the delivery of library services to the community and government.

The ACT Library & Information Service (ACTLIS) delivers public library services to the community and also provides specialist information services through the ACT Government and Assembly Library and ACT Heritage Library. Two ACT public library branches are joint use facilities with ACT Department of Education and Training Colleges.

ACTLIS also monitors the delivery of a range of library and information services, including management of library assets, collection and analysis of performance measures, benchmarking services, developing policy and providing advice for government on library and information services.

All libraries are connected to a high speed network enabling access to the Library Management System, the Internet and a range of Information Resources.

New South Wales

Public library services in New South Wales include a mixture of independent (or stand alone) library services operated by a single local government authority and regional libraries where up to 8 local councils have entered into an agreement under the Library Act to provide a combined service. All 152 local councils in NSW have adopted the *Library Act 1939*. A number of councils were subject to amalgamations and/or boundary changes in 2003-04. Please contact Public Library Services for advice on comparing figures before and/ or after these changes.

The State Library of New South Wales is responsible for administering the *Library Act 1939* and *Library Regulation 2005*. Local councils and their library services are autonomous. The State Government funds public library services via an annual subsidy and grants program. The formula for distributing the State Government funds was revised in 2005 and the new *Public Library Funding Strategy* was approved by the Minister for the 2005/06 financial year. For a description of the Strategy go to pages 70-71 of the *Library Council of NSW Annual Report 2006* at: http://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/annual/

The State Library, Public Library Services division provides a range of services to the New South Wales public library network.

Responsibilities include:

- management of the State funding for public libraries, including the annual grants and subsidies programs;
- monitoring public library compliance with the *Library Act 1939* and the *Library Regulation 2005* and providing advice and guidance;
- collecting, collating and distributing public library statistical and other information;
- providing a professional development program for public library staff;
- providing information and advisory services on all aspects of the provision, control and management of public library services;
- managing a research program on behalf of the public library network; and
- providing specialist advice in the areas of evaluation, information services, services to young people and older persons, multicultural services, and library marketing and promotion.

The State Library also provides extensive reference, information and interlending services to NSW public libraries.

Northern Territory

The Northern Territory is unique in the range of services and support provided to public libraries, including those in small and remote Aboriginal communities. The Northern Territory Government, through Northern Territory Library (NTL), provides direct and indirect funding to enable the operation of all Territory public library services.

NTL provides a centralised model of support to the Public Library Network of the NT (PLNT). The PLNT network comprises 32 public libraries of varying sizes, ranging from the Darwin City Council Libraries with 4 branches servicing a population of 73,800 to Peppimenarti a small remote community with a population of 200. In addition, some centralised support services are provided by NTL to a number of secondary schools and college libraries within the Territory.

A Country Borrower Service is operated for those living in small and isolated communities unable to access public libraries. The service is operated in conjunction with the Alice Springs Library in the Red Centre and by NTL in the Top End. The service provides a regular exchange of books and other resources to individuals.

Queensland

In Queensland Local Governments and Indigenous Community Councils offer free library services. The State Library supports these libraries through a strong partnership with Local Government, providing cash grants, support services and collections, access to Queensland wide electronic databases and the operation of the Country Lending Service (CLS) Scheme.

Local Governments operating Independent library services receive cash grants calculated on a weighted per capita formula. The grant is tied to the purchase of library stock with up to 5% being available for the processing of library materials.

Local Governments serving populations of less than 20,000 participate in the Country Lending Service. Under this scheme, State Library provides fully processed book stock in lieu of the above cash grant. This book stock is allocated on the basis of a minimum of one book per capita and is exchanged at the rate of at least 25% per year to ensure freshness of collections.

Indigenous Knowledge Centres offer library services in communities throughout Cape York and the Torres Strait and a further 3 Indigenous Community Councils offer free library services through the Country Lending Service.

The State Library also provides:

- Loans of specialised resources such as community language books and adult literacy materials
- Advisory services, reference services and training on all aspects of public library management
- Distribution Statewide of interlibrary loans
- Facilitation of public library networking and resource sharing

South Australia

There are 140 public libraries in South Australia, representing 69 Local Government Authorities. In the cases where no council exists, the Libraries Board of South Australia provides the full operational subsidy.

Forty-nine of the rural libraries in South Australia are in very small communities. In order to provide appropriate services to these communities, the Libraries Board and the local government authority join with the Department of Education and Children's Services to operate very successful School Community Libraries.

The State Government of South Australia provides funds for the provision of public library services through a five year funding agreement between the State Government and the Local Government Association of South Australia.

The funds allocated to public libraries by the South Australian Government are administered by the Libraries Board of South Australia, under the Libraries Act 1982 and the *Memorandum of Agreement for the Public Library and Community Information.* From these funds, the Libraries Board allocates to libraries an untied operating grant, materials grant, community information grant and the Public Library Services (PLS) budget. The majority of the materials grant is spent through its online e-procurement system, to ensure maximum discounts and efficiencies through economies of scale.

Public Library Services manages the provision of online selection list for libraries to selection from and then manages the acquisitions, cataloguing and distribution of these materials to libraries. Public Library Services also provides free public access to the Internet, on-line

Inter-Library Loans, the state-wide Print disability and LOTE Collections. Staff at Public Library Services undertake a wide range of strategic projects in collaboration with the state's public library network.

Tasmania

The **State Library of Tasmania** provides public library services statewide through a network of seven city libraries, 39 branch libraries (including seven community libraries) and five reference and specialist collections. The network provides all Tasmanian communities with easy access to information to meet their educational, cultural and recreational reading needs.

The State Library's resources include:

- lending and general reference collections
- Tasmaniana and collections of rare and specialist items
- a range of electronic and online information resources.

The libraries are linked by the Tasmanian Automated Library and Information System (TALIS), a statewide, networked and automated catalogue and electronic information service. Eight senior secondary colleges, 170 schools, 13 Institute of TAFE Tasmania libraries, seven community libraries and three agency libraries are also connected to TALIS.

A range of library services are tailored for people with special needs. Resources include large-print books, recorded books, foreign language materials, DVDs, and video and audio formats. These resources are delivered through a volunteer courier system for home library clients and through the integrated library network. Providing people with disabilities with physical access to library services is of major importance.

The Tasmanian Library Advisory Board, the Allport Library and Museum of Fine Arts Management Committee, and the friends groups of particular libraries provide community input into library services. Community groups are supported by providing access to meeting rooms and display areas, and services such as Tasmania Online.

Victoria

There are 44 public library services in Victoria, covering all 79 municipalities. Two types of public library services operate in the State: single service municipalities (30) and regional library corporations (14). Single services are run by their municipalities and are mainly located in metropolitan Melbourne. Regional libraries are two or more councils which have agreed to provide services jointly. Regional library corporations are constituted under the **Local Government Act 1989** and have the same operating and reporting structures as municipal councils. Services to people with print disabilities are provided through the National Information and Library Service, a joint

venture organisation of Royal Victorian Institute for the Blind, Vision Australia Foundation and Royal Blind Society. It is included as a public library service, bringing the total number of public library services in Victoria to 45.

Specific responsibility for public library policy in Victoria rests with the Minister for Local Government who is advised by a Ministerial Advisory Council on Public Libraries. Local Government Victoria, a division of the Department of Planning and Community Development is responsible for administering core public library funding, the collection of public library statistics and benchmarks and regional library corporations legislation, and has as a priority area ongoing networking with public libraries, the State Library of Victoria, and key industry groups.

Under the Libraries Act 1988 the Library Board of Victoria retains the following functions in relation to the wider library network: to oversee cooperation in programs with libraries and information organisations to promote access to library and information resources; to exercise leadership and promote high standards in the provision of library and information services; and to provide advice and information to the Minister on any matter concerning libraries and information organisations. It continues to work collaboratively with the public library network through the coordination by the State Library of Victoria of a range of programs aimed at developing the state-wide provision of library services. These state-wide programs include research projects and business case development; marketing of the public library network; support for the community building role of public libraries; workforce and leadership development initiatives; touring public programs; initiatives to enhance collections and access state-wide.

Western Australia

Public library services in Western Australia are provided through a partnership between the State Government, represented by the Library Board of Western Australia, and local governments. Local governments provide the library building, staff and operating costs, while the Library Board is responsible for acquiring and preparing shelf ready stock delivered to 232 public libraries throughout the State. The Library Board also provides extensive catalogues, indexes, training, consultancy, regional subsidies and back-up services in the form of special collections, information and reference services and inter library loan services.

Library stocks range from less than 1,000 in small country libraries to 60,000 in the largest libraries. The public library stock is treated as an integrated state-wide collection and remains the property of the Library Board of Western Australia. Stock is not allocated to libraries permanently, but is circulated throughout the State on a regular basis. This enables library collections to be constantly refreshed with different stock (new and used) and ensures that collections are not "read out". The State Library acts as a clearinghouse for the circulation of the stock between libraries. Many local governments also provide additional resources to purchase books in demand, journal subscriptions and additional audio-visual resources.

There are 141 local governments in Western Australia, including Christmas Island and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands, operating most of the State's 232 public libraries. In addition some other government and non-government organisations are recognised as "participating bodies" and they provide services to communities and institutions.

4 Data Sources

This statistical report has been compiled on behalf of the National & State Libraries Australasia (NSLA) by Public Library Services, State Library of Queensland using data supplied by the authority responsible for public library services in each State and Territory.

The data used to prepare this report is available from each individual State or Territory authority. Please note that it is difficult to use this data to compare library services with each other due to the significant variations in social and geographic criteria applying from State to State and within each State. These conditions create differing demands and needs which affect the type and scope of public library services provided. Further difficulties in comparing data are caused by the diverse service delivery methods used to provide public library services. It should be noted that the data may vary from that published separately by individual States and Territories.

For further information on the data please contact:

Australian Capital Territory

Manager, ACT Library & Information Service
ACTLIS Administration
Macarthur House
Lyneham ACT 2602

New South Wales

Public Library Services
State Library of New South Wales
Macquarie St
Sydney NSW 2000

Northern Territory

Northern Territory Library
Department of Natural Resources, Environment , The Arts & Sport
GPO Box 42
Darwin NT 0801

Queensland

Public Library Services
State Library of Queensland
PO Box 3488
South Brisbane Qld 4101

South Australia

Public Library Services
State Library of South Australia
8 Milner St
Hindmarsh SA 5007

Tasmania

Public Library Services
State Library of Tasmania
91 Murray Street
Hobart Tasmania 7000

Victoria

Public Libraries Branch
Local Government Victoria
Level 14, 1 Spring Street
Melbourne, VIC 3000
GPO Box 2392V, Melbourne 3001

Western Australia

The State Library of Western Australia
Alexander Library Building
Perth Cultural Centre
Perth WA 6000

5 2007 - 2008 Data & Indicators

2007 - 2008	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	AUSTRALIA
EXPENDITURE									
Expenditure on Public Libraries (excluding library materials and capital purchases)	$9.23m	$249.88m	$3.33m	$134.83m	$54.62m	$12.84m	$162.94m	$85.23m	$712.89m
Total expenditure on Library Materials	$1.03m	$31.48m	$0.67m	$26.36m	$8.09m	$2.39m	$27.36m	$10.95m	$108.31m
Expenditure on Library Materials (excluding Electronic Resources)	$0.83m	$30.66m	$0.59m	$24.78m	$7.86m	$2.15m	$27.36m	$10.35m	$104.60m
Expenditure on Electronic Resources	$0.02m	$0.82m	$0.07m	$1.56m	$0.28m	$0.24m	n/a	$0.60m	$3.71m
State Govt. costs directly related to the delivery of public library services not included above	n/a	$1.11m	n/a	$4.39m	$3.75m	n/a	n/a	n/a	$9.25m
Total Expenditure on Public Library Services	$10.26m	$282.47m	$3.99m	$165.57m	$66.45m	$15.24m	$190.30m	$96.18m	$830.45m
Total State/Territory costs related to the delivery of public library services	$10.26m	$24.64m	$3.16m	$20.02m	$16.79m	$15.24m	$30.30m	$15.35m	$135.75m
State/Territory Funding as a percentage of Public Library Expenditure	100%	9%	79%	12%	25%	100%	16%	16%	16%
Capital Expenditure on Public Libraries (not including library materials)	$0.64m	$24.02m		$22.15m	$5.96m	$0.33m	$15.86m	$8.18m	$77.14m
STAFF									
No of qualified librarians (fte)	30.2	828.5	20.2	366.9	177.2	45.1	554.2	294.9	2,317.3
Total staff (fte)	86.7	2,368.8	86.0	1,397.1	700.1	160.7	2,675.5	1,076.7	8,551.4
LIBRARY MATERIALS									
Total number of library materials	479,503	13,815,667	317,910	8,085,663	3,783,786	734,119	8,775,267	4,314,340	40,306,255
Percentage of collection purchased in previous 5 years	53.2%	54.7%	n/a	62.0%	29.5%	52.5%	50.4%	54.7%	49.6%

2007 - 2008	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	AUSTRALIA
SERVICE POINTS									
No. of fixed point libraries	8	372	32	321	136	46	290	232	1,437
No. of mobile libraries	2	22		19	7		27	1	78
No of service points (including mobile libraries)	10	394	32	340	143	46	317	233	1,515
No. of deposit stations (small unstaffed collections)		74			44				118
No. of locations served by mobile libraries	37	320		330	n/a		402	4	1,093
ACCESSIBILITY – number of libraries by time open for public use									
Service Points open 45 hours or more	8	149	5	74	51	8		76	371
Open 30 - 44 hours		124	4	118	75	7		106	434
Open 10 - 29 hours		109	20	97	7	29		32	294
Open less than 10 hours		12	3	51	2	2		18	88
Total with opening hours specified	8	394	32	340	135	46		232	1,187
Not specified					8		317	1	326
Total Hours per week	166	14,755	960	10,036	5,796	1,160	11,168	8,834	52,875
Check (hours per week x 50 ie less 2 weeks public holidays)	8,310	737,750	48,000	501,800	289,800	58,000	558,400	441,700	2,643,760
Total hours open per annum	8,310	767,264	47,975	501,800	289,823	57,975	558,400	441,700	2,673,247

2007 - 2008	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	AUSTRALIA
USAGE									
Total circulation	2,695,495	48,753,212	1,031,724	39,869,017	18,496,186	4,917,095	45,505,301	16,160,131	177,428,161
Total library visits	1,706,410	36,396,565	1,149,745	18,640,648	11,451,931	2,904,426	27,459,209	9,898,590	109,607,524
Customers per month	142,201	3,033,047	95,812	1,553,387	954,328	242,036	2,288,267	824,883	9,133,960
Number of Reference / Information Enquiries	31,198	3,364,889	101,144	1,745,706	n/a	649,646	n/a	1,008,554	6,901,137
MEMBERSHIP									
No. of registered library users	162,078	3,179,025	67,771	1,973,338	990,712	142,008	2,497,459	887,861	9,900,252
Adult Members 65 and over	16,492	254,061						740,329	270,553
Adult Members under 65 (or age not specified)	116,048	2,224,449		1,548,787	772,974	97,389			5,500,026
Young Adult (definition varies usually 15 - 20)		180,644				10,787			191,431
Junior Members (definition varies usually <15)	29,538	445,426		419,177	217,738	32,067		139,082	1,283,028
Not Specified		11,405	67,771			1,618	2,497,459		2,578,253
Other		62,990		5,374		147		8,450	76,961
Total with age specified	162,078	3,104,630		1,967,964	990,712	140,243		879,411	7.245,038

2007 - 2008	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	AUSTRALIA
ELECTRONIC INFORMATION SERVICES									
No. of Service Points with Public Access Internet Terminals at 30 June 2008	9	394	25	320	134	45	317	172	1,416
Number of mobile libraries with Public Access Internet Terminals	1	9			1		12	1	24
Total Public Use computer terminals	102	3,697	98	2,196	1,253	484	2,251	1,059	11,140
No of Public Access Internet Terminals provided at 30 June 2008	60	2,414	61	1,615	746	484	1,630	811	7,821
Number of Catalogue Terminals provided	28	1,120	37		320			248	1,753
Number of other Public Access Computer Terminals Provided	14	163		581	187		621		1,566

2007 - 2008 Summary & percentages of Data & Indicators

2007 - 2008	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	Australia
EXPENDITURE									
Total Expenditure on Public Library Services ($m)	$10.26m	$282.47m	$3.99m	$165.56m	$66.45m	$15.24m	$190.30m	$96.18m	$830.45m
Public Library expenditure per capita (excluding library materials)	$26.81	$36.02	$15.14	$32.53	$36.44	$25.78	$30.76	$39.40	$33.79
Library Materials expenditure per capita	$3.00	$4.52	$3.03	$6.15	$5.05	$4.80	$5.17	$5.06	$5.07
STAFF									
No of Librarians (FTE) per 10,000 persons	0.88	1.19	0.92	0.86	1.11	0.91	1.05	1.36	1.08
Total Staff (FTE) per 10,000 persons	2.52	3.40	3.91	3.26	4.37	3.22	5.05	4.98	4.00
Population served per staff member	3,971	2,941	2,557	3,036	2,288	3,101	1,980	2,009	2,499
Loans per FTE staff	31,097	20,582	11,997	28,538	26,420	30,606	17,008	15,009	20,748
LIBRARY MATERIALS									
Library materials per capita	1.4	2.0	1.4	1.9	2.4	1.5	1.7	2.0	1.9
SERVICE POINTS									
Population served per service point	34,420	17,683	6,872	12,586	11,201	10,830	16,712	9,284	14,107
Service Points per 100,000 persons	2.9	5.7	14.6	7.9	8.9	9.2	6.0	10.8	7.1

2007 - 2008	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	Australia
ACCESSIBILITY – Number of libraries by time open for public use[15]									
More than 45 hrs per week	100%	37.8%	15.6%	21.8%	37.8%	17.4%	n/a	32.8%	31.3%
30 to 44 hrs per week	%	21.5%	12.5%	34.7%	31.5%	15.2%	n/a	45.7%	36.6%
10 to 29 hrs per week	%	27.7%	62.5%	28.5%	27.7%	63.0%	n/a	13.8%	24.8%
less than 10 hrs per week	%	3.0%	9.4%	15.0%	3.0%	4.3%	n/a	7.8%	7.4%
Ave. hours open per week per service point	45.8	27.4	30.0	29.5	37.4	25.2	35.2	38.1	35.3
USAGE									
Circulation per capita	7.8	7.0	4.7	9.3	11.5	9.9	8.6	7.5	8.3
Customer visits per capita	5.0	5.2	5.2	4.4	7.1	5.8	5.2	4.6	5.1
Loans per volume held	5.6	3.5	3.2	4.9	4.9	6.7	5.2	3.7	4.4
MEMBERSHIP									
Percentage of population who are Library Members	47%	46%	31%	46%	62%	29%	47%	41%	46%
Percentage Adult Members (15 and over)	82%	86%	n/a	79%	78%	77%	n/a	84%	82%
Percentage Junior Members (<15)	18%	14%	n/a	21%	22%	23%	n/a	16%	18%
ELECTRONIC INFORMATION SERVICES									
Internet terminals per 10,000 persons	1.7	3.5	2.8	3.8	4.7	9.7	3.1	3.7	3.7
Service points with Internet terminals	90%	100%	78%	94%	94%	98%	100%	74%	93%
Information Enquiries per 10,000 persons	906	4,830	4,600	4,079	n/a	13,040	n/a	4,662	3,229

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[15] Percentages given are for those libraries where opening hours where opening hours are specified.

2007 - 2008	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	Australia
Population June 2008 - Australian Demographic Statistics - 3101.0 - June Quarter 2008 - Excludes Other Territories *Released 02/12/2008*	344,200	6,967,200	219,900	4,279,400	1,601,800	498,200	5,297,600	2,163,200	21,371,500