

AUSTRALIAN PUBLIC LIBRARIES STATISTICAL REPORT 2005 - 2006

Final Report

Compiled by Public Library Services

State Library of Queensland

September 2007

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 1,522 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. For the first time expenditure on Electronic Resources has been identified separately, ensuring trends can be measured in future years.

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.casl.org.au>

2007

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1 Selected National Statistics 2005 - 2006

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 1,522 public library service points (1,439 fixed point libraries and 83 mobile libraries) throughout Australia, one service point for every 13,537 persons. Over 68% of public libraries are open for more than 30 hours each week, with more than 30% of libraries being open more than 45 hours per week.

Usage of libraries has continued to increase with 178 million items being lent to the 9.9 million members of Australia's public libraries. Over 108 million visits by customers were recorded in 2005-2006 (9 million visits per month), reflecting the strong growth in customer visits per head of population from 4.58 to 5.25 in the five year period.¹

Library services were delivered by 8,107 (FTE) staff employed in Australian Public libraries and library collections of more than 40 million items (2.0 items per person) were made available for the use of the community. Over \$104 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. The total number of terminals is over 6,400 and in addition a further 1,628 public access computer terminals were provided for word processing, CD-ROM use etc.

Total expenditure on public libraries has increased from \$574 million in 2001-2002 to \$743 million in 2005-06, representing a 29% increase. Expressed on a per capita basis, funding for public libraries has increased by 23% over the same period to \$36.07.

¹ Western Australia have reported visitor figures for the first time in 2005-2006, however there are still a number of libraries that have not yet commenced collecting this statistic.

Table 1 – Services

	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Total loans	173,427,288	173,982,739	176,275,147	176,409,857	178,740,362
Loans per capita	8.8	8.8	8.8	8.7	8.7
Reported information enquiries	8,810,177	8,819,593	8,728,814	9,211,093	10,194,879
Information enquiries per 1,000 persons	449	444	478	453	495
Internet terminals per 10,000 persons	2.2	2.5	2.6	2.9	3.1

Table 2 – Customers

	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Customers	89,957,293	91,583,823	95,221,932	95,145,429	108,124,046
Customers per month	7,496,441	7,631,985	7,935,161	7,928,786	9,010,337
Customer visits per capita	4.58	4.61	4.74	4.68	5.25
Registered Library Members	9,812,369	9,713,801	9,918,540	10,033,152	9,903,233
Members as a percentage of total population	50%	49%	49%	49%	48%
Percentage Adult Members	80%	80%	81%	82%	83%
Percentage Junior Members	20%	20%	19%	18%	17%

Table 3 – Collections & Resources

	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Total number of library materials	38,876,485	38,529,265	39,318,951	40,031,892	40,462,313
Total number of Public Access Internet terminals	4,379	5,015	5,301	5,965	6,456
Number of Public Access Computers for Word Processing etc	1,381	1,323	978	1,154	1,628
Library materials per capita	2.0	1.9	2.0	2.0	2.0
Total library materials expenditure	\$82.8m	\$89.6m	\$93.3m	\$99m	\$104m
Library materials expenditure per capita	\$4.22	\$4.51	\$4.64	\$4.87	\$5.07
Average percentage of resources purchased in last 5 years²	45.1%	49.3%	47.1%	47.6%	47.4%

² 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

	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Number of Service Points (including each mobile library³ as a single service point)	1,471	1,466	1,503	1,487	1,522
Population served per service point	13,350	13,560	13,379	13,669	13,537
Service Points per 100,000 persons	7.5	7.4	7.5	7.3	7.4
Libraries open more than 45 hrs per week⁴	29%	30%	30%	30%	31%
Libraries open 30 to 44 hrs per week	37%	38%	39%	39%	38%
Libraries open 10 to 29 hrs per week	25%	23%	23%	23%	23%
Libraries open less than 10 hrs per week	9%	9%	8%	8%	8%
Percentage of service points with Internet terminals⁵	68%	70%	74%	87%	91%

³ 83 mobile libraries visit 1,385 locations.

⁴ Victoria is unable to provide the range of opening hours and has been excluded from the percentage measures.

⁵ Percentages for years 2001-02 to 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. The previously reported figure for 2004-2005 has been adjusted to reflect the correct NSW figure.

Table 5 – Staff

	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Total Staff (full time equivalent)	6,930	6,908	7,735	7,922	8,107
Population served per staff member	2,834	2,878	2,600	2,566	2,541
Staff members (FTE) per 10,000 persons.	3.53	3.48	3.85	3.90	3.94
Loans per full-time equivalent staff member	25,026	25,186	22,790	22,269	22,047

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

	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Total Expenditure on Public Library Services	\$574.4m	\$615.4m	\$651.0m	\$694.1m	\$743.2m
Total Public Library expenditure per capita	\$29.25	\$30.97	\$32.37	\$34.15	\$36.07

2 Comparative Data

2.1 Items lent

Overall, lending from libraries has increased by 3.1% over the past five years, with only a slight 1.3% increase from the previous year. The strongest growth was achieved in the ACT (15.3% increase) while both Queensland and Western Australia suffered a 1.3% decrease.

Table 7 – Total items lent

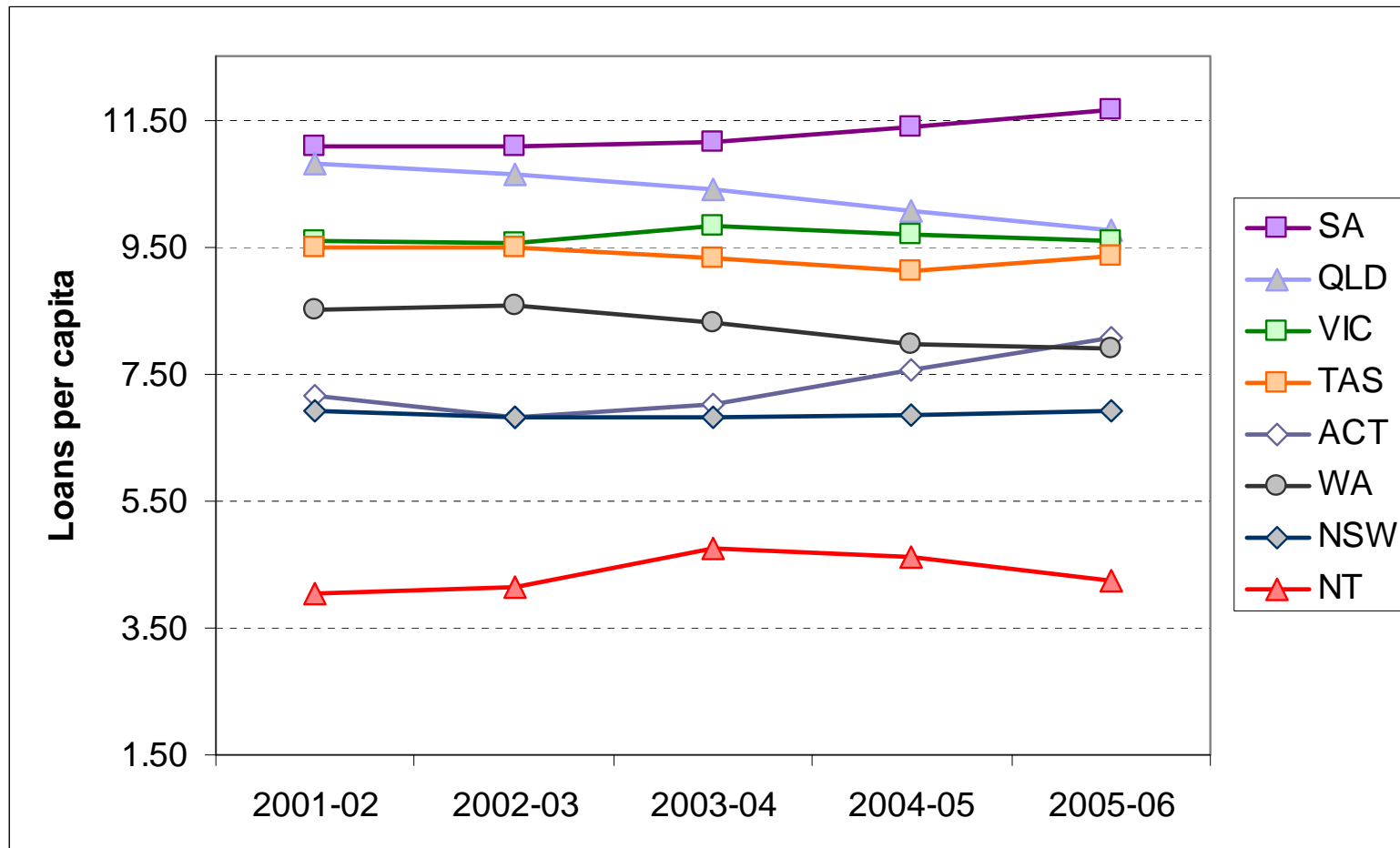
	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	Australia
2001-02	2,297,773	45,980,659	804,483	40,087,730	16,805,720	4,486,943	46,583,200	16,380,780	173,427,288
2002-03	2,195,794	45,513,455	822,236	40,337,151	16,940,087	4,528,392	46,904,962	16,740,662	173,982,739
2003-04	2,274,116	45,777,024	946,790	40,411,410	17,086,189	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
Change over 5 year period	15.3%	2.9%	8.9%	-1.3%	7.9%	1.7%	6.2%	-1.3%	3.1%
Change to previous year	8%	2.1%	-6.1%	-0.9%	3.3%	3.3%	1.5%	0.8%	1.3%
% of national	1.5%	26.5%	0.5%	22.1%	10.1%	2.6%	27.7%	9.0%	

Table 8 – Items lent per capita

Over the past five years the overall Australian total for loans per capita has declined slightly, though the most significant reductions have been recorded in Queensland (-9.6%) and Western Australia (-7.4%). South Australia continues to report the highest loans per capita (11.67), with Queensland, Victoria, Tasmania also above the national total of 8.65.

	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	Australia
2001-02	7.15	6.93	4.05	10.80	11.07	9.49	9.59	8.51	8.83
2002-03	6.80	6.81	4.14	10.62	11.09	9.49	9.54	8.57	8.75
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
Change over 5 year period	12.7%	0.0%	4.6%	-9.6%	5.4%	-1.6%	1.3%	-7.4%	-1.8%
Change to previous year	6.8%	1.3%	-7.9%	-3.1%	2.4%	2.5%	0.1%	-1.2%	0.0%

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 29% bringing the Australian total to over \$743 million. Funding increases have occurred in all states except the Northern Territory (-21%), with the largest increases recorded in the ACT (61%) and Queensland (49%).

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

	ACT⁶	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	Australia
2001-02	\$9.2m	\$201.0m	\$8.1m	\$104.8m	\$47.7m	\$11.8m	\$125.3m	\$66.1m	\$574.4m
2002-03	\$9.4m	\$213.5m	\$7.9m	\$122.6m	\$49.6m	\$12.1m	\$134.6m	\$65.7m	\$615.4m
2003-04	\$14.0m	\$224.9m	\$5.4m	\$133.4m	\$52.8m	\$13.3m	\$135.3m	\$71.9m	\$651.0m
2004-05	\$14.0m	\$240.5m	\$6.3m	\$139.7m	\$57.5m	\$13.5m	\$144.9m	\$77.7m	\$694.1m
2005-06	\$14.9m	\$256.5m	\$6.5m	\$156.5m	\$60.7m	\$15.2m	\$144.7m	\$88.2m	\$743.2m
Change over 5 year period	61%	28%	-21%	49%	27%	28%	15%	33%	29%
Change to previous year	7%	7%	3%	12%	6%	12%	0%	14%	7%

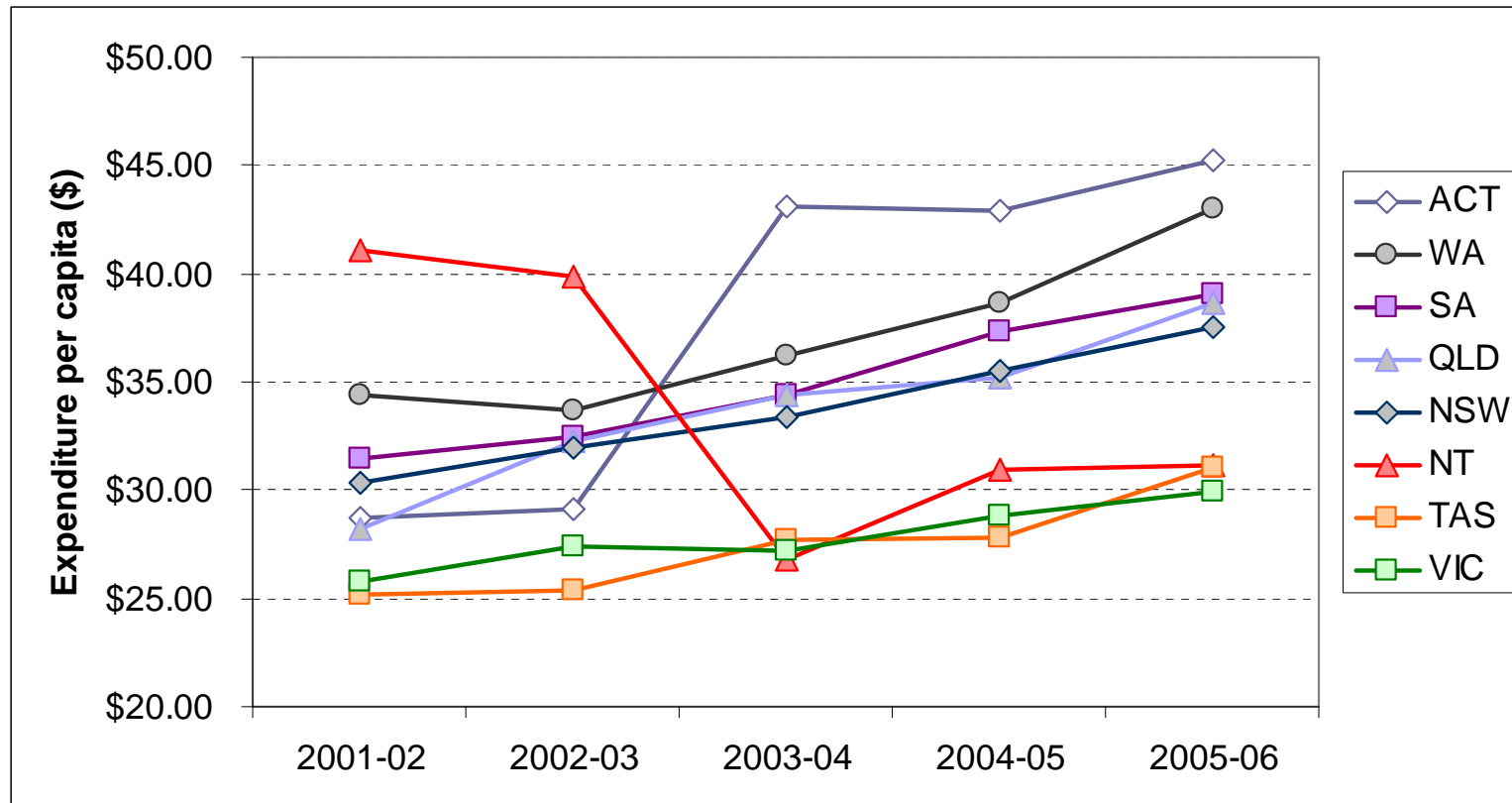
⁶ The ACT figures have been adjusted from a reported total expenditure which includes a capital component. If the unadjusted amount is used as the ACT's total expenditure on public library services the increase over the 5 year period would amount to a larger percentage increase.

Total expenditure per capita across Australia has grown by 23% to \$36.07. The Australian Capital Territory has the highest expenditure per capita of \$45.22, while the lowest figure of \$28.43 is recorded in Victoria.

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

	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	Australia
2001-02	\$28.71	\$30.31	\$41.07	\$28.25	\$31.43	\$25.13	\$25.81	\$34.36	\$29.25
2002-03	\$29.10	\$31.93	\$39.87	\$32.30	\$32.50	\$25.42	\$27.37	\$33.68	\$30.97
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
Change over 5 year period	58%	24%	-24%	37%	24%	24%	10%	25%	23%
Change to previous year	5%	6%	1%	10%	5%	12%	-1%	11%	7%

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 26% over the five year period from 2001-02 to 2005-06, with all states and territories recording increases. The highest increase recorded in the ACT (118%).

Table 11 – Expenditure on Library Materials

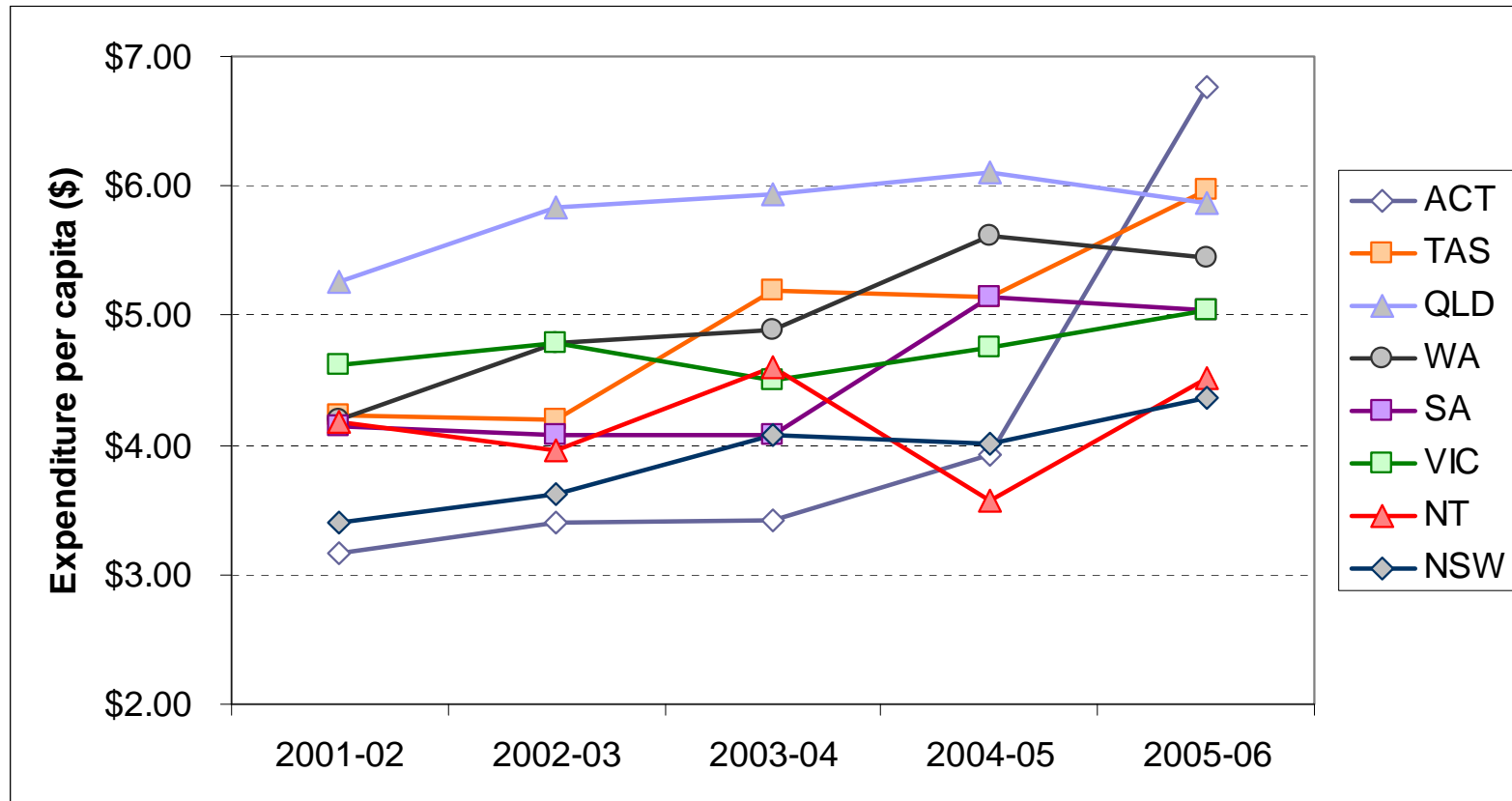
	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	Australia
2001-02	\$1.02m	\$22.60m	\$0.83m	\$19.51m	\$6.30m	\$2.00m	\$22.44m	\$8.08m	\$82.79m
2002-03	\$1.10m	\$24.17m	\$0.79m	\$22.16m	\$6.24m	\$2.00m	\$23.58m	\$9.34m	\$89.36m
2003-04	\$1.11m	\$27.45m	\$0.92m	\$23.03m	\$6.26m	\$2.50m	\$22.37m	\$9.69m	\$93.34m
2004-05	\$1.30m	\$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
Change over 5 year period	118%	32%	12%	22%	24%	46%	14%	38%	26%
Change to previous year	74%	10%	29%	-2%	-1%	17%	7%	-1%	5%

Per capita expenditure on library materials has also increased by 20% over the same period, again with all states and territories recording increases. The highest increase recorded in the ACT (113%).

Table 12 – Expenditure on Library materials per capita

	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	Australia
2001-02	\$3.17	\$3.41	\$4.19	\$5.26	\$4.15	\$4.23	\$4.62	\$4.20	\$4.22
2002-03	\$3.39	\$3.61	\$3.97	\$5.84	\$4.08	\$4.19	\$4.80	\$4.79	\$4.50
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
Change over 5 year period	113%	28%	8%	12%	21%	41%	9%	30%	20%
Change to previous year	72%	9%	26%	-4%	-2%	16%	6%	-3%	4%

Figure 3 – Expenditure on Library Materials per capita



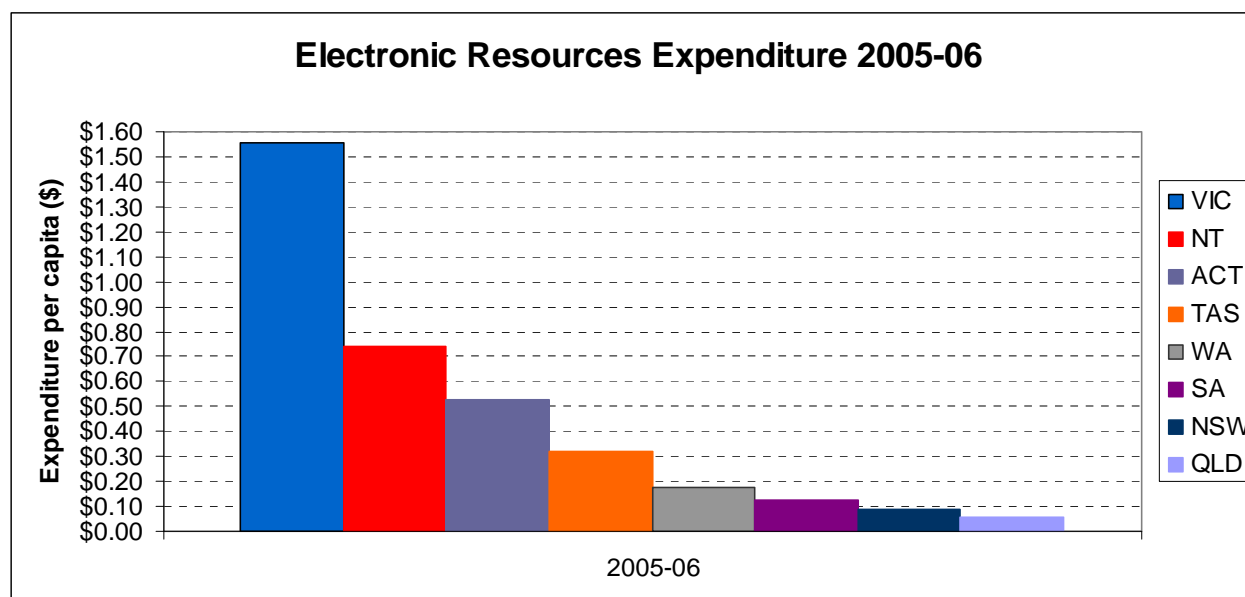
2.4 Expenditure on Electronic Resources

2005-2006 represents the first time expenditure on Electronic Resources has been listed as a separate measure. Comparisons cannot be drawn from the figures reported as the definition of the resources that constitute this measure will require further refinement. Additionally, Queensland and Western Australia could only report State Library expenditure as this data was not captured for their state-based returns.

Table 13– Expenditure on Electronic Resources⁷

	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	Australia
2005-06	\$178,358	\$596,287	\$152,442	\$240,466	\$198,415	\$156,730	\$7,933,594	\$360,932	\$9,812,224
Per capita	\$0.53	\$0.09	\$0.74	\$0.06	\$0.13	\$0.32	\$1.56	\$0.18	\$0.48

Figure 4 – Expenditure on Electronic Resources per capita



⁷ QLD & WA figures represent State Library expenditure only.

2.5 Public Access Internet Terminals

The number of public access Internet terminals provided nationally has continued to grow, with over 6,400 available, an increase of 47% since 2001-2002. While all states and territories have recorded increases New South Wales has the largest number of terminals at 2,082.

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

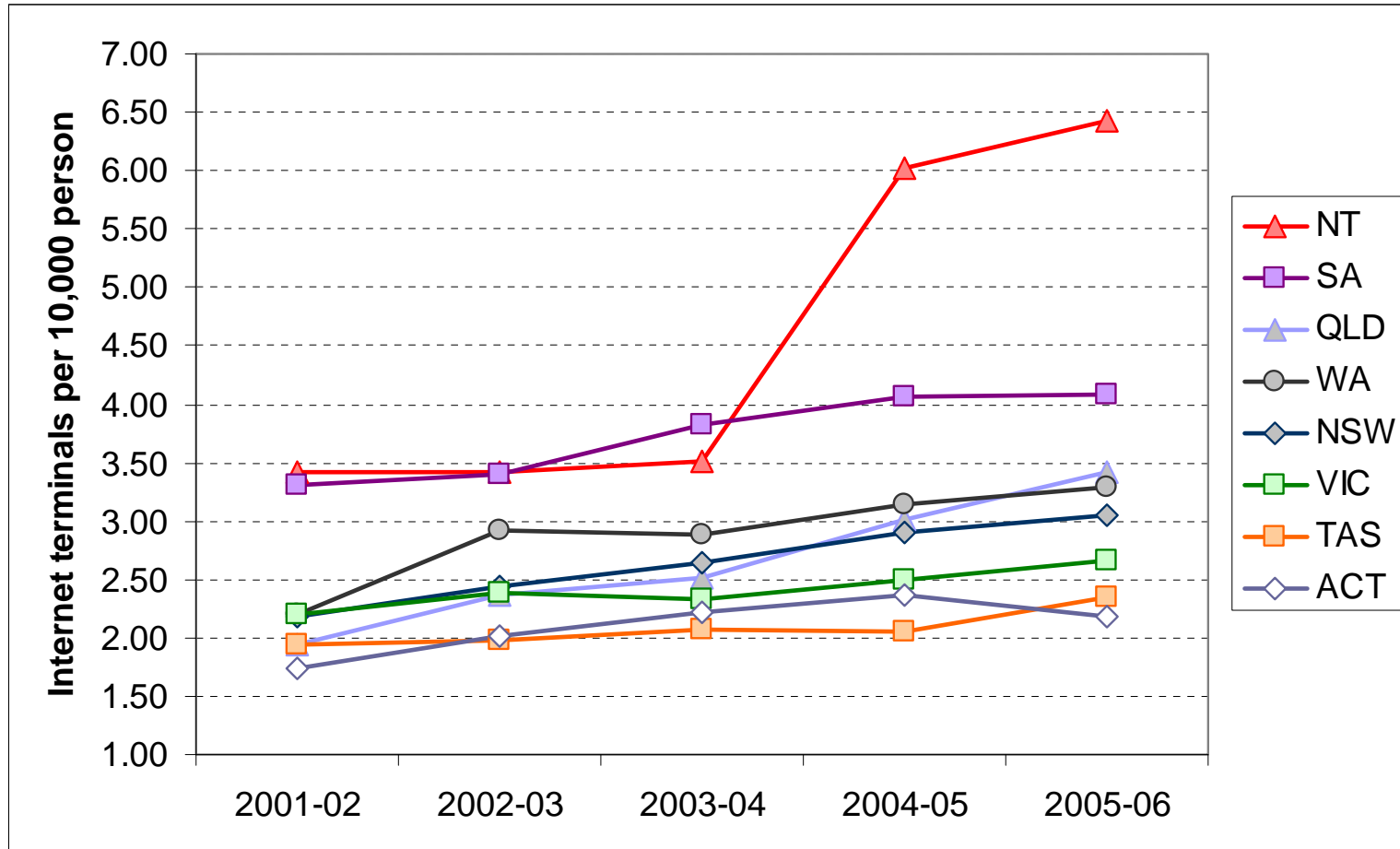
	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	Australia
2001-02	56	1,452	68	718	503	92	1,065	425	4,379
2002-03	65	1,630	68	900	518	94	1,170	570	5,015
2003-04	72	1,773	70	976	586	100	1,154	570	5,301
2004-05	77	1,963	122	1,194	628	100	1,251	630	5,965
2005-06	72	2,082	133	1,388	636	115	1,354	676	6,456
Change over 5 year period	29%	43%	96%	93%	26%	25%	27%	59%	47%
Change to previous year	-6%	6%	9%	16%	1%	15%	8%	7%	8%

Expressed as the number of public access terminals per 10,000 persons, the national total is 3.13, an increase of 41% over the same period. All states and territories have recorded an increase in this measure, the largest being in the Northern Territory (88%) and the smallest in Tasmania and Victoria (21%). The Northern Territory also provides the highest number of terminals per capita with 6.43 terminals per 10,000 persons.

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

	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	Australia
2001-02	1.74	2.19	3.42	1.93	3.31	1.95	2.19	2.21	2.23
2002-03	2.01	2.44	3.43	2.37	3.39	1.97	2.38	2.92	2.52
2003-04	2.22	2.63	3.50	2.51	3.82	2.07	2.32	2.88	2.64
2004-05	2.37	2.90	6.02	3.04	4.07	2.06	2.49	3.13	2.93
2005-06	2.19	3.05	6.43	3.42	4.09	2.35	2.66	3.30	3.13
Change over 5 year period	26%	39%	88%	77%	24%	21%	21%	49%	41%
Change to previous year	-8%	5%	7%	14%	0.45%	14%	7%	5%	7%

Figure 5 – 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 Urban 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 Assembly Library, Women's Information & Referral Centre and ACT Heritage Library. Two ACT public library branches are joint use facilities with ACT Department of Education 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 30 public libraries of varying sizes, ranging from the Darwin Public Library Service with 4 branches servicing a population of 73,000 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 144 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 the PLAIN system, to capture maximum discounts and efficiencies through economies of scale.

Public Library Services manages the complex task of centralised selection, acquisitions, cataloguing and distribution for South Australian libraries, with the librarians managing their collection development activities. Public Library Services also provides free public access to the

Internet, on-line Inter-Library Loans, the state-wide Video and Film booking service, Print disability and LOTE Collections and delivery system. Staff at Public Library Services undertake a wide range of strategic projects on behalf of the network.

Tasmania

The **State Library of Tasmania** provides public library services statewide through a network of seven city libraries, 40 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 WA, and local government authorities. The local government authority provides the library building, staff and operating costs, while the Library Board is responsible for acquiring and preparing shelf ready stock delivered to public libraries. 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 materials are supplied to public libraries at a minimum standard of 1.25 per capita, with the minimum size being 1,025. Library stocks range from this minimum 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 WA. Stock is not allocated to a library on a permanent basis, but is circulated throughout the State on a regular basis at an agreed annual turnover percentage. This enables library collections to be constantly refreshed with different stock (new and used) and ensures that the collection is not "read out". The State Library of Western Australia acts as a clearinghouse for the circulation of the stock between libraries. Some local governments also provide additional resources to purchase books in demand and journal subscriptions.

There are 144 local government authorities in Western Australia, including Christmas Island and the Cocos Islands. These authorities operate most of the State's 239 public libraries. In addition some other organisations are recognised as "participating bodies" and they provide specialised services to people with visual impairment (through the Association for the Blind) and library services in prisons.

4 Data Sources

This statistical report has been compiled on behalf of the National & State Libraries Australasia (CASL) 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 Public Library
Griffith Library Administration
25 Blaxland Crescent
Griffith ACT 2603

New South Wales

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

Northern Territory

Northern Territory Library
Department of Local Government, Housing & 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
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 2005 - 2006 Data & Indicators

2005 - 2006	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	AUSTRALIA
EXPENDITURE									
Expenditure on Public Libraries (excluding library materials and capital purchases)	\$12,642,337	\$225,568,808	\$5,104,253	\$127,358,562	\$50,697,312	\$12,260,304	\$119,071,173	\$77,051,722	\$629,754,471
Total expenditure on Library Materials	\$2,225,846	\$29,842,436	\$933,297	\$23,768,305	\$7,829,434	\$2,921,050	\$25,663,255	\$11,173,911	\$112,191,117
Expenditure on Library Materials (excluding Electronic Resources)	\$2,052,488	\$29,246,149	\$780,855	\$23,527,839	\$7,631,019	\$2,764,320	\$17,729,661	\$10,812,979	\$102,378,893
Expenditure on Electronic Resources ⁸	\$173,358	\$596,287	\$152,442	\$240,466	\$198,415	\$156,730	\$7,933,594	\$360,932	\$9,812,224
State Govt. costs directly related to the delivery of public library services not included above		\$1,013,537	\$400,000	\$5,455,191	\$2,207,568				\$9,076,296
Total Expenditure on Public Library Services	\$14,868,183	\$256,424,781	\$6,437,550	\$156,582,058	\$60,734,314	\$15,181,354	\$144,734,428	\$88,225,633	\$751,021,884
Total State/Territory costs related to the delivery of public library services	\$14,868,183	\$25,812,537	\$4,729,692	\$22,812,901	\$16,536,323	\$15,181,354	\$28,828,681	\$17,866,200	\$117,807,190
State/Territory Funding as a percentage of Public Library Expenditure	100%	10%	73%	\$15%	27%	100%	20%	20%	20%
Capital Expenditure on Public Libraries (not including library materials)	\$600,000	\$28,747,129	\$3,302,604	\$12,530,962	\$1,575,556			\$2,009,972	\$48,766,223
STAFF									
No of qualified librarians (fte)	35.00	880.98	17.00	372.16	305.47	48.64	533.80	294.65	2487.70
Total staff (fte)	97.20	2,321.49	145.52	1321.90	726.60	161.94	2264.20	1068.38	8107.23
LIBRARY MATERIALS									
Total number of library materials	484,565	13,590,959	396,618	8,563,817	3,760,592	697,412	9,052,189	3,916,161	40,462,313
Percentage of collection purchased in previous 5 years	44.0%	52.4%	41%	58.0%	40.2%	45.0%	46.3%	51.9%	47.4%

⁸ 2005-06 is the first time specific expenditure on Electronic Resources has been collected. Direct comparisons between each State and Territory cannot be made at this stage.

2005 - 2006	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	AUSTRALIA
SERVICE POINTS									
No. of fixed point libraries	9	369	33	322	134	47	287	238	1,439
No. of mobile libraries	2	23	0	19	10	0	28	1	83
No of service points (including mobile libraries)	11	392	33	341	144	47	315	239	1,522
No. of deposit stations (small unstaffed collections)	0	85	1	0	44	0	0	0	130
No. of locations served by mobile libraries	37	368	0	502	n/a	0	475	3	1,385
ACCESSIBILITY – number of libraries by time open for public use									
Service Points open 45 hours or more	7	147	5	65	51	8	n/a	76	359
Open 30 - 44 hours	2	123	6	115	75	8	n/a	110	439
Open 10 - 29 hours	2	108	22	78	7	28	n/a	31	276
Open less than 10 hours	0	14	0	50	2	3	n/a	20	89
Total with opening hours specified	11	392	33	308	135	47	n/a	237	1,163
Not specified	0	0	0	0	9	0	n/a	2	326
Total Hours per week	486	14,668	810	9,232	5,921	1,225	n/a	8,938	41,280
Check (hours per week x 50 ie less 2 weeks public holidays)	24,300	733,400	40,500	461,600	296,050	61,250	n/a	446,920	2,064,000
Total hours open per annum	24,300	762,759	40,475	461,613	296,063	61,250	n/a	446,920	2,093,380

2005 - 2006	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	AUSTRALIA
USAGE									
Total circulation	2,648,366	47,317,223	875,876	39,577,161	18,139,631	4,565,061	49,545,767	16,162,277	178,740,362
Total library visits	1,959,796	33,276,388	1,128,480	18,249,158	11,373,464	2,690,426	32,134,769	7,311,565	108,124,046
Customers per month	163,316	2,773,032	94,040	1,520,763	947,789	224,202	2,677,897	609,297	9,010,337
Number of Reference / Information Enquiries	n/a	3,941,871	131,881	1,768,352	n/a	721,666	2,606,845	1,024,264	10,194,879
MEMBERSHIP									
No. of registered library users	171,035	3,174,757	61,282	1,932,589	909,998	156,830	2,533,596	963,146	9,903,233
Adult Members 65 and over	14,311	225,294	2,558			29,520	206,856		478,539
Adult Members under 65 (or age not specified)	116,641	2,226,245	35,056	1,527,781	718,301	78,053	1,253,199	794,849	6,750,225
Young Adult (definition varies usually 15 - 20)	16,128	150,289	5,456						171,873
Junior Members (definition varies usually <15)	21,979	498,897	11,098	402,143	191,697	46,764	252,133	160,183	1,584,894
Not Specified	1,976	10,545	7,114			2,264	813,239		835,138
Other	0	63,387	0	2,665		229	8,169	8,114	82,564
Total with age specified	169,059	3,100,825	54,168	1,929,924	909,998	154,337	1,712,188	955,032	8,985,531

2005 - 2006	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	AUSTRALIA
ELECTRONIC INFORMATION SERVICES									
No. of Service Points with Public Access Internet Terminals at 30 June 2006	11	378	36	295	134	45	315	174	1,385
No of Public Access Internet Terminals provided at 30 June 2006	72	2,082	133	1,388	636	115	1,354	676	6,456
Number of mobile libraries with Public Access Internet Terminals	2	5			1		11	1	20
Number of Catalogue Terminals provided	36	1,163	21		345	57			1,622
Number of other Public Access Computer Terminals Provided	0	210	37	548	225	25	583		1,628
Total Public Use computer terminals	110	3,460	191	1,936	1,207	197	1,948	677	9,726

2005 - 2006 Summary & percentages of Data & Indicators

2005-06	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	Australia
EXPENDITURE									
Total Expenditure on Public Library Services (\$m)	\$14.9	\$256.4	\$6.4	\$156.6	\$60.7	\$15.2	\$144.7	\$88.2	\$743.2
Public Library expenditure per capita (excluding library materials)	\$38.45	\$33.19	\$26.63	\$32.77	\$34.03	\$25.08	\$23.39	\$37.57	\$31.01
Library Materials expenditure per capita	\$6.77	\$4.37	\$4.52	\$5.86	\$5.04	\$5.97	\$5.04	\$5.45	\$5.07
STAFF									
No of Librarians (FTE) per 10,000 persons	1.06	1.29	0.82	0.92	1.96	0.99	1.05	1.44	1.21
Total Staff (FTE) per 10,000 persons	2.96	3.40	7.04	3.26	4.67	3.31	4.45	5.21	3.94
Population served per staff member	3,383	2,941	1,420	3,066	2,140	3,019	2,249	1,920	2,541
Loans per FTE staff	27,247	20,382	6,019	29,940	24,965	28,190	21,842	15,128	22,047
LIBRARY MATERIALS									
Library materials per capita	1.5	2.0	1.9	2.1	2.4	1.4	1.8	1.9	2.0
SERVICE POINTS									
Population served per service point	29,891	17,418	6,264	11,887	10,797	10,402	16,164	8,581	13,537
Service Points per 100,000 persons	3.3	5.7	16.0	8.4	9.3	9.6	6.2	11.7	7.4

2005-06	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	Australia
ACCESSIBILITY – Number of libraries by time open for public use									
More than 45 hrs per week	63.6%	37.5%	15.2%	21.1%	37.8%	17.0%	n/a	32.1%	30.9%
30 to 44 hrs per week	18.2%	31.4%	18.2%	37.3%	55.6%	17.0%	n/a	46.4%	37.7%
10 to 29 hrs per week	18.2%	27.6%	66.7%	25.3%	5.2%	59.6%	n/a	13.1%	23.7%
less than 10 hrs per week		3.6%		16.2%	1.5%	6.4%	n/a	8.4%	7.7%
Ave. hours open per week per service point	44.2	37.4	24.5	27.1	41.1	26.1	n/a	37.4	34.2
USAGE									
Circulation per capita	8.1	6.9	4.2	9.8	11.7	9.3	9.7	7.9	8.6
Customer visits per capita	5.96	4.87	5.46	4.50	7.32	5.50	6.31	3.57	5.25
Loans per volume held	5.5	3.5	2.2	4.6	4.8	6.5	5.5	4.1	4.4
MEMBERSHIP									
Percentage of population who are Library Members	52%	46%	30%	48%	59%	32%	50%	47%	48%
Percentage Adult Members (15 and over)	87%	84%	80%	79%	79%	100%	85%	83%	83%
Percentage Junior Members (<15)	13%	16%	20%	21%	21%		15%	17%	17%
ELECTRONIC INFORMATION SERVICES									
Internet terminals per 10,000 persons	2.2	3.0	6.4	3.4	4.1	2.4	2.7	3.3	3.1
Service points with Internet terminals	100%	96%	109%	87%	93%	96%	100%	73%	91%
Information Enquiries per 10,000 persons	n/a	5,773	6,380	4,363	n/a	14,761	5,120	4,994	4,948

2005 - 2006	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	Australia
Population June 2006 - Australian Demographic Statistics - 3101.0 - June Quarter 2006 - Excludes Other Territories <i>Released 07/12/2006</i>	328,800	6,827,700	206,700	4,053,400	1,554,700	488,900	5,091,700	2,050,900	20,602,800