

Strategic Directions

2013 - 2017



State Library
OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

The mission of the State Library of Western Australia

For the benefit of all Western Australians, the State Library:

- treasures the stories of Western Australia;
- champions literacy and learning;
- cultivates creative ideas; and
- leads the development of the Western Australian public library network.

These four fundamental tasks are our mission. They define the essential and unique contribution the State Library makes to our community; they provide the strategic direction with which to set our goals and guide the operational plans to achieve them.

In support of our mission, the State Library will work continuously to improve our services and our processes, meet our governance obligations, support our staff as a learning organisation, consult with the community we serve, and collaborate effectively with our partners.

The State Library treasures the stories of Western Australia

The continued prosperity of our State and nation depends on a strong connection with the past for the benefit of present and future generations. Our connection with the past is built on documentary, visual and oral heritage which, when preserved, create an archive which helps tell the social, political, economic and cultural history of Western Australia. Across the State individuals, organisations and communities make important contributions to this collection by recording and sharing their unique perspectives of the past. Developing, managing, preserving and making these Western Australian stories accessible to all supports research, innovation and the creation of new knowledge.

To treasure the State's stories, in 2013 – 2015 our goals are to:

- build, preserve and make accessible a comprehensive collection of materials which reflects the many facets of Western Australia's history and development; and
- highlight the importance of Western Australia's documentary heritage and its value to society.

To achieve these goals, we will:

1. implement the provisions of the Legal Deposit Act (2012) by creating both the regulations necessary to guide deposit and the technical infrastructure necessary to hold it;
2. create a special archive that preserves and makes available the rich history of resources and mining in Western Australia, working in particular with the private corporations active in the resource sector;
3. continue our work to secure Western Australia's documentary heritage, describe these materials, provide community access on line and through the J.S. Batty Library of West Australian History which is part of the State Library, and preserve and manage these important collections; and
4. as part of our annual program of public events, activities and learning opportunities engage the Western Australian community with our collections and promote the value of WA's history and documentary heritage.

The State Library champions literacy and learning

Literacy and learning are fundamental to the well-being and quality of life of the Western Australian community. In all its forms, literacy is the basis for learning and the growth of knowledge in today's society. Western Australians of all ages and backgrounds need multiple opportunities to foster literacy, to expand their abilities, and to improve and sustain their learning. Libraries are our champions in these endeavours; being integral to building literacy levels in our community and in supporting the life-long learning ambitions of all Western Australians.

To champion literacy and learning, in 2013 – 2015 our goals are to:

- create opportunities for all Western Australians to strengthen their literacy abilities;
- maintain a profile as a key player on State and national literacy agendas and be recognised as a valued partner in literacy services; and
- work in partnership with Aboriginal people to collect and restore community memory, and create literacy and learning opportunities.

To achieve these goals, we will:

1. continue to deliver the proven and successful Better Beginnings family literacy initiatives throughout Western Australia;
2. create a literacy framework to describe the role of libraries in early childhood, family and adult literacy acquisition and support for all Western Australians;
3. work with our partners to develop a strategy for the long-term sustainability of Better Beginnings; and
4. work with selected Aboriginal communities to develop a flexible and adaptable literacy and learning program that is driven by community need, links to culture and uses technology to extend reach.

The State Library cultivates creative ideas

Strong, healthy societies need opportunities to challenge and explore ideas which allow us to build better futures. Equally, creative ideas, in words both spoken and written, are a fundamental part of our artistic expression. Libraries provide safe, open and supportive places for Western Australians to participate in these processes of debate and invention. Within the library, curiosity and opportunity come together resulting in creativity in all its forms. The words which emerge through and within libraries are the vital underpinnings of the stories about ourselves and the collective exploration of ideas.

To cultivate creative ideas, in 2013 – 2015 our goals are to:

- make the State Library a hub for the development, discussion and dissemination of innovation and ideas;
- re-imagine and develop a new model for reference and information services through the State Library; and
- celebrate and support writing, reading and ideas.

To achieve these goals, we will:

1. organise an annual program of public events, activities and learning opportunities featuring key thinkers, authors, and leaders to engage the Western Australian community in international, national and local conversations and inspire creativity and innovation;
2. manage the Premier's Book Awards on behalf of the Government of Western Australia and the Library Board of WA to recognise and reward excellence in writing;
3. work in partnership with writingWA as a peak organisation in the State working for writers, including hosting the writingWA office; and
4. publish a discussion paper on the future of the traditional reference library covering both collections and physical spaces which will provide options for the future development of the reference library.

The State Library leads the development of the WA public library network

Public libraries in Western Australia provide crucial services for all citizens delivered through a partnership between State and local governments. Central to this partnership is a shared vision that our public libraries shall be connected, well resourced and free, serving as hubs of community life. As technology creates new and changing community expectations, public library services will change and embrace new opportunities. The network of public libraries ensures that, through coordinated and shared activity, public library services can be offered sustainably and effectively, balancing local community and wider social needs.

To lead the development of the WA public library network in 2013 – 2015 our goals are to:

- meet our legislative and agreed responsibilities under the *Framework Agreement between State and Local Government for the Provision of Public Library Services in Western Australia*;
- continuously improve the support services we provide the public library network; and
- explore future opportunities for public library services in Western Australia to ensure future capability and ongoing sustainability.

To achieve these goals, working with the public library network we will:

1. create a research agenda to demonstrate the role of the public library in a changing technological and social environment;
2. advocate for visible and valued public libraries to build strong communities;
3. drive literacy and learning opportunities through public libraries; and
4. pursue opportunities for statewide systems that enhance the library network including a single library management system, inter library lending, Better Beginnings, procurement, training, skills and knowledge, e-books and the exchange system.

The strategic culture of the State Library of Western Australia

In support of our mission, the State Library will work continuously to improve our services and our processes, meet our governance obligations, support our staff as a learning organisation, consult with the community we serve, and collaborate effectively with our partners.

To ensure we can support our strategic mission, in 2013 – 2015 our goals are to:

- demonstrate our commitment to our mission and goals through our services, actions and outcomes;
- ensure our services meet community expectations and our building provides a safe and welcoming environment;
- ensure our technology, administrative systems and processes are appropriate and efficient;
- raising awareness within the community of the services offered by the State Library; and
- advocate for the role of libraries in the community and actively participate in professional debate.

To achieve our goals, we will:

1. implement our Workforce Plan to ensure we have the people we need with the skills we need to meet our strategic mission;
2. meet our corporate governance and compliance obligations;
3. review our materials handling within the State Library and across the State;
4. review our technology and ensure it supports and is aligned to our strategic mission;
5. work with our stakeholders and partners to create opportunities that benefit the Western Australian community; and
6. contribute to national and international professional activities such as National and State Libraries Australasia – Reimagining Libraries program.



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