

25 years of collaboration for Australian libraries

On 2 November the National Library of Australia, along with other Australian libraries, celebrated the long-term collaboration and resource sharing of Australia's libraries – the 25th birthday of the Australian National Bibliographic Database (ANBD).

The Australian Bibliographic Network (ABN), the network of libraries which underpins the ANBD, started on 2 November 1981 with just six libraries: the National Library, Canberra Public Library Service, University of Adelaide, the University of NSW, the State Library of South Australia and the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department. In 1999 the ABN was redeveloped as Kinetica. By then



Tony Boston, Fran Awcock, Hans Groenewegen, Eric Wainwright, Warwick Cathro, Jan Fullerton and Elaine Hall reminisce



John Arfield and Tony Boston cut the cake at the 25 years' celebration

almost 30 million items were available on the ANBD and over 1000 libraries belonged to Australia's library network. In 2003, the National Library began to redevelop Kinetica, focussing on general access to information.

In November 2005, redevelopment culminated in the Libraries Australia service. The ANBD, through Libraries Australia, now provides access to 42 million items: 16 million bibliographic records including access

to over 600 000 digital resources – pictures, manuscripts, music, and government reports.

In February 2006 the National Library, with the support of Australian libraries, made a free version of Libraries Australia available to anyone anywhere with an internet connection. Users can now check the availability of an item online, in their own or other libraries, or link through to an online bookshop. <http://librariesaustralia.nla.gov.au>

State Library of Victoria Fellowships

Australians at war, early settlement in Melbourne, child performers, vaudeville and ideas of belonging are some of the research themes to be undertaken by the recipients of the 2006–2007 State Library of Victoria Creative Fellowships.

The 2006–2007 recipients include: authors Chloe Hooper and Kirsty Murray and playwrights Sarah Cathcart, Christopher Kohn and Lally Katz. Artists Judy Horacek, Bruno Leti and Dr Julie Anne Gough are also among

the recipients. In addition to the stipends, creative fellows are provided workspaces within the Library to maximise their access to the collections and aid in the production of their works.

The Redmond Barry Fellowship was announced with the 2006 Creative Fellowships. This award, worth \$20 000, is made available jointly by the University of Melbourne and the State Library of Victoria. It commemorates the laying of the foundation stones for both

institutions by Sir Redmond Barry, and is designed to facilitate use of the extensive collections of both organisations. This year the Redmond Barry Fellowship has been awarded to Dr Kathleen Fennessy, who will research colonial Victorian agricultural education and practice.