

**AUSTRALIAN PUBLIC LIBRARIES
STATISTICAL REPORT
2008 - 2009**

Final Report

Compiled by Public & Indigenous Library Services

State Library of Queensland

December 2010

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 1,480 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/>

December 2010

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1 Selected National Statistics 2008 - 2009

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 1,480 public library service points (1,402 fixed point libraries and 78 mobile libraries) throughout Australia, one service point for every 14,779 persons. Over 68% of public libraries are open for more than 30 hours each week, with more than 32% of libraries being open more than 45 hours per week.

Over the five year period usage of libraries has increased to 182 million items being lent to the 9.9 million members of Australia's public libraries. Over 111 million visits by customers were recorded in 2008-2009 (9.2 million visits per month), with customer visits per head of population increasing from 4.68 to 5.09 in the five year period.¹

Library collections of more than 41 million items (1.9 items per person) were made available for the use of the community and over \$117 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 8,652 terminals provide Internet access, and in addition a further 1,264 public access computer terminals were provided for word processing, CD-ROM use etc.

Total expenditure on public libraries has increased from \$694 million in 2004-2005 to \$882 million in 2008-2009, representing a 27% increase. Expressed on a per capita basis, funding for public libraries has increased by 18% over the same period to \$40.34.

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

Table 1 – Services

	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Total loans	176,409,857	178,740,362	182,934,975	177,428,161	182,640,004
Loans per capita	8.7	8.7	8.7	8.3	8.4
Reported information enquiries²	9,211,093	10,194,879	9,737,346	6,901,137	7,455,692
Information enquiries per 1,000 persons³	499	545	501	477	453
Internet terminals per 10,000 persons	3.0	3.3	3.6	3.7	4.0

Table 2 – Customers

	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Customers	95,145,429	108,124,046	111,738,333	109,607,524	111,323,814
Customers per month	7,928,786	9,010,337	9,311,528	9,133,960	9,276,985
Customer visits per capita	4.68	5.25	5.32	5.13	5.09
Registered Library Members	10,033,152	9,903,233	9,882,493	9,900,252	9,958,042
Members as a percentage of total population	49%	48%	47%	46%	46%
Percentage Adult Members	82%	83%	83%	82%	83%
Percentage Junior Members	18%	17%	17%	18%	17%

² There has been inconsistent reporting of this measure over the collection period.

³ States and Territories that have not reported results in each period have been excluded from this measure.

Table 3 – Collections & Resources

	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Total number of library materials	40,031,892	40,462,313	40,033,893	40,306,255	41,483,356
Total number of Public Access Internet terminals⁴	5,965	6,456	7,142	7,821	8,652
Number of Public Access Computers for Word Processing etc	1,154	1,628	1,418	1,566	1,701
Library materials per capita	2.0	2.0	1.9	1.9	1.9
Total library materials expenditure	\$99.01m	\$104.36m	\$105.46m	\$108.31m	\$117.13m
Library materials expenditure per capita	\$4.87	\$5.07	\$5.02	\$5.07	\$5.36
Average percentage of resources purchased in last 5 years	52%	51%	54%	53%	50%

⁴ Large increase partly due to Tasmania including Online Access Centre terminals since 2006-07

Table 4 – Service Points

	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Number of Service Points (including each mobile library⁵ as a single service point)	1,487	1,522	1,513	1,515	1,480
Population served per service point	13,669	13,537	13,890	14,107	14,779
Service Points per 100,000 persons	7.3	7.4	7.2	7.1	6.8
Libraries open more than 45 hrs per week⁶	30%	31%	30%	31%	32%
Libraries open 30 to 44 hrs per week	39%	38%	38%	37%	36%
Libraries open 10 to 29 hrs per week	23%	23%	24%	25%	24%
Libraries open less than 10 hrs per week	8%	8%	8%	7%	8%
Percentage of service points with Internet terminals	87%	91%	92%	94%	92%

⁵ 78 mobile libraries visit 1,031 locations.

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

Table 5 – Staff

	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09 ⁷
Total Staff (full time equivalent)	7,922	8,107	8,269	8,551	8,281
Population served per staff member	2,566	2,541	2,542	2,317	2,581
Staff members (FTE) per 10,000 persons.	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.5	3.9
Loans per full-time equivalent staff member	22,269	22,047	22,124	23,649	21,431

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

	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Total Expenditure on Public Library Services	\$694.12m	\$743.19m	\$757.57m	\$830.45	\$882.31m
Total Public Library expenditure per capita	\$34.15	\$36.07	\$36.05	\$38.86	\$40.34

⁷ Tasmania was unable to supply staffing data for 2008-2009 and has been excluded from the staffing measures.

2 Comparative Data

2.1 Items lent

Overall, lending from libraries has increased by 3.5% over the past five years, with a 2.9% increase from the previous year. Over the five year period the strongest growth was reported in Tasmania (17.0%) and the Northern Territory (10.2%) with only Victoria reporting a small (-0.5%) decline.

Table 7 – Total items lent

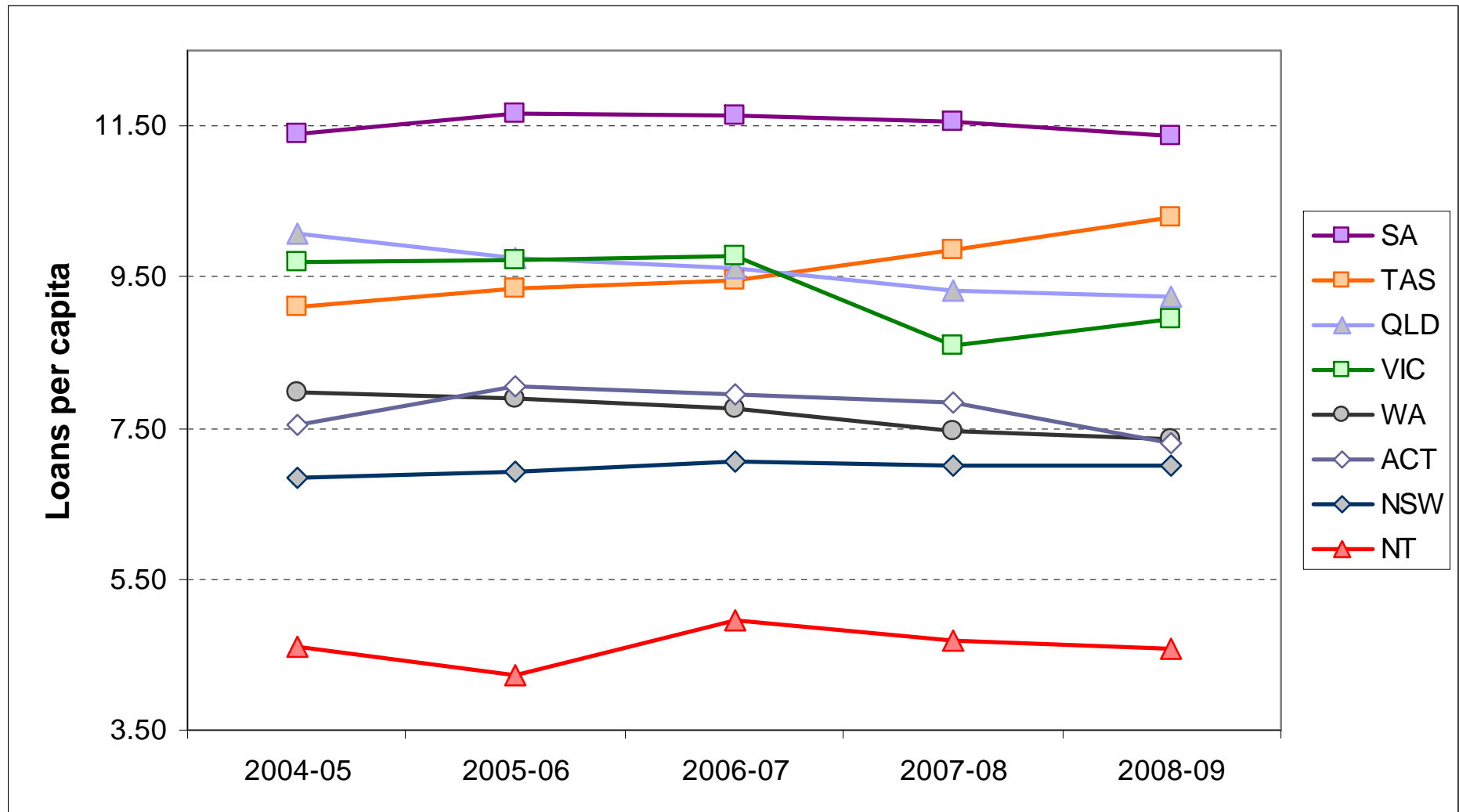
	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	Australia
2004-05	2,453,143	46,335,942	932,982	39,930,225	17,562,163	4,420,969	48,743,783	16,030,650	176,409,857
2005-06	2,648,366	47,317,223	875,876	39,577,161	18,139,631	4,565,061	49,454,767	16,162,277	178,740,362
2006-07	2,701,306	48,664,526	1,068,102	40,168,087	18,434,372	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
2008-09	2,562,599	49,782,998	1,028,034	40,732,190	18,447,848	5,171,196	48,493,826	16,421,313	182,640,004
Change over 5 year period	4.5%	7.4%	10.2%	2.0%	5.0%	17.0%	-0.5%	2.4%	3.5%
Change to previous year	-4.9%	2.1%	-0.4%	2.2%	-0.3%	5.2%	6.6%	1.6%	2.9%
% of national	1.4%	27.3%	0.6%	22.3%	10.1%	2.8%	26.6%	9.0%	100%

Table 8 – Items lent per capita

Over the past five years the overall national total for loans per capita has declined (-3.8%), with Tasmania (12.9%) and New South Wales (2.5%) the only states to report increases. South Australia has remained the only state to report per capita loans above 11 items during the period.

	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	Australia
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
2008-09	7.30	7.01	4.57	9.24	11.37	10.29	8.93	7.34	8.35
Change over 5 year period	-3.3%	2.5%	-0.6%	-8.2%	-0.2%	12.9%	-7.9%	-7.9%	-3.8%
Change to previous year	-6.8%	0.2%	-2.5%	-0.8%	-1.5%	4.2%	4.0%	-1.7%	0.6%

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 27% bringing the Australian total to over \$882 million. The largest increases were reported in Victoria (34%) and South Australia (30%). The only reported funding decrease in the Australian Capital Territory was attributed to large capital and collection projects.

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

	ACT ⁸	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	Australia
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
2008-09	\$10.71m	\$297.85m	\$7.19m	\$180.06m	\$74.60m	\$17.14m	\$194.80m	\$99.96m	\$882.31m
Change over 5 year period	-23%	24%	15%	29%	30%	27%	34%	29%	27%
Change to previous year	4%	5%	80%	9%	12%	12%	2%	4%	6%

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.

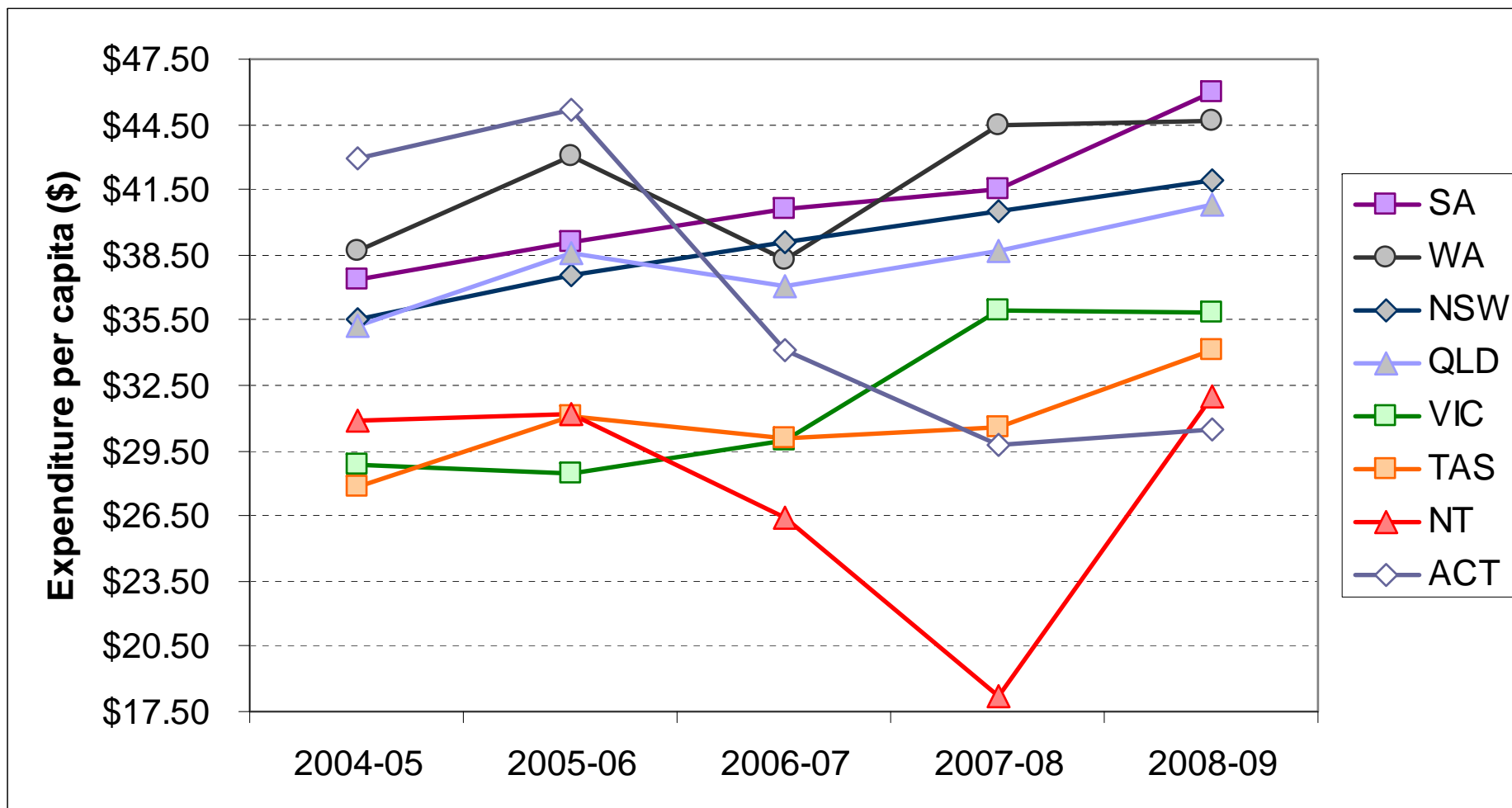
Total expenditure per capita across Australia has grown by 18% to \$40.34. Western Australia reported the highest expenditure per capita of \$44.69, while the lowest figure of \$30.15 was reported in the Australian Capital Territory.

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

	ACT⁹	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	Australia
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
2008-09	\$30.50	\$41.95	\$32.01	\$40.86	\$45.97	\$34.10	\$35.89	\$44.69	\$40.34
Change over 5 year period	-29%	18%	4%	16%	23%	22%	24%	16%	18%
Change to previous year	2%	3%	76%	6%	11%	11%	0%	1%	4%

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 18% over the five year period from 2004-05 to 2008-09, with all states and territories except Tasmania reporting increases. The Australian Capital Territory (42%) and Queensland (26%) reported the largest increases with only the only decrease (5%) during the period in Tasmania.

Table 11 – Expenditure on Library Materials

	ACT¹⁰	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	Australia
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
2008-09	\$1.82m	\$31.93m	\$0.86m	\$30.43m	\$8.99m	\$2.37m	\$27.84m	\$12.89m	\$117.13m
Change over 5 year period	42%	18%	19%	26%	13%	-5%	16%	14%	18%
Change to previous year	76%	1%	30%	16%	11%	-1%	2%	18%	8%

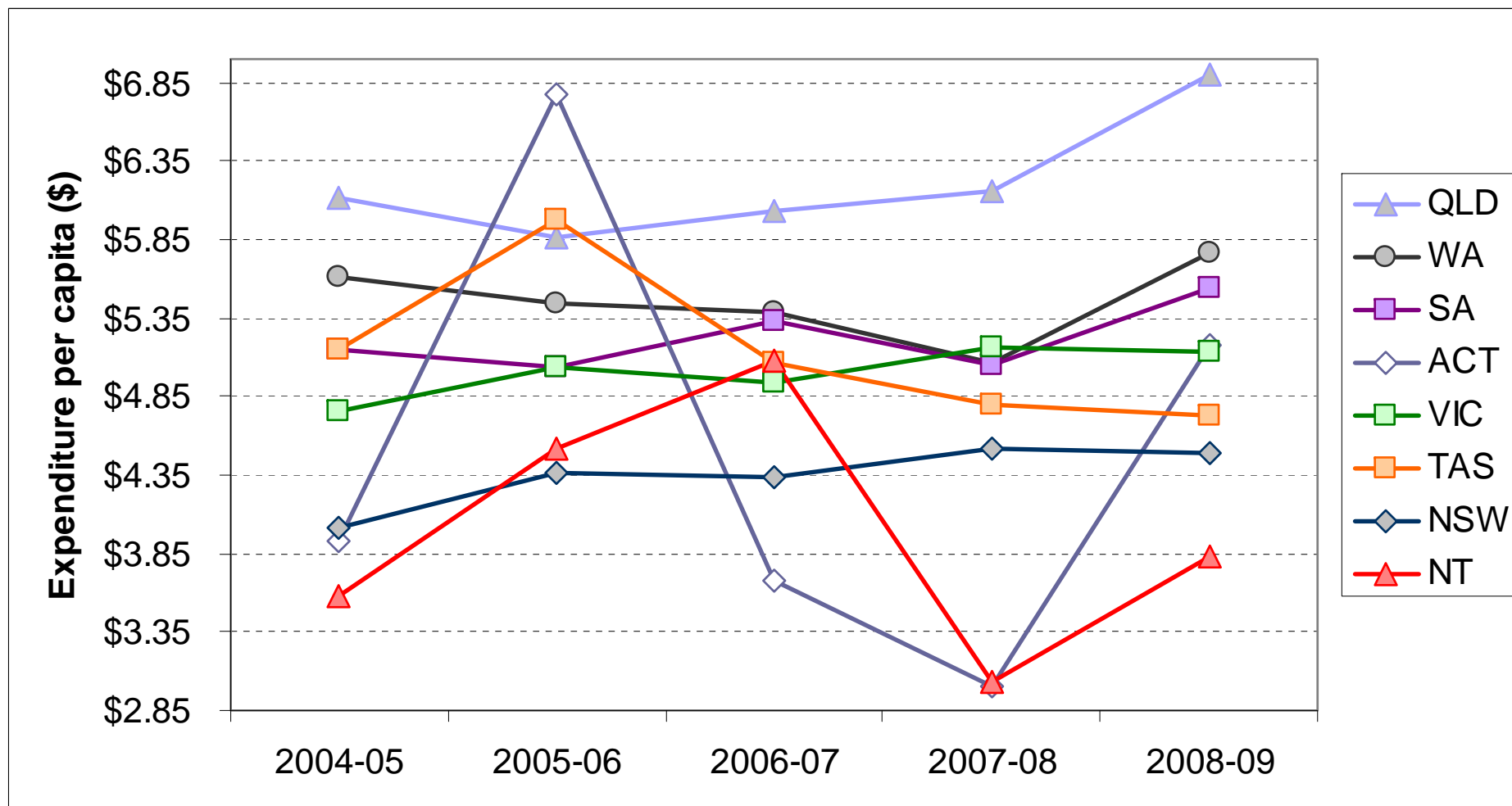
¹⁰ For the ACT, additional funding was allocated in 2005/06 for library materials in conjunction with construction of a new library. A corresponding fall in per capita terms is reflected in Table 12.

Per capita expenditure on library materials also increased by 10% over the same period, with the Australian Capital Territory (32%), Queensland (13%) and New South Wales (12%) reporting increases above the national average.

Table 12 – Expenditure on Library materials per capita

	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	Australia
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
2008-09	\$5.17	\$4.50	\$3.84	\$6.91	\$5.54	\$4.72	\$5.13	\$5.76	\$5.36
Change over 5 year period	32%	12%	7%	13%	8%	-8%	8%	3%	10%
Change to previous year	72%	0%	27%	12%	10%	-2%	-1%	14%	6%

Figure 3 – Expenditure on Library Materials per capita



2.4 Expenditure on Electronic Resources

2008-2009 represents the fourth year that expenditure on Electronic Resources has been listed as a separate measure. Victoria was unable to provide any data for the last two years and the inconsistent reporting of this figure makes comparisons difficult.

Table 13– Expenditure on Electronic Resources¹¹

	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD¹²	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
2008-09	\$172,198	\$1,112,582	\$73,000	\$1,872,343	\$353,461	\$369,902	n/a	\$619,000	\$4,572,486
Per capita	\$0.49	\$0.16	\$0.32	\$0.42	\$0.22	\$0.74	n/a	\$0.28	\$0.28
Change to previous	-15%	36%	0%	20%	56%	54%	n/a	3%	23%
%'age of Collection Expenditure	9%	3%	8%	6%	4%	16%	n/a	5%	5%

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

¹² Queensland figure includes \$838,810 for state wide consortium purchasing.

Figure 4 – Expenditure on Electronic Resources per capita

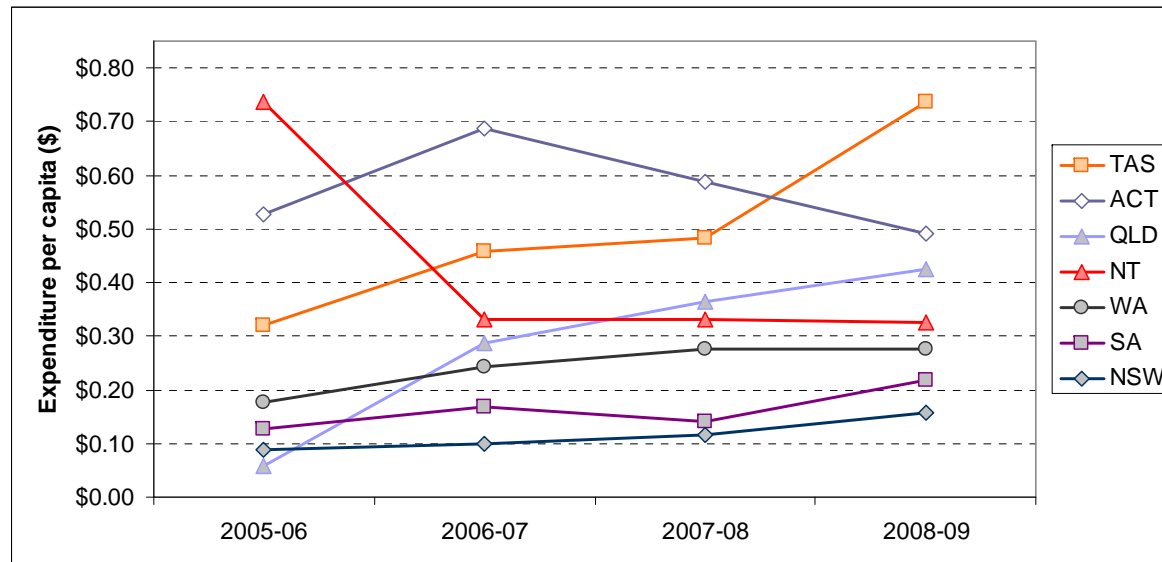
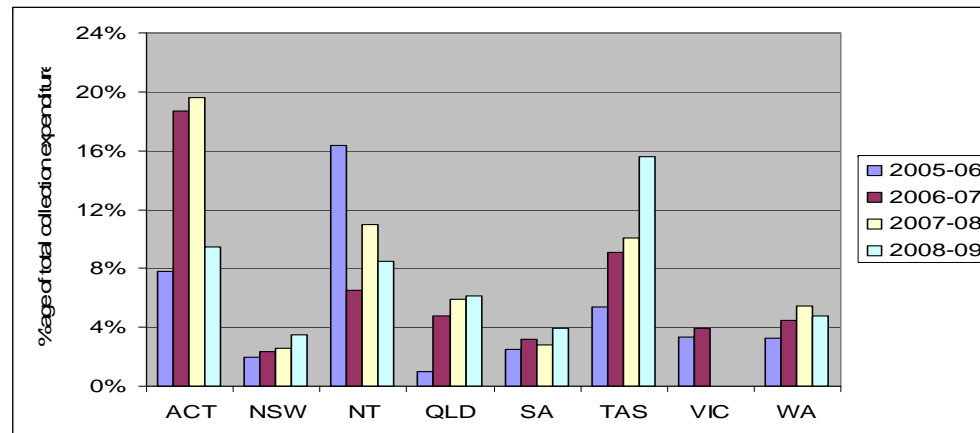


Figure 5 – Expenditure on Electronic Resources as percent of total collection expenditure



2.5 Public Access Internet Terminals

The number of public access Internet terminals provided nationally has continued to grow, with 8,652 available, an increase of 43% since 2004-2005. New South Wales has the largest number of terminals at 2,587 followed by Queensland at 1,974.

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
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
2008-09	82	2,587	103	1,974	890	484	1,723	809	8,652
Change over 5 year period	6%	32%	-16%	65%	42%	152%	38%	28%	43%
Change to previous year	37%	7%	69%	22%	19%	0%	6%	0%	11%

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 2004-05 have been revised accordingly.

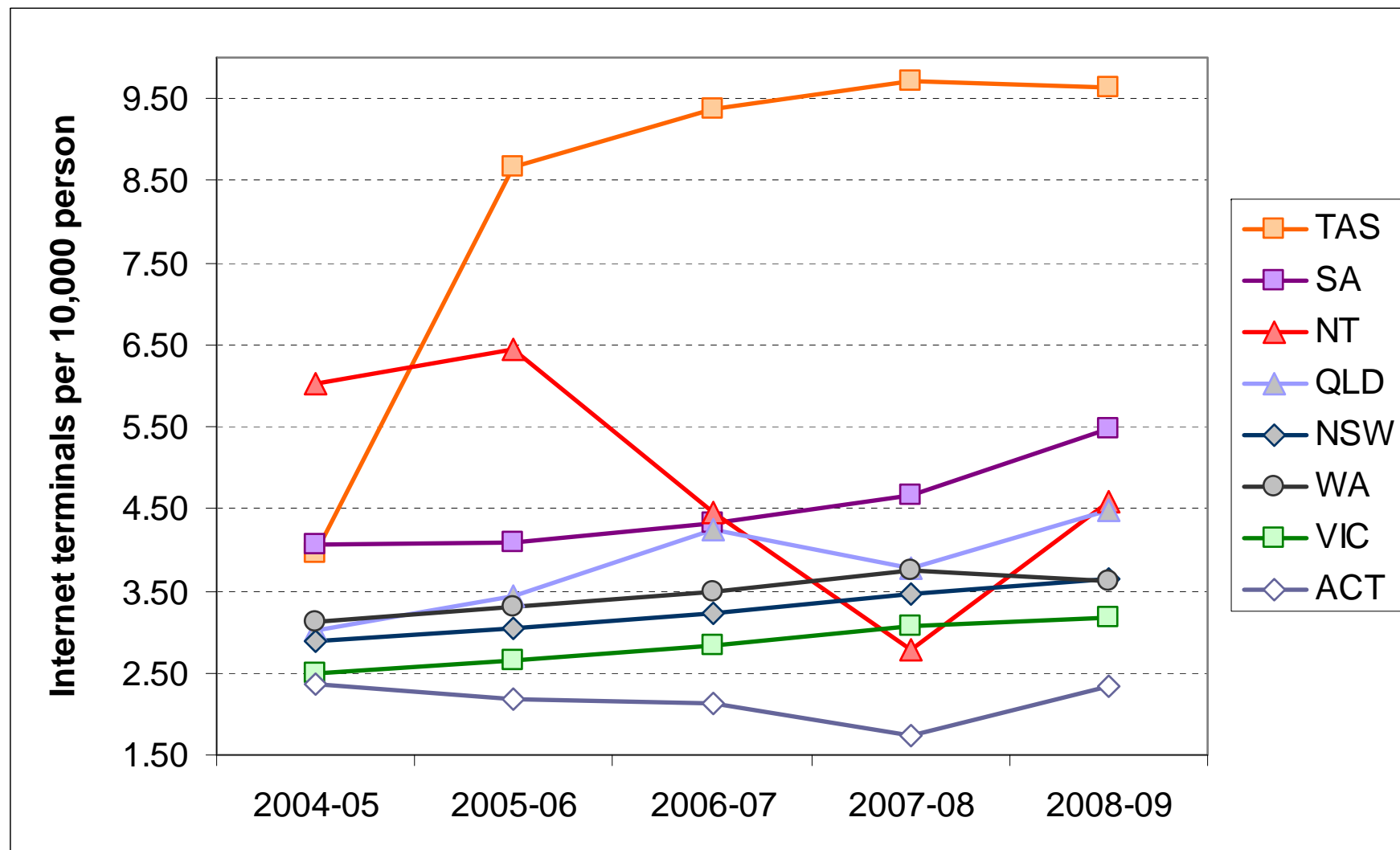
Expressed as the number of public access terminals per 10,000 persons the national total is 3.96, an increase of 33% over the same period. Only the Australian Capital Territory (-1%) and the Northern Territory (-24%) reported declines during the period.

Table 15 – Public Access Internet terminals per 10,000 persons¹⁴

	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	Australia
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
2008-09	2.33	3.64	4.58	4.48	5.48	9.63	3.17	3.62	3.96
Change over 5 year period	-1%	26%	-24%	49%	35%	143%	27%	15%	33%
Change to previous year	34%	5%	65%	19%	18%	-1%	3%	4%	8%

¹⁴ Changes to previously published figures are a result of the revised totals for Tasmania since 2004-05.

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. In addition, ACTLIS has two mobile library vans providing services to retirement villages, nursing homes and remote locations throughout the ACT. A large Home Library Service is also provided for Canberrans.

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 2010*. 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 page 90 of the *Library Council of NSW Annual Report*

2008/09:

http://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/about/publications/annual_reports/2009/10_sl_nsw_annual_report_2008_09_public_library_grants_and_sub.pdf

The State Library, Public Library & Community 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 2010* 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 15,000 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

This year was the third year of the five year memorandum of agreement between the Minister assisting the Premier in the Arts and the President of the Local Government Association.

The Libraries Board of SA administers the State Government's grant program to local government for public library and community information services and provides support services to the public library network through Public Library Services (PLS).

There are 136 public libraries in South Australia, representing 69 Local Government Authorities, with several other libraries operating without Council support in "unincorporated lands" in remote SA.

South Australia has 49 rural libraries located in very small communities. In order to provide equitable 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.

During the year the Libraries Board of South Australia, through PLS implemented a number of initiatives, coordinated a range of services including training and assisted public libraries to improve infrastructure to further develop services and resources for their communities.

The ongoing provision of Internet access for online services for the State's public libraries is a key state-wide initiative. Community demand continues to grow and additional bandwidth was provided to key sites. Further plans for future network upgrades are underway as technology improves across the State.

The introduction of wireless capability in public libraries in South Australia has been undertaken in a staged manner over several years. In 2008-09 17 new sites were connected to the network bringing the total wireless enabled sites to 112. There are now over 29,000 registered wireless users across the State. The remaining sites will be connected once their local telecommunications options allow this service to operate.

A new panel contract for the supply of library materials consisting of 2 general and 7 specialist library suppliers was implemented. A new model for the procurement of Community Languages was completed in May with new purchasing options coming online next year. A new online statistics gathering and reporting package has been purchased, and will become operational next year. This will improve the accuracy of statistics gathered and allow more accurate comparisons of library performance.

PLS continues to support the consortium purchase of online resources, and print disability collection.

State-wide projects include: The Little Big Book and The Big Book Club, Poetry Slam, the redevelopment of www.libraries.sa.gov.au and the ongoing support and development of the MyLanguage consortium.

Tasmania

The **State Library of Tasmania** provides public library services statewide through a network of seven urban LINC's, 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 and Indigenous 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 & Indigenous 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

Funding Programs
Local Government Victoria
Level 8, 55 Collins Street
Melbourne, VIC 3000
GPO Box 2392, Melbourne 3001

Western Australia

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

5 2008 - 2009 Data & Indicators

2008 - 2009	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	AUSTRALIA
EXPENDITURE									
Expenditure on Public Libraries (excluding library materials and capital purchases)	\$8.90m	\$265.05m	\$6.33m	\$145.01m	\$60.48m	\$14.76m	\$166.96m	\$87.07m	\$754.57m
Total expenditure on Library Materials	\$1.82m	\$31.93m	\$0.86m	\$30.43m	\$8.99m	\$2.37m	\$27.84m	\$12.89m	\$117.13m
Expenditure on Library Materials (excluding Electronic Resources)	\$1.65m	\$30.81m	\$0.79m	\$28.56m	\$8.64m	\$2.00m	\$27.84m	\$12.27m	\$112.56m
Expenditure on Electronic Resources	\$0.17m	\$1.12m	\$0.07m	\$1.87m	\$0.35m	\$0.37m	n/a	\$0.62m	\$4.57m
State Govt. costs directly related to the delivery of public library services not included above		\$0.87m		\$4.61m	\$5.13m				\$10.61m
Total Expenditure on Public Library Services	\$10.71m	\$297.85m	\$7.19m	\$180.06m	\$74.60m	\$17.14m	\$194.80m	\$99.96m	\$882.31m
Total State/Territory costs related to the delivery of public library services	\$10.71m	\$25.40m	\$4.85m	\$21.33m	\$17.33	\$17.14m	\$35.88m	\$14.93m	\$147.58m
State/Territory Funding as a percentage of Public Library Expenditure	100%	9%	67%	12%	23%	100%	18%	15%	17%
Capital Expenditure on Public Libraries (not including library materials)	\$1.07m	\$22.79m	\$1.71m	\$18.25m	\$8.54m	\$0.55m	\$12.53m	\$17.12m	\$82.57m
STAFF									
No of qualified librarians (fte)	23.88	821.40	19.20	383.33	139.40	n/a	578.20	285.75	2,251.16
Total staff (fte)	83.88	2,344.54	102.12	1421.24	729.80	n/a	2,609.10	990.21	8,280.89
LIBRARY MATERIALS									
Total number of library materials	646,669	13,672,758	308,870	8,057,302	4,721,175	913,032	8,811,143	4,352,407	41,483,356
Percentage of collection purchased in previous 5 years	51.0%	46.6%	n/a	63.0%	30.4%	40.1%	50.5%	58.7%	49.99%

2008 - 2009	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	AUSTRALIA
SERVICE POINTS									
No. of fixed point libraries	8	372	33	324	136	46	251	232	1,402
No. of mobile libraries	2	23		19	7		27		78
No of service points (including mobile libraries)	10	395	33	343	143	46	278	232	1,480
No. of deposit stations (small unstaffed collections)		70			44				114
No. of locations served by mobile libraries	37	362		298			334		1,031
ACCESSIBILITY – number of libraries by time open for public use									
Service Points open 45 hours or more	8	153	7	77	55	8		76	384
Open 30 - 44 hours		120	6	110	70	7		108	421
Open 10 - 29 hours		108	17	90	10	29		29	283
Open less than 10 hours		14	3	48	8	2		18	93
Total with opening hours specified	8	395	33	325	143	46		231	1,181
Not specified	2			18			278	1	299
Total Hours per week	403	14,840		10,076	5,762	1,160	11,295	8,848	52,484
Check (hours per week x 50 i.e. less 2 weeks public holidays)	20,150	742,000		503,800	288,100	58,00	564,750	447,400	2,624,200
Total hours open per annum	20,150	771,669		503,800	288,100	57,975		447,400	2,089,094

2008 - 2009	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	AUSTRALIA
USAGE									
Total circulation	2,562,599	49,782,998	1,028,034	40,732,190	18,447,848	5,171,196	48,793,826	16,421,313	182,640,004
Total library visits	1,681,674	37,048,291	1,223,240	18,892,818	11,978,270	2,743,213	28,173,137	9,583,171	111,323,814
Customers per month	140,140	3,087,358	101,937	1,574,403	998,189	228,601	2,347,761	798,598	9,276,985
Number of Reference / Information Enquiries	27,913	3,399,907	98,274	1,958,438	324,944	592,608		1,053,608	7,455,692
MEMBERSHIP									
No. of registered library users	171,918	3,170,747	69,479	1,963,347	910,616	142,118	2,569,867	959,950	9,958,042
Adult Members 65 and over	17,030	292,030	3,337			15,107			327,504
Adult Members under 65 (or age not specified)	122,635	2,178,066	44,561	1,567,491	692,470	82,292		809,442	5,496,957
Young Adult (definition varies usually 15 - 20)		197,243	6,197			10,713			214,153
Junior Members (definition varies usually <15)	32,253	427,364	14,337	390,947	218,146	32,159		140,375	1,255,581
Not Specified		11,091	1,006			1,660	2,569,867		2,583,624
Other		64,953		4,909		178		10,133	80,173
Total with age specified	171,918	3,094,703	68,432	1,958,438	910,616	140,271		949,817	7,294,195

2008 - 2009	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	AUSTRALIA
ELECTRONIC INFORMATION SERVICES									
No. of Service Points with Public Access Internet Terminals at 30 June 2009	9	406	33	319	136	45	n/a	158	1,106
No of Public Access Internet Terminals provided at 30 June 2009	82	2,587	103	1,974	890	484	1,723	809	8,652
Number of Catalogue Terminals provided	26	1,126	35		300			214	1,701
Number of other Public Access Computer Terminals Provided	11	128	26	514			585		1,264
Total Public Use computer terminals	119	3,841	164	2,488	1,190	484	2,308	1,023	11,617

2008 - 2009 Summary & percentages of Data & Indicators

2008 - 2009	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	Australia
EXPENDITURE									
Total Expenditure on Public Library Services (\$m)	\$10.71	\$297.85	\$7.20	\$180.06	\$74.60	\$17.14	\$194.80	\$99.96	\$882.31
Public Library expenditure per capita (excluding library materials)	\$25.33	\$37.46	\$28.18	\$33.95	\$40.43	\$29.37	\$30.76	\$38.92	\$34.98
Library Materials expenditure per capita	\$5.17	\$4.50	\$3.84	\$6.91	\$5.54	\$4.72	\$5.13	\$5.76	\$5.36
STAFF									
No of Librarians (FTE) per 10,000 persons	0.68	1.16	0.85	0.87	0.86	n/a	1.07	1.28	1.05
Total Staff (FTE) per 10,000 persons	2.39	3.30	4.54	3.23	4.50	n/a	4.81	4.43	3.88
Population served per staff member	4,187	3,028	2,201	3,101	2,223	n/a	2,080	2,259	2,581
Loans per FTE staff	30,551	21,234	10,067	28,660	25,278	n/a	18,586	16,584	21,431
LIBRARY MATERIALS									
Library materials per capita	1.8	1.9	1.4	1.8	2.9	1.8	1.6	1.9	1.9
SERVICE POINTS									
Population served per service point	35,120	17,974	6,812	12,848	11,348	10,926	19,524	9,642	14,779
Service Points per 100,000 persons	2.8	5.6	14.7	7.8	8.8	9.2	5.1	10.4	6.8

2008 - 2009	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	Australia
ACCESSIBILITY – Number of libraries by time open for public use¹⁵									
More than 45 hrs per week	100%	38.7%	21.2%	23.7%	38.5%	17.4%	n/a	32.9%	32.5%
30 to 44 hrs per week		30.4%	18.2%	33.8%	49.0%	15.2%	n/a	46.8%	35.6%
10 to 29 hrs per week		27.3%	51.5%	27.7%	7.0%	63.0%	n/a	12.6%	24.0%
less than 10 hrs per week		3.5%	9.1%	14.8%	5.6%	4.3%	n/a	7.8%	7.9%
Ave. hours open per week per service point	50.4	37.6	n/a	31.0	40.3	25.2	40.6	38.7	38.6
USAGE									
Circulation per capita	7.3	7.0	4.6	9.2	11.4	10.3	8.9	7.3	8.4
Customer visits per capita	4.8	5.2	5.4	4.3	7.4	5.5	5.2	4.3	5.1
Loans per volume held	4.0	3.6	3.3	5.1	3.9	5.7	5.5	3.8	4.4
MEMBERSHIP									
Percentage of population who are Library Members	49%	45%	31%	45%	56%	28%	47%	43%	46%
Percentage Adult Members (15 and over)	81%	86%	80%	80%	76%	77%	n/a	85%	83%
Percentage Junior Members (<15)	19%	14%	20%	20%	24%	23%	n/a	15%	17%
ELECTRONIC INFORMATION SERVICES									
Internet terminals per 10,000 persons	2.3	3.6	4.6	4.5	5.5	9.6	3.2	3.6	4.0
Service points with Internet terminals	90%	100%	100%	93%	95%	98%	n/a	68%	91%
Information Enquiries per 10,000 persons	795	4,789	4,372	4,444	2,002	11,791	n/a	4,710	4,534

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

2008 - 2009	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	Australia
Population June 2009 - Australian Demographic Statistics - 3101.0 - June Quarter 2009 - Excludes Other Territories <i>Released 03/12/2009</i>	351,200	7,099,700	224,800	4,406,800	1,622,700	502,600	5,427,700	2,236,900	21,872,400