

Stewardship

Storage, Preservation and Conservation

The Collection Management Division has established a new Storage, Conservation and Preservation section to encompass all areas of collection care. The Library has preserved more than 50,000 heritage collection items and over 20,000 Australian and international collection items, has treated 3000 heritage, Australian and international collection items, and has prepared over 700 items for exhibition and loan.

Preservation staff have ensured the long-term survival of open-access material through reinforcing techniques and have improved the condition and appearance of shelved items throughout the closed-access collections, providing long-term protection and increased accessibility. In July 2005 Preservation staff became responsible for processing new material and have since processed over 40,000 items. Staff continue to maintain the conditions in which collections are housed, including environmental conditions, storage systems, integrated pest management and emergency response disaster bins and stores.

Storage staff focused on preparing for the May 2006 operation of the Ballarat offsite store, and the development of a Collection Storage Masterplan.

Conservation staff have treated and prepared material for the exhibitions and loans program, including material for *Mirror of the World: books and ideas*, *The changing face of Victoria*, *Eureka Revisited: The contest of memories*, *National Treasures from Australia's Great Libraries*, *Lost & Found* and *Naked Democracy*. Rare printed material was prepared for the *Travelling Treasures* touring program to regional Victoria.

Due to the increased number of inward and outward loans for exhibition purposes, a new position of Registrar, Exhibitions and Loans was established. This position manages all insurance and communications required when transporting valuable and fragile collection material.

Melbourne University's Masters of Art Cultural Materials Conservation postgraduate students undertook professional placements, and conservation advice was provided to staff and the public through the Conservation Inquiry Line and email advice service.

Development

Policy and Direction

In accordance with the Library's strategy as outlined in slv21, the priority has been to provide users with access to more online databases and digital resources. There has been a continuing shift from print serials to the provision of online access to serials via databases. Selected law and business resources, as well as overseas newspapers, joined a growing list of online resources. Access to selected electronic books has also been provided through the catalogue.

While expanding the range of accessible digital resources, the Library continued to collect important and pertinent print material. The acquisition of new books by purchase, donation and legal deposit has grown throughout the year by more than ten per cent over the previous reporting period. Bequest funds have contributed to this increase, enabling an extra 400 titles to be added to the Arts, Australian History and Literature, and Redmond Barry collections.

In the microfilm collection 679 reels of microfilm were replaced for part of the Australian Joint Copying Project (AJCP) located in the Genealogy Centre. The AJCP is a vital source of historical records for historians and genealogists. Due to age and the chemical materials used in microfilm produced prior to the mid 1980s much of the film has been disintegrating. It was important to replace this highly used portion of the AJCP to ensure that users have continued access.

Finally, a major project has begun to revise the *Collection Development Policy* and make it accessible via the Library's website. One of the main aims of the revision is to make the writing style and the structure more user-friendly. As a result the content has been reorganised to align with the Library's eight main collections. Another aim of the revision is to update the policy to explain the Library's increased emphasis on collecting and accessing digital resources. The revised policy will be available on the Library's website before the end of 2006.

Acquisitions

Volumes added to stock, July 2005-June 2006

Method of Acquisition	Purchase	Donation	Government Donation	Legal Deposit	Total 2005-06	Total 2004-05
Category						
Monographs in series	461	64	1241	357	2123	1892
Monographs: Reference	7229	598	2474	0	10,301	11,329
Monographs: AMPA	2485	1239	49	54	3827	3147
Monographs: Maps	41	17	8	7	73	68
Monographs: Rare books	136	20	29	0	185	72
Monographs: La Trobe	2175	976	90	3258	6499	5991
Monographs: Children's	414	26	1	2100	2541	2437
Monographs: La Trobe rare books	232	6	0	21	259	128
Monographs: Business	40	0	34	0	74	60
Monographs: Genealogy	3543	3	2	0	3548	1296
Monographs: Chess	112	0	0	0	112	N/A
Total monographs	16,868	2949	3928	5797	29,542	26,420
Newspapers	439	251	0	593	1283	1391
Other serials	2882	855	2033	2577	8347	9562
Total serials	3321	1106	2033	3170	9630	10,953
TOTAL VOLUMES	20,189	4055	5961	8967	39,172	37,373

Consolidated stock holdings, 2004-06

Stock Holdings (volumes)	30 June 04	30 June 05	30 June 06
Newspapers	95,326	96,717	98,000
Monographs and serials	1,846,673	1,882,655	1,920,544
TOTAL	1,941,999	1,979,372	2,018,544
Maps	108,218	108,435	109,326
Sound recordings	22,543	24,597	26,303
Video recordings	2294	2542	3316
Exhibition catalogues	81,271	85,985	92,315
Theatre programs (linear metres)	74.75	77.52	80.02
Ephemera (linear metres)	60.2	63	64.47
Manuscripts (linear metres)	6629	6740	6999
Pictures	676,103	687,290	703,549

Notes

New chess acquisitions have been counted separately for the first time in 2005-06.

Collections of ephemeral materials include uncatalogued items only and have been estimated.

Final size of additions to the Manuscripts Collection will vary as new collection items are repackaged to meet the Library's standards.

significant additions to the collection



Purchases

Proquest Historical Newspapers

This database contains the complete content, spanning 150 years, of six major American newspapers: *New York Times*, *Chicago Tribune*, *Washington Post*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Wall Street Journal* and *Christian Science Monitor*. All titles feature sophisticated searching and downloading options, and are available to both onsite and offsite users.

Great Britain: House of Commons 19th-century parliamentary papers online

This extraordinary resource, available to onsite and online users of the Library, includes the complete file of 19th-century papers, covering 4.2 million pages of working documents of the British Government from 1801 to 1900. These papers encompass all areas of social, economic and political life throughout the British Empire, providing a unique window on 19th-century life and including essential material for research into the settlement and development of Australia.

Palmetum (Townsville, Qld, Lyre Bird Press, 2002)

Palmetum is a collaborative work by prominent Australians on the theme of palm trees. The text is by Melbourne author and art publisher Jenny Zimmer, who contributes an essay on the use of the palm in art, and there is a contribution by John Dow, a Queensland palm biologist. Contributors of original etchings, linocuts and silkscreens include artists Jan Senbergs, Julie Haas, Ron McBurnie, Daniel Moynihan and Tate Adams. Forty numbered and signed copies were produced.

Peter Lyssiotis, *The Garden at Midnight* (Melbourne, Masterthief, 2004)

Peter Lyssiotis's *The Garden at Midnight* is the result of his work as one of the inaugural Creative Fellows at the State Library of Victoria in 2003-04. The work draws upon the State Library's rich collection of 18th- and 19th-century travel accounts of the Middle East, most notably David Roberts's *The Holy Land* (1842-49). The book was produced in an edition of ten numbered and signed copies.

Manuscripts from the Rodney Davidson Collection

At the second sale of the Rodney Davidson Collection the Library was successful in bidding for several manuscript items, including documentation regarding the application by William Buckley for a pardon. (Buckley was a former convict who escaped from the 1803-04 Sorrento settlement and lived with Aboriginal people.) This was possibly the most important document relating to European settlement at Port Phillip remaining in private hands, and was therefore a most desirable acquisition.

Moynihan and Anthony Figallo, *Richmond 3121* (Melbourne, The Artists, 2005)

Richmond 3121 is a collaborative work by artist Daniel Moynihan and photographer Anthony Figallo. Produced in an edition of 23 signed and numbered copies, the work looks at the Melbourne suburb of Richmond from a historical and contemporary perspective. It includes portraits of historical figures, and panoramic views of streetscapes.

George Rose stereoscopic images

A collection of 554 stereoscopic images by photographer George Rose was purchased from Mrs Shirley Jones. The collection is predominantly of unmounted stereo photographs annotated in Rose's own hand, showing views of Australia, New Zealand and other locations.

Donations

In 2005 the Library received a very generous donation from Dr Victor Spitzer, who has had a long involvement in mountaineering and over the years has assembled the largest private collection in Australia on the subject. This donation of books and journals, to be known as the Vic Spitzer Collection, comprises some 1200 volumes covering all aspects of mountaineering, and it has particular strengths in the field of exploration and travels in Central Asia and Nepal.

In 2005 a donation was made of a unique 'underground' copy, in four volumes, of Frank Hardy's novel *Power Without Glory*. Illegally printed in 1950 by staff at the premises of Fraser & Jenkinson Printers at the time of the famous Hardy trial over the book, it was donated by John Fraser, of the family that ran the printing firm.

Prominent Australian bookseller Michael Zifcak OBE, founding Chairman of the National Book Council and former Chairman and Chief Executive of the Collins Booksellers retail chain, has donated a collection of his personal papers that document his involvement with the book industry over many years.

The Santamaria family has transferred another very large component of BA Santamaria papers to the Library. These comprise clipping files that he maintained on a variety of political issues, which were formerly housed at the offices of the National Civic Council.

After the Fire, 1 - 'The fresh earth beams forth ten thousand springs of Life' (William Blake) - a lithograph in four panels and in five colours, by John Wolseley, one of the Library's inaugural Creative Fellows, was donated by the artist.

Tomkins MDA, a long-established Melbourne architectural firm, has donated its drawings and files to the Library. This collection contains plans of a number of important Melbourne buildings, including the Myer Bourke Street store.

Portraits of Port Phillip pioneers Donald Horne Ryrie and his wife, Jane Ryrie, by John Cross, were donated to the Picture Collection by Mrs ECG Turnbull, a descendant of the family.

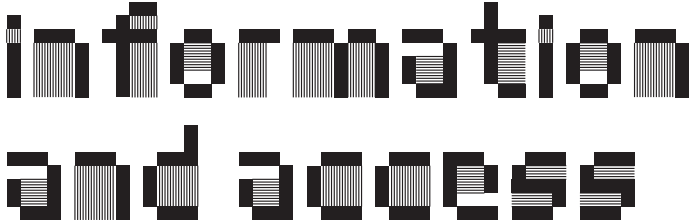
Catalogue access

The catalogue is an important access tool for users of the state's collection and information resources, and the primary access tool for the unique heritage materials in the State Library. It is regarded as the foundation on which slv21 is built and as such aims to ensure complete access to the Library's collections. The focus in 2005-06 has been on providing increased and improved access to heritage collection materials, while maintaining prompt and efficient access to material in the Library's Australian and International collections, and to the increasing number of electronic resources.

There has been a significant increase in the number of URLs added to the catalogue, including PANDORA and SETIS records loaded as part of an electronic collection purchased from Libraries Australia. There was also an increase in the number of CD-ROMs and new music CDs catalogued.

New projects have been undertaken in the cataloguing of pictures and rare books. As a result of a value management review, additional staff resources have been added towards the cataloguing of manuscripts. This, together with the support of the RE Ross Trust grant, has enabled work on the cataloguing of manuscripts to continue in an expanded project which will see the full Manuscripts Collection catalogued and accessible by 2008.

A considerable body of work on the bibliographic records of material moving to Ballarat was undertaken, ensuring that the new retrieval process for offsite material from the Ballarat store was able to operate effectively from May 2006 onwards.



Digitisation projects

With the support of the State Library of Victoria Foundation two major digitising projects were completed this year: the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works digitising project and the Port Phillip Papers project.

February 2006 saw the official launch of the digitised Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works Melbourne Sewerage Plans 1890s-1950s. More than 3500 MMBW plans have been catalogued, 750 of the most frequently requested plans have been scanned, and a web-based, interactive product has been created to provide users with viewing and printing options via links from the Library's online catalogue.

Also available through the online catalogue, the Port Phillip Papers project has delivered digitised rare and valuable original manuscript material relating to the European settlement of Victoria with an accompanying transcript. This material is now vastly more accessible to both onsite and offsite Library users. The challenging project has been very informative for the future digitising of text material at the Library.

Work also commenced on the RE Ross Trust-funded Victorian Patents Office Copyright Collection project, which will conserve, catalogue and digitise 2213 photographic images dating from 1870 to 1906. The digitisation of these often-requested images will make them widely available.

The Image Resources Group continued cataloguing and digitising an increasing range of collection items including pictures, maps, pamphlets and manuscripts, and making them accessible online. The Library has procured additional digitising equipment to enable the acceleration of the digitisation program.

Linking customers to information resources

The Library provides immediate assistance to people who visit, telephone or make inquiries through its web-based chat reference service, as well as answering inquiries received by mail or email. Significant improvements have been made to users' access to digital sources of information by upgrading the personal computers in the reading rooms, by making the internet freely available on most machines without the need for booking, and by upgrading printers and scanners to provide better quality copies and a wider range of services. From March 2006 a new customer-service team has greeted visitors in the foyer and has assisted them to locate the services they require quickly.

Remote access

The online@home project has supported offsite access for the 10,500 registered users of the Library to 19 full text, index and in-print directories. Arrangements with publishers are continuing to provide remote access to more databases.

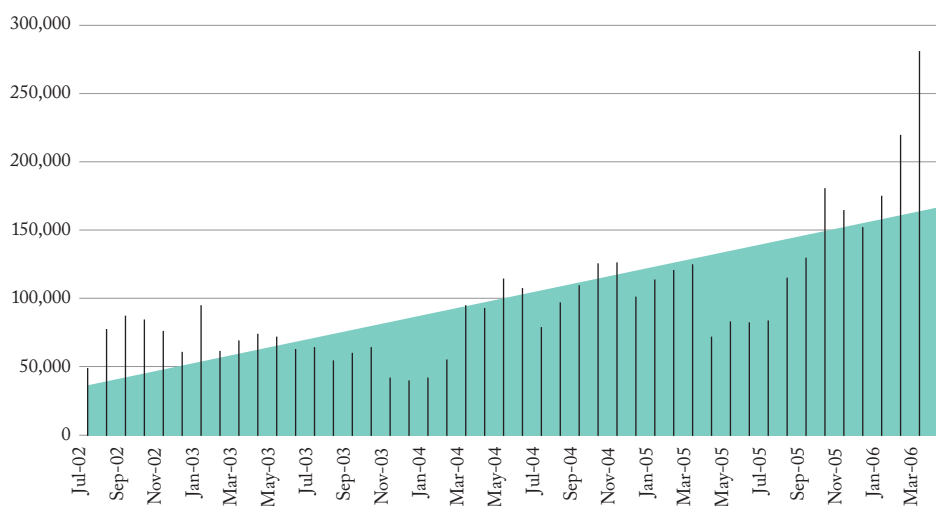
Making the State Library of Victoria's digital resources available outside the Library.

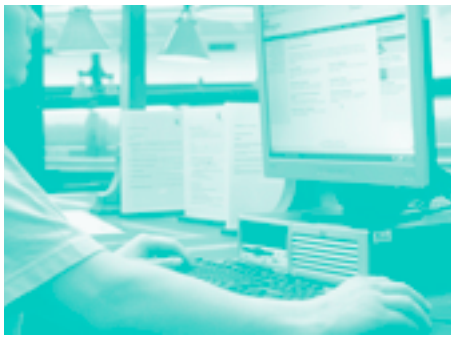
When the Library first digitised images from its Pictures Collection, they could only be viewed by people actually in the Library, using workstations running proprietary software. Now they can be viewed from anywhere in the world, and found via popular search engines such as Google Scholar and Yahoo!, as well as specialised search sites such as PictureAustralia. In fact, currently only 11 per cent of the visits to the Library's online digitised resources come directly from the Library's own domain (website and catalogues); the rest are referred from some other source. And the more sources, the more visits, as can be seen by the trend line in the graph below.

This has been achieved by:

- partnering with the National Library of Australia: the State Library of Victoria was one of the original five partners in PictureAustralia, along with the National Library of Australia, the state libraries of New South Wales and Tasmania, and the Australian War Memorial
- adoption of appropriate technology to assist other sites to easily harvest metadata to facilitate such partnering.

Monthly totals (July 2002 - April 2006): hits on image directories





Digital Initiatives

The Office of eStrategy and Innovation (OEI)

OEI was established in February 2006 to lead technology research and strategic development at the Library, and specifically the implementation of initiatives outlined in slv21. A key priority of the office is to identify, develop and implement new and innovative information technology initiatives to meet the needs of the library of the 21st century. This involves planning and coordinating large-scale and complex ICT projects which require expert knowledge of ICT futures, techniques and principles, and successfully applying these in a complex, multifaceted public organisation. The OEI works with all divisions by providing authoritative advice, helping to shape strategic thinking, and aligning ICT strategy to current and future organisational needs.

Digital Strategy Committee

The Digital Strategy Committee is a cross-enterprise forum focused on existing, emerging and new digital activities and services that support the Library's users. It advises the Library Executive on digital activities and services and keeps staff informed about the Library's digital initiatives and thinking. In 2005-06 the committee investigated a range of digital issues including the provision of free and open access to the internet on public workstations, provision of free wireless access, provision of remote access to licensed databases, web strategy, slv21 projects and web filtering.

State Library of Victoria website

During 2005-06, the State Library of Victoria website consolidated its pivotal role in promoting the Library as an authoritative source of high-quality information and services. Over the last 12 months the Library's online presence has grown substantially, expanding the range of services and depth of content available for its growing online customer base. Now comprising approximately 2000 pages across six sub-sites, the website has seen substantial increases in usage. In July 2005 a comparison of all Victorian Government websites, by the Red Sheriff statistical reporting tool, listed the Library website at 18. It is now ranked at seven and, since January 2006, has also consistently rated number one in the Arts category.

Anticipating user demands for accessing content when and where they need it, the Library expanded the range of content delivery options for website users. New services launched in the last 12 months include an email newsletter, content updates via RSS feeds, access to information databases from home and a version of the website for handheld devices such as PDAs. Also launched were new blogs and podcasting of Library talks and forums, for which the Library received the 2005 Arts Portfolio Leadership Award in the category of customer service/marketing/audience development. Other content made available to online users includes digitised and interactive versions of collection material such as the MMBW maps and the Port Phillip Papers.

During the year the Library extended its role as an information hub with the launch of a distinctive new online concept, called your.slv. This website represents a new model for audience engagement and interaction with Library content. It both recognises that people are no longer passive consumers of content and acknowledges that they are actively creating and sharing content online like never before. Accordingly, the your.slv website allows members of the public to contribute their own text and images, link their information to items in the Library's collection and share information with others who have the same interests.

Cultural Broadband Network

The State Library is a partner in the Cultural Broadband Network (CBN), a network that connects major Victorian cultural institutions to provide Victorians and audiences worldwide with sophisticated access to their cultural content. The network was established in 2005 and cultural agencies are now developing content that will provide information about Victorian cultural collections and interpretation of key Victorian icons and stories. The Library is the lead agency for two content projects: Discover Victoria's Culture and the Country Football Living Memory Project.

Discover Victoria's Culture will contextualise Victoria's cultural collections through stories and experiences about Victoria. The Country Football Living Memory Project will demonstrate the potential of the CBN to provide access to video stories and the resources of the PictureVictoria repository, which focus on the living memory and documentary heritage of Australian Rules Football in country Victoria.

Council of Australian State Libraries Consortium (CASL)

The continuing collaboration with other state libraries for purchasing access to databases through the CASL Consortium has provided significant savings for the Library. This consortium of Australian state, territory and national libraries aims to improve cost benefits for members, coordinate licensing arrangements and explore opportunities for making resources more widely available to all Australians. Each member has a representative on the CASL Consortia and Licensing Working Group, where licence issues are identified and the purchase of products is coordinated.

PANDORA: Australia's Web Archive

The Library has collected Victorian online publications for contribution to the PANDORA Archive in association with the National Library of Australia since 1998 and is the largest contributor to the archive outside the National Library itself. The year has seen the successful completion of the campaign to secure permission from all Victorian government departments for the Library to collect their online publications. This has added hundreds of new titles to the national archive as well as to the Library's own collection. The year also saw PANDORA's coverage of the 2006 Melbourne Commonwealth Games collection page, which was made available in June 2006. The most used title in the national collection is still First Families 2001, a former State Library of Victoria initiative collected for PANDORA when it was discontinued as a live resource.

Another milestone was reached this year with the attainment and passing of 2000 titles; as of April 2006 the total is over 2500.

AskNow!

The AskNow! online reference service, at asknow.gov.au, celebrated its third birthday and passed the milestone 100,000th inquiry in August 2005. Staffed by librarians from the national, state, territory and public libraries, AskNow! is open weekdays, 9am to 7pm, for eastern Australia. AskNow! is an opportunity to connect people with the growing range of services that libraries provide to on- and offsite users. Developments in 2005-06 include enlisting two additional public libraries and new staff from the Library for the Victorian arm of the service, and improved software. The State Library of Victoria handled 4555 AskNow! inquiries for 2005-06, while the total number of AskNow! inquiries Australia-wide for this period was more than 36,332.

MusicAustralia

The State Library of Victoria, along with other state libraries, continued to be a major contributor to MusicAustralia - an online service developed by the National Library of Australia and the National Film and Sound Archive. The Library digitised a further 50 pre-1930 sheet music titles in 2005-06, bringing the total number of titles now searchable via the MusicAustralia interface to over 270. As well as providing access to the Library's digitised sheet music, MusicAustralia also includes State Library of Victoria music-related items such as sound recordings, books, theses and manuscripts.

Public Programs

Exhibitions

With the completion of the Dome Galleries exhibition spaces, the Library is now the largest exhibiting library in Australia and one of the largest in the world. In the minds of many visitors, the Library's exhibitions have come to represent both the collections and the cultural role of the State Library. They reflect the character of the Library as a place to learn, to discover, to question and to be surprised, and as a place that simultaneously preserves our heritage and looks ahead.

The exhibitions provide the Library with a range of benefits, including increased interest in and use of the collections, the development of new audiences, greater media attention, and the potential for future gifts and bequests to the collections.

I am delighted to hear of the excellent attendance at the Mirror of the World exhibition. Richly deserved. Some American friends of mine were through Melbourne in January and were bowled over by it. Congratulations to all.

Patrick McCaughey

Permanent exhibitions

Cowen Gallery

The Cowen Gallery, featuring a permanent display of 150 paintings and marble busts from the Library's Pictures Collection, remains popular with both school groups and the general public. Several temporary displays were featured in the gallery, including the 13-metre-long Bendigo Goldfields Petition.

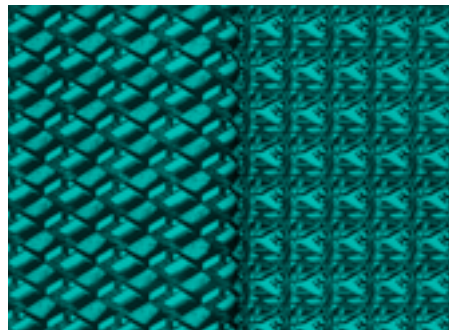
The total number of visitors was 108,357. This figure is lower than previous years' figures, reflecting a change in the methodology for counting attendance.

Dome Galleries

The changing face of Victoria

The State Library is the custodian of Victoria's memory. Its collections record and reflect upon the people, the places and the events that have shaped life here from first contact between Europeans and Aboriginal people to today. *The changing face of Victoria* brings these objects and stories to light through an ever-changing display of pictures, manuscripts, maps and objects ranging from key historical artefacts to items from daily life.

The number of collection items on display is 279, with approximately 190 items rotating per year. The total number of visitors was 78,473.



Mirror of the World: books and ideas

This exhibition showcases many of the rare, beautiful and historically significant books held in the collections of the State Library and celebrates books as keepers of ideas, knowledge and the imagination, as well as our special relationship to them as writers and readers. It also provides a window into the history of book production and illustration through the display of fine examples dating from the Middle Ages to today. The exhibition has received considerable public and media attention. Visitors are astounded at the richness and diversity of the Library's holdings.

The opening of this exhibition on 8 December 2005 marked the completion of the exhibition gallery component of the Library's redevelopment.

The number of collection items on display is 287, with 320 items rotating per year. The total number of visitors (from 9 December 2005) was 73,114.

Temporary exhibitions

Keith Murdoch Gallery

Eureka revisited: the contest of memories

A Ballarat Fine Art Gallery touring exhibition

5 August-30 October 2005

This exhibition, launched by the Hon. John Thwaites MP, Deputy Premier of Victoria, on 4 August, told the story of the events of the Eureka Stockade rebellion at Ballarat in 1854, and examined the many different ways in which the story has been retold over the past 150 years. It also explored the significance and meaning of the Eureka legend through artworks prepared by eyewitnesses and memorabilia from the 1850s. *Eureka revisited* featured original works by prominent artists such as Sidney Nolan, Eugène von Guérard, Norman Lindsay, Sally Smart and Peter Solness, who have all been inspired by Eureka imagery and symbolism. The total number of visitors was 26,840.

Lost & Found - Peter Lyssiotis and John Wolseley: The adventures of two artists in the State Library of Victoria

18 November 2005-12 February 2006

This exhibition, launched by Terry Bracks on 17 November, presented new artworks by two significant Australian artists, Peter Lyssiotis and John Wolseley. As recipients of the inaugural State Library of Victoria Creative Fellowships in 2003-04, both immersed themselves in the Library's collections. The resulting new paintings, drawings, prints and artists' books were displayed alongside rare books and pictures from the Library's collections which inspired their creation. The artists' notebooks, sketches and other source materials were also exhibited to document the artists' 'journeys' and gave visitors an insight into the artistic process. The total number of visitors was 23,332.

National Treasures from Australia's Great Libraries

Principal Sponsor: AAMI

At the State Library of Victoria

10 March-7 May 2006

The *National Treasures* touring exhibition brings together for the first time more than 170 extraordinary items that have shaped our nation. Drawn from the magnificent collections of Australia's national, state and territory libraries, the exhibition contains a diverse range of manuscripts, maps, drawings, paintings and objects. Spanning the earliest European depiction of the Southern Cross, drawn in the 16th century, through our convict and colonial era, two world wars, recent innovations and our constant obsessions with sport, food and wine, it gives fresh insight into the diversity and breadth of our history and what it means to be Australian.

This exhibition is an initiative of the Council of Australian State Libraries (CASL) and is managed by the National Library of Australia. It will tour to every state and territory capital city until late 2007. The total number of visitors was 40,025.

Naked Democracy: Governing Victoria 1856-2006

Supported by: Department of Premier and Cabinet

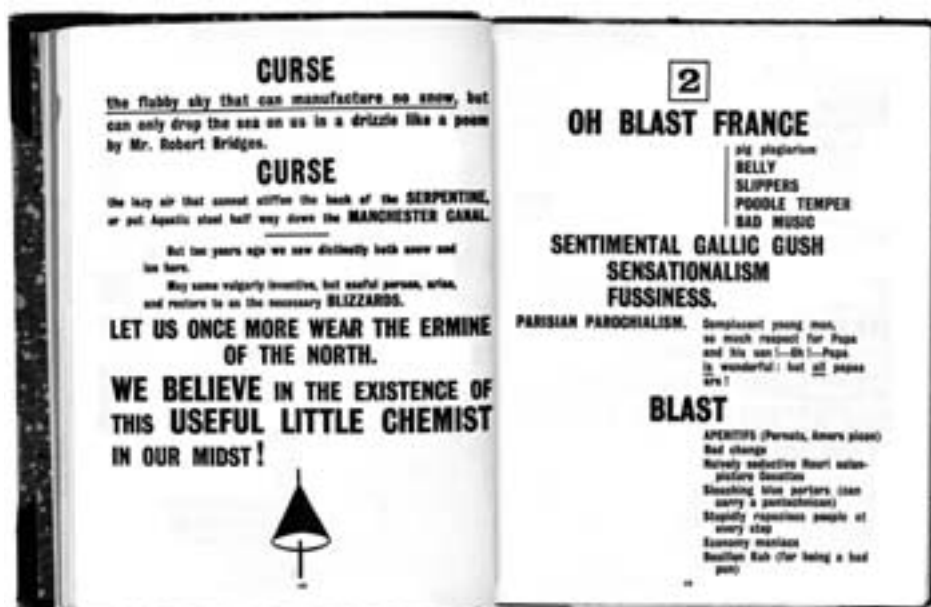
2 June-1 October 2006

This exhibition celebrates the 150th anniversary of self-government in Victoria, revisiting the highs and lows of Victorian government, politics and democracy in a lively display of memorabilia. It spans the introduction of the secret ballot, the emergence of political parties, the 1923 police strike, the Eight-Hour Day movement and women's struggle for the right to vote. *Naked Democracy* looks at things that Victorians take for granted - the right to vote, the right to shop, the idea that democracy is good for us - and asks, 'Was it always this way?' Launched by the Hon. Steve Bracks MP, Premier of Victoria, on 1 June, the total number of visitors to June 30 was 5866.

Ned Kelly's armour, on display in the exhibition
The changing face of Victoria

Paul Nash, *A specimen book of pattern papers designed for and in use at the Curwen Press*. London, The Fleuron Ltd, 1928

Blast, no. 1. London, John Lane, 1914. From *Mirror of the World: books and ideas*



Events

In 2005-06, the Library hosted a series of public lectures and forums on diverse topics:

- Prominent Melbourne developer and publisher Morry Schwartz delivered the annual Redmond Barry Lecture on 5 July on 'A Balancing Act: The rightful place of defamation law in open society'.
- The Right Honourable Malcolm Fraser delivered the 14th annual Stephen Murray-Smith Lecture on 'How Democracies Fight Terrorism' on 19 October.
- Award-winning playwright David Williamson delivered the National Biography Award Lecture, 'Personal Drama: David Williamson on self depiction' on 10 November.
- The successful association with OzProspect continued, producing public lectures and forums on issues critical to Australia's future, such as Don Edgar on 'The Workplace of the Future: Fresh thinking about work and family'.
- The lecture series 'Historically Speaking', a collaboration between the Library and the History Council of Victoria, continued in the second half of 2005. Topics included 'Politics and Ethics of Indigenous Histories', 'Family Histories' and 'Performing Histories or Performing Historian'.
- The *Writers in Focus* program featured authors such as Eve Seles, Peter Mares, Delia Falconer, Annamarie Jagose, Peter Rose and Craig Sherbourne.

Other activities included:

- On 16 July, in association with Readers' Feast Bookstore, the Library co-hosted a public launch on the Library forecourt of *Harry Potter and the Half Blood Prince*. The book was launched by the Hon. Steve Bracks MP, Premier of Victoria.
- On 28 October Terry Bracks unveiled the *Open World* tapestry by Chinese-Australian artist John Young in the Cowen Gallery.
- The Hon. John Brumby MP, Treasurer and Minister for State and Regional Development, officially accepted the handover of the Library's offsite store at Ballarat University on 15 December.

- Events were organised to complement most exhibitions, including opening ceremonies, curator talks and a *Eureka Kids' Day* on 8 September.
- The successful *Travelling Treasures* program continued in 2005-06, taking an extraordinary selection of rare and printed materials throughout Victoria. Sixteen days were spent on the road, with 52 events for children and adults, reaching a total audience of more than 3000 rural Victorians.

Commonwealth Writers' Prize 2006

As part of Festival Melbourne 2006, the cultural celebration of the Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games, the Library hosted the 2006 Commonwealth Writers' Prize from 9 to 14 March, delivering a successful week-long program of events and activities at the Library and across regional Victoria in Geelong, Ballarat, Bendigo and Warrnambool.

The prize is awarded annually to a writer from the Commonwealth for best book and best first book. Judges, administrators and six of the eight regional winning authors from across the Commonwealth came to Melbourne to take part in the program, which included:

- a Reading Relay on the Library forecourt, where a succession of readers read from *Winnie the Pooh*. The audience was entertained with readings by the regional winning authors as well as Bud Tingwell, Lillian Frank, Chief Commissioner Christine Nixon, Terry Bracks, Ron Barassi, Guy Grossi and others.
- a public dinner, called 'Pub Grub & Chatter', at the North Fitzroy Star Hotel
- a series of free lunchtime public readings on the Library forecourt.

The week culminated in a presentation ceremony on 14 March at the Library at which His Royal Highness The Prince Edward, Earl of Wessex, KCVO ADC announced the winners. The prize for best first book was won by Mark McWatt from Guyana for his work *Suspended Sentences*, while Australian writer Kate Grenville was awarded the best book prize for *The Secret River*. Over 200 guests attended.

Victorian Premier's Literary Awards

The 2005 Victorian Premier's Literary Awards offered \$195,000 in prize money in 11 categories, including the inaugural Grollo Ruzzene Foundation Prize for Writing about Italians in Australia. Highlights for 2005 included a record number of entries for the Nettie Palmer Prize for Non-Fiction, a new design featured in all awards publicity, and a well-attended awards dinner held at Zinc, Federation Square, on 17 October.

The Hon. Steve Bracks MP, Premier of Victoria, presented the 2005 awards, and Mary Delahunty MP, Minister for the Arts, announced the winner of the prize for an unpublished manuscript. Historian and writer Inga Clendinnen delivered the keynote speech on 'Politics, War and the Value of Human Life', which was later broadcast on ABC Radio National.

The awards dinner featured a live internet protocol television cross to Sale, where children from Sale Secondary College announced the winner of the young adult fiction prize from the Wellington Shire Library. The cross was technically supported by Vicnet and demonstrated the effectiveness of new technologies in involving regional communities.

Media coverage throughout 2005 exhibited a 28 per cent increase on 2004 levels, further underscoring the high standing that the Victorian Premier's Literary Awards continue to enjoy at both state and national levels.

The RE Ross Trust Playwrights' Script Development Awards

In 2005 the Library administered the RE Ross Trust Playwrights' Script Development Awards for the third time. The awards, which provide opportunities for Victorian playwrights to develop and workshop their scripts, have developed a high profile in the Victorian theatre community.

Award winners were announced by Mrs Eda Ritchie, Chair of the RE Ross Trust, at the Victorian Premier's Literary Awards dinner, with six entrants sharing \$30,000. And in a new ongoing initiative negotiated between the RE Ross Trust, the Library and the Australian National Playwrights' Centre, one of the annual winners will also go on to have their play workshopped at the National Playwrights' Conference in 2006.

Live @ the Library, an initiative of the Library funded by the RE Ross Trust, also commenced in early 2006, with performances of excerpts of plays and conversations with previous winners. The popular series featured playwrights Tee O'Neill, Alexandra Collier and David Blackman.

Learning Services

The new Learning Services Division was established in March 2006, a review of programming was undertaken, and new programs will be launched early in 2006-07 as part of slv21. This division incorporates the Centre for Youth Literature, Lifelong Learning, School Services and Experimedia.

Centre for Youth Literature

Over the past 12 months the Centre for Youth Literature (CYL) has focused on developing and delivering a program to reach a broader audience.

More than 5000 people were attracted to the program across 23 events, including the launch of the youth literature website, insideadog.com.au, and writing workshops featuring the Library's exhibitions and young adult authors Carole Wilkinson and Kirsty Murray. These two new initiatives complement the established CYL program, which provides professional development for teachers and librarians as well as highly successful author events for the youth audience.

The professional development program covered diverse topics and interest areas - from showcasing innovative youth services in public libraries in New Zealand to exploring refugee and asylum-seeker experiences. Training also covered working with picture books, verse novels and graphic novels. The session on 'Wide Reading' on 28 April completely sold out. Young people's events focused on teen issues and style and as well as some 'Weird Stuff' with Richard Tulloch. Shakespeare explorations were entertainingly covered by Greg Rogers in 'The Boy the Bear the Baron the Bard' Bookgig. Other authors involved with the program included:

- Colin Bowles, JC Burke, Sonya Hartnett and Markus Zusak with 'On the Edge'
- Phillip Gwynne, Margo Lanagan, John Nicholson and alicia sometimes with 'What's your Style?'
- Joanne Baker, John Flanagan, Catherine Jinks, Victor Kelleher and Sophie Laguna with 'Old School, New School'
- Jaclyn Moriarty, Michael Gerard Bauer and Barry Jonsberg with 'Bring the Funny!'
- visiting overseas authors such as Neil Gaiman, Jonathan Stroud and Anthony Browne.

In addition, the centre delivered a range of activities including consultancies, an author-in-residence program with Arnold Zable, and networking and advice to professionals who support the promotion and development of youth literature in Australia. It also hosted the launch of the Victorian Premier's Reading Challenge in Experimedia.

CYL continues to be supported by *The Age*, Monash University, the Australia Council and book publishers. In 2006, the centre received funding for two years from the Copyright Agency Limited Research and Development Cultural Fund towards the development of the new youth literature website. This funding has enabled the centre to establish Australia's first comprehensive, professional website to promote youth literature. The website - insideadog.com.au - has also received development funding from Clayton Utz. It harnesses the work and relationships built up over the past decade with authors, other professionals and young people. The site aims to involve young people aged between 12 and 16 directly, to promote interest in and awareness of young adult literature. It was launched on 28 April by first writer-in-residence, Nick Earls. Randa Abdel-Fattah followed in June, with in-residence blogging on the website.

Lifelong learning

The learning and educational programs presented by the State Library of Victoria are diverse and engaging. They introduce people to the Library, increase their familiarity with the collections and services, develop their confidence and ability to use resources and technology, and stimulate engagement with ideas, history and culture.

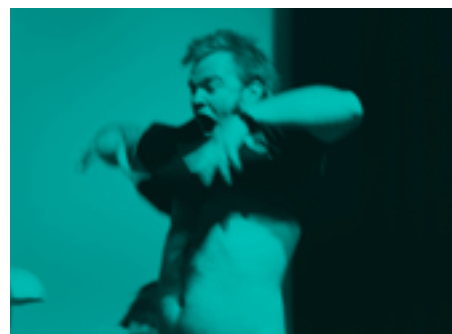
A broad cross-section of the Victorian community attends these programs, including primary, secondary and tertiary students, independent learners, special-interest groups, and library professionals. Learning programs build relationships within the learning group and with libraries.

In 2005-06, 22,399 participants attended 1740 lifelong learning sessions.

Volunteers

The volunteers continue their valuable work in collections and at front of house. In 2005 Vicnet's volunteers finished their association with the Library after ten years of valuable support, which included developing an internet presence for many community groups under the Vicnet umbrella, and representing the Library at public events such as the Royal Melbourne Show.

Reading room and exhibition tours increase in popularity every year. Guides conducted regular tours of the *Mirror of the World* and *The changing face of Victoria* exhibitions, as well as tours of temporary exhibitions held in the Keith Murdoch Gallery.



Actor Jamie Robertson at a Centre for Youth Literature Bookgig

The Library's Cowen Gallery



Programs for Adults

In 2005-06, a wide range of education programs was provided onsite at the State Library, including:

- the 'Getting Started' series, covering new users, using the catalogue, job seeker information, business startup research and law resources
- internet training - 'Welcome to the Net', 'Introduction to Email' and 'Find it on the Net'
- database training - 'Fundamentals of Searching', 'Using Significant Global and Australian Databases' and 'Finding Journal Articles'
- heritage tours, focusing on new and refurbished public spaces as well as the permanent exhibitions; tours presented daily by Library volunteers
- orientation programs on Genealogy, Newspapers and the Arts collections
- Express Information Service, presenting regular, two-hour programs on finding company information, Australian statistics and industry information
- work experience and professional development programs, provided by the Collection Management Division
- professional development programs presented by the School Services Unit for teachers, contributing to teachers' information literacy and promoting how they can use the Library in their teaching
- customised programs, developed on request for special-interest groups
- offsite programs across Victoria, including technology training, as part of the contractual agreements for the *My Connected Community* and *Skills.net Roadshow* programs - conducted by Vicnet at 20 sites across regional Victoria.

Programs for Students

This is the coolest place ever!
Year 4 student

The Library provides a broad range of educational programs for primary and secondary students which draw on its collections, exhibitions and resources. The schools program, which is generously supported by Trust Company of Australia, provided 28 learning programs for 14,742 students both at the Library and in regional Victoria during 2005-06.

With the introduction of the new Victorian Essential Learning Standards (VELS), the Library completely reviewed its schools program. As a consequence, a wider variety of programs is now offered, with a stronger relevance to the changing educational environment. Programs are also more easily integrated into teachers' curriculum planning, to achieve their learning outcomes.

Coinciding with the introduction of the VELS, the Department of Education & Training chose to reduce its funding for the Library's Schools Program by 45 per cent, to \$29,000 per annum.

The Library successfully negotiated philanthropic support from the Buckland Foundation for a new teacher fellowship program, to commence in Semester One in 2007.

A year-round program of events, tours and workshops is offered, giving students access to innovative learning opportunities. The broad program areas include:

- *Victoria - People and Places* - exploring Victoria's history through *The changing face of Victoria* exhibition
- *Picturing Victoria* - developing art appreciation through the Cowen Gallery exhibition
- *The Written World* - discovering books and writing in the exhibition *Mirror of the World: books and ideas*

- *National Treasures* - discovering Australia's identity (a Keith Murdoch Gallery exhibition)
- *Naked Democracy* - learning about government (a Keith Murdoch Gallery exhibition)
- *Research Skills* - development - learning to use the Library
- *Digital Discovery* - interacting with new media and technology.

Some of the special programs included a Commonwealth Games flag-making workshop, 'Burke and Wills: explorer's survival kit', 'Ned Kelly's Armour: Do it yourself', 'Clay into Cuneiform Workshop' and 'History Blog Quest'.

Travelling Treasures

The schools component of the *Travelling Treasures* program has been a continuing success throughout 2005-06, visiting more than 46 schools in regional Victoria and presenting to more than 2852 students in 41 sessions.

The program highlighted items from *The changing face of Victoria* exhibition in 2005 and the *Mirror of the World* exhibition in 2006. The latter tour included:

- a 15th-century illuminated Book of Hours
- a second edition of Nicolaus Copernicus's *De Revolutionibus Orbium Coelestium*, 1566
- a Fourth Folio Shakespeare, 1685
- Robert Hooke's *Micrographia*, 1665
- Sydney Parkinson's *A Journal of a Voyage to the South Seas in HMS Endeavour*, 1773.



Experimedia

Experimedia increased its visitor numbers to 58,000 in 2005-06, up from 40,000 in the previous reporting period, consolidating its popularity with youthful and technology-savvy users.

The year's programming for Experimedia included:

- an exhibition of Metraform's 'i-Gaze' virtual-reality projection system of dual projectors, surround sound and special viewing glasses, which allowed users to explore Metraform's 3-D work *Ecstasis*, an abstract architectural world of glittering shards and pulsating membranes
- 'Through the Looking Glass: Visualising science', a lecture held in National Science Week in August, on how contemporary multimedia artists are both inspired by and using science in their work. Science Week saw the return of 'Fresh Science' to the Library, allowing young scientists to undergo intensive media training before pitching their research projects to the public and school groups in lay terms
- 'Pop Fiction' workshops run by author Sarah Boland, which engaged teens in interpreting the characters, plot and themes of her novel *To Love Veronica Bee* in the form of online games, hip-hop lyrics and other types of multimedia
- 'Flash Fusion' workshops in the September 2005 school holidays, where children created their own animations using the eMacs. In June 2006 children were invited to 'Make a Scene' from a story they collaboratively wrote; they then individually animated scenes and stitched them together to make a final 'movie'.



- Broadcasts by SYN FM's youngest trainee DJs live from Experimedia, during 2005's Open House in November
- exhibitions, such as *Contagion* by Gina Czarniecki, *Picturing the Old People* by Creative Fellow Genevieve Grieves, and *Exhume* by students of the Advanced Diploma of Multimedia at RMIT
- *Bitscape*, part of the 2006 Commonwealth Games Cultural Festival program, which showcased digital works made by youth in the rural areas of Moe, Macedon Ranges and Wagga Wagga
- *Elicit*, an ongoing series of real-time interactive pieces by multimedia artist Tim Devine, in which visitors' movements were manipulated in custom software and then projected back to the big screen as time-delayed, caterpillar-like visions
- a series of Digital Forums, which allowed staff, the public and librarians from public libraries to encounter a range of people involved in technologies and practices affecting the contemporary librarian. Speakers included Professor William Cartwright on contemporary cartography; Warwick Cathro on future directions of the National Library of Australia; Moyra McAllister on copyright in the digital age; Kim Montgomery on the Australian Centre for the Moving Image project 'Memory and Place'; and the State Library's Peter McGrath on the potential use and pros and cons of some new high-tech devices
- a new series of public forums, the first of which was 'Designing Globally: Driving the future', focusing on changing design practices within the car industry. This talk attracted more than 250 people. 'A Wealth of Inspiration' was a free forum for visual artists and discussed how they can access material via collections such as the Pictures and Rare Books collections.

As part of slv21, Experimedia's opening hours were extended from 27 March on a trial basis to align with the Library's general opening hours.



Creative Fellowships

In July 2005 the Library announced the successful applicants for the third year of the Creative Fellowships. Funded by a grant of \$300,000 from the State Government and with additional support from the Library and its philanthropic supporters, the Creative Fellowships offer funding and support for scholars, writers and artists to pursue projects using Library collections.

Fifteen projects were supported by the program.

Dr Hilary Maddocks received a six-month fellowship for a project entitled *The Art of Print: Documentation of European illustrated printed books c. 1470-1550*.

Three-month fellowships

Dr Fiona Capp: *Once an Outlaw* - novel.

Dr Lyn Gallacher: manuscript for publication based on the Alma Magic Collection.

Ms Elizabeth Gertsakis: *Horror, Calamity and Graphthos in Victorian Popular Illustrated News in Melbourne 1875-1877* - exhibition proposal with book of accompanying poetry and prose.

Ms Xenia Hanusiak: *Golden Threads* - opera libretto.

Dr Jack Hibberd: *The Nunawading Messiah and the Chosen People of Victoria* - play script.

Mr Brian Lipson: *Bergasse 19 - The apartments of Sigmund Freud* - play script.

Dr Paul Paffen *War and Peace: H. Septimus Power and M. Napier Waller and the murals of the State Library Victoria* - research towards a scholarly article.

Mr John Ryrie: *A Book in the Form of a Medieval Bestiary Representing Some of the People and Animals Europeans Believed to Exist on the Great Southern Continent* - production of a limited edition artist's book.

Mr Terrence Sawyer: *Tracing the Line: An analysis of the development of the architecture of William Pitt* - scholarly article and research for a possible exhibition.

Ms Lisa Sullivan: *Sybil Craig: Art and archive* - scholarly article.

Mr Christian Bumbarra Thompson: *A reinterpretation of Percy Leason's Aboriginal Paintings* - new body of artwork.

Dr Maria Tumarkin: *The Chronicles of Unaccompanied Minors* - book for children, a workshop within the Centre for Youth Literature, radio segment and articles.

Dr Rachel Weaver: *Defending the Homestead - Representations of Aboriginal and settler violence in colonial and late-colonial Australian popular culture* - scholarly articles.

Mr Arnold Zable: *Sea of Many Returns* - novel.

Redmond Barry 1854 Fellowship

(Funded by the University of Melbourne in honour of the common founder of the Library and the University)

Mr Olivier Burckhardt: *Pencilled Lines on Poetry* - series of scholarly articles.