

## **Launch of the new ShareIt wiki**

*Launched by Roxanne Missingham, Parliamentary Librarian  
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I am delighted to be here today to launch the new ALIA Interlibrary Lending Advisory Committee (ILAC) wiki – it is a great achievement for the nation.

Bertrand Russell said, “The only thing that will redeem mankind is cooperation.”

The Interlibrary Lending wiki is a manifestation of this philosophy, and a commitment to building a nation where all comers can achieve quick and easy access to the information resources of the nation and, indeed, the world.

The wiki offers a practical implementation of the first of ALIA’s objects:

To promote the free flow of information and ideas in the interest of all Australians and a thriving culture, economy and democracy.

The critical importance of a national infrastructure of accessible collections, linked to users through technology and the activities of resource sharing staff, has been recognised by many. Professor Deryck Schreuder, when Vice Chancellor of the University of Western Australia, noted:

“No library can ever meet all the needs of all its users. So the ability to request to see books from other libraries, or to receive photocopies of articles from journals held by other libraries, has been essential to the way in which many scholars conduct their research. Australia, with its national bibliographic database, and a history of leading-edge investment in the supporting technology, is well-placed in this area.”

Australia has been a nation of pioneers and resource sharing professionals have taken this pioneering spirit into new arenas. The first tool developed to directly support resource sharing was a union catalogue of scientific serials held in Sydney libraries compiled in 1899 by W.T. Dayton. Since then major developments in collection access tools have occurred, from print to microform to online systems. Interlibrary lending has also evolved through many stages, with the current system based on a codification of charges and delivery times from decisions first made in the 1980s.

The challenge for resource sharing in the twenty first century is to use new tools and new communication to provide fabulous services for users

and potential users. The concept for the ALIA Interlibrary Lending Advisory Committee was to create an up-to-date resource on all aspects of interlibrary lending and resource sharing, assisting both new and experienced ILL staff in their daily work.

When the committee first discussed updating the old manual of Interlibrary Lending, their passion was to create a means of maintaining quick and easy access to relevant information for the profession and also to provide a means of engaging experts in many fields around the nation. It is marvellous that technology has provided a solution which enables a passionate network to build a national resource that will help services to users for all types of libraries. ALIA is to be congratulated for implementing wiki technology on their web platform – there are many more projects that I am sure will be able to be born from the creative spirit and imagination of our community.

'Share It' is Australia's Interlibrary and Resource Sharing (ILRS) Wiki [www.alia.org.au/ShareIt](http://www.alia.org.au/ShareIt) and its sections **Find It, Get It, Supply It, Policies and Guidelines, Groups, Professional Development, Frequently Asked Questions,** and **Glossary** are ready for you to read and contribute.

The wiki will assist all library users to access resources more quickly and effectively – building upon a tradition of passionate service improvement – you may recall that the implementation of best practice after the 2002 interlibrary lending survey resulted in a halving of delivery time to clients across the nation (as measured in the 2006 survey).

I would like to congratulate and introduce the ILAC members:

- Sharon Howells (Chair), University of Newcastle
- Thomas Girke, CSIRO
- Sharon Karasmanis, Latrobe University
- Sharlene Louey, Willoughby Council Libraries
- Margarita Moreno, National Library of Australia
- George Panagiatidis, CAVAL

And past member for their fine work, and also thank ALIA for their support.

Members of the committee are available for questions and discussion

Thank you – do enjoy afternoon tea.

Roxanne Missingham