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Information Gateways to Knowledge Gateways

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Knowledge Mediators A Role for Library's

Where does the public go for information about important social issues?

- Traditional Mass Media
- Web 1.0 & Web 2.0 Communities
- Scholarly Research and Specialists Publications

Libraries and what they can offer?



A thriving culture, economy, and democracy requires the free flow of information and ideas. Fundamental to that free flow of information and ideas are Australia's library and information services. They are a legacy to each generation, conveying the knowledge of the past and the promise of the future.

ALIA Core Values Statement, 2002

IFLA believes that the right to know and freedom of expression are two aspects of the same principle.

IFLA Statement on Libraries and Intellectual Freedom

Knowledge Gateways Showcasing Libraries & Librarians

- Respond to community needs to understand social or topical issues
- Demonstrate information seeking skills and strategies put into practice
- Showcase the specialist information of libraries and skills of library professionals.



Visualising Knowledge Gateways

They should:

- Seek to incorporate and demonstrate the information seeking cycle
- Use concept or argument mapping tools to organise knowledge around a topic.
- Borrow from knowledge management fields to build meaningful "information neighbourhoods"
- Provide for community input, feedback, discussion.

Searching & Navigating Knowledge Gateways

- Knowledge Gateways searchable through library catalogues and internet search engines.
- Concept Map as first entry point and scaffold to gateway area – defining issue and questions.
- Links through to library sponsored Wiki site to further developed content and navigational pages based on the concept map.

Concept Map Knowledge Gateway Entry Point



Inspiration Software Inc.



Building Information Neighbourhoods in Knowledge Gateways

- Specialist encyclopaedias
- High quality media coverage - pod casts or articles providing overviews.
- Key researchers and/or authors writing in this area, and links to their catalogue records.
- Key government or non-government organisations active in these issues, their role and links to key information sources.
- Tips for further searching in the above range of information sources.

Linking Web 2.0 User Input

- Library Knowledge Gateway Community Portal – a place for feedback & comment
- Links to external Web 2.0 networks on a given topic – push/pull to library services
- Building relationships key to developing library collections

Crystallising the vision

Library Knowledge Gateways, stepping users through the Information Seeking Cycle

- Identify the problem & information needed
- Demonstrate how to access the information
- Evaluate (build awareness of) the sources key information sources
- Use of information to build a knowledge base
- Search strategies, ethical and legal access and use

