ERA: the **power** of working **together**

Electronic Resources Australia (ERA) can help libraries provide immediate access to their clients simply and more affordably.

Libraries make a significant contribution to the community by giving their clients free access to online information that has been identified as being of national interest. Negotiating collaboratively and harnessing the collective experience of libraries on e-resource licensing, ERA can make this process even easier.

But only with strong, national library participation and support of Australian libraries can ERA achieve the greatest benefits to libraries and their clients. By participating you are lowering the costs of these products as well as increasing access to authoritative resources to meet the needs of Australians.

Over 200 libraries and consortiums have already joined ERA with over 900 product subscriptions to the nine quality products that have been selected for the first phase of ERAThis means that approximately 6 million Australians now have access to these products through ERA.

The products on offer are from the areas of health, general reference, and Australian business news. For all these products, subscription terms such as unlimited use on-site; remote use by registered staff and patrons using an agreed authentication system; use within virtual reference services; and use for ILL/Document Supply, have already been negotiated for libraries. These terms and conditions, as well as pricing, are contained in the Head Deed contracts with vendors **http:// era.nla.gov.au/product_list/**
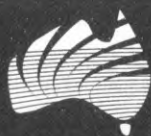
It is easy to join ERA. Libraries can opt-in at any time by quoting the relevant Head Deed in their purchase order arrangements with the vendor. All vendors offer free product trials for between 4 and 6 weeks, allowing libraries to try before they buy. Participating libraries are also listed on the ERA website for the information of interested libraries as well as to encourage professional networking and collaboration.Over time the product panel will expand to include more products with national interest. The ERA Executive Committee is currently reviewing selection of additional items and will be seeking input from libraries as part of this process. All ERA members purchasing electronic resources through arrangements offered through ERA can have their say on the policy and direction of ERA, and are welcome to participate in the annual Membership Forum.

The first forum in May 2008, will provide members with the opportunity to discuss and have input into issues such as the process for the selection of new products, marketing and promotion, discussing new developments while sharing ideas and experiences. Further details for members will be available soon.

If you are interested in joining ERA in the **new subscription cycle commencing 1 July 2008**, you must register your interest between **25 March and 29 April @ http://era.nla. gov.au/product_list/productpolls. html**

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