

## Director explores change in the world's national libraries

The Director of the State Library of South Australia, Alan Smith, has been awarded a Churchill Fellowship in the recent announcement from the 2008 Churchill Fellowships Australia.

It is appropriate that Alan has been awarded the *Professor Jean Primrose Whyte, Churchill Fellowship*, the Professor herself having had a life long association and professional career within libraries. The late Jean Whyte was a highly respected librarian, who began her librarian profession at the State Library of South Australia in the 1950s.

Alan Smith, also a qualified librarian, has had a 30 year career in the cultural sector, with management experience in art galleries, museums and libraries.

Today he chairs the peak body for libraries, National & State Libraries Australasia, and is a Director of the Collections Council, as well as his directorship of the State Library of South Australia (NLSA), and Patron of the ALIA (SA) Group.

Committed to innovation and leading libraries in the 21st century, Alan will investigate the management strategies in national libraries in the UK, France, Netherlands, Germany, Denmark, Norway, Sweden and Finland.

Alan's seven week study tour commences in September.

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## Internet body approves domain name big bang

Web regulators have voted to open up the internet's domain name system to create hundreds of new website addresses, such as ".paris" or ".Pepsi", in one of the biggest shake-ups in online history.

The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) approved the overhaul, which has major implications for businesses and consumers worldwide, during its annual general meeting in Paris.

Currently the world's 160 million web addresses end with one of some 250 top-level domain names: .country or .territory domains, and generic ones such as .com, .net and .org, as well as .gov and .edu.

But ICANN was under pressure to find a solution for burgeoning demand, with the stock of available addresses set to run out by 2011.

Under the new system, the web's 1.3 billion users will be able from the third quarter of 2009 to buy generic top-level domains (gTLDs) based on common words, brands or company names, cities or proper names.

The web body also voted to allow domain names to be lodged in languages such as Arabic or Mandarin Chinese.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/06/27/2287331.htm>

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