2005 has been a busy year for the LKC Team. At the beginning of the year, the Our Story database had been installed at Wadeye, Galiwin’ku and Peppimenarti. By December the LKC program has been extended to Angurugu, Umbakumba, Milingimbi, Ltyentye Apurte and Anmatjere. By early 2006, the program will also be implemented in the Nyirranggulung and Tiwi regions.

Collectively, the Our Story databases now contain more than 30,000 items including photographs, sound recordings, videos and scanned documents. In 2006 the challenge will be to ensure that each of these items is enhanced with useful information including dates, names, locations and stories. Many of these local resources have been digitised and made accessible to communities for the first time.

It is the activity around each community database that is really the success story of the LKC Program. Overall use of the libraries has increased considerably, with more community members visiting to view the local database and to assist with developing its content. While in the library clients are able to access other library services such as internet sites, books and magazines, as well as online databases such as Health and Wellness, which are made available through the NTL website. The e-book program called Tumble Books has been a great success with children.

Another successful outcome has been the additional opportunities created for part-time employment. A number of people are now working as local co-ordinators of their community’s Our Story database and with assistance from LKC staff, they are developing their skills in scanning, computer use, database management and associated administrative tasks.

In September a record number of Community Library Officers attended the annual CLO Forum in Darwin, where they developed skills in multimedia, produced a brochure for their library and practised running storytelling sessions. With assistance from the LKC team, many LKCs and community libraries now offer regular storytelling sessions, which promote reading, rhyme and song in a relaxed and fun atmosphere.

In November NTL received an evaluation report on the LKC program. The evaluation was conducted by Prof. Martin Nakata and a team of academics with special interests in community development, literacy, Indigenous knowledge and libraries. NTL is preparing a response to the report, which will be available on our LKC website from early in 2006. The report will set the direction for the future development of the Program.

We would like to thank all Community Library Officers for the wonderful job they do in providing library services to their communities. We would also like to thank Community Government Councils for their continued support for libraries and we look forward to working with you all in 2006.
FAMILY HISTORY WORKSHOP
A Family History Workshop was held on Saturday 11 November called “It’s never too late to start searching”.

Robin Hempel and Margret Curry from NTL gave an inspiring talk to around 20 enthusiastic people. Items from Taminmin’s and NTL’s collections were displayed for people to gain an idea of what print resources are available.

Margret gave an overview of the electronic resources available on the Internet.

People starting to research their families for the first time found the workshop very helpful.

MILINGIMBI COMMUNITY LIBRARY

‘Our Story’ database at Milingimbi
Gibby Maynard visited Milingimbi last month to provide training at the library for Trish and Rebecca on how to add new media items and information to the database. Training also included other management tasks with the database.

Trish and Rebecca have been busy over the past few weeks scanning photographs and documents so it was good to get them added in to the database. Trish also found some very old photographs which had been copied onto two CDs. The database was renamed ‘Limurrung Dhawu’ and now contains around 3,000 photos, movies, sound recordings, documents and objects.

The library is becoming a much busier place now as people are talking about the old photos and other material on Limurrung Dhawu database around the community. Posters have been put up around the community and Rebecca spoke on the local radio about the new database and other services available in the Library. Community members are coming in to see the photographs and identifying many of the people in them so that Trish and Rebecca can enter the new information onto the database.

The school is planning a special project next year with the senior secondary students to be involved with the Limurrung Dhawu database by researching the material, talking to elders in the community and developing local material through their media studies.

The Art Centre is very interested in providing material about the artists which can be added to the database.

Trish is going off to England to see her family over the school holidays and is expecting a baby in April next year.
News from Barunga and the Nyirranggulung Region

Pamela Talbot was appointed to the position of Community Library Officer at the Barunga Community Library in August this year. Before this appointment Pamela was the Manager of the Barunga Creche. Gail and Gibby visited Pamela in November to upgrade the AGAMA library program, stocktake the collection and to provide some training in AGAMA and library management. Pamela has increased the library hours, which has been very popular with the school children as they can now visit the library during recess and lunch time. Young mothers with babies are also coming regularly to the library and Pamela is planning to run story time sessions and children activities. The library received four new computers this year, which has been very popular; however internet access is only available from one computer.

Work has been progressing this year on the development of a joint-use library at Wugularr. Those involved in the project are the Fred Hollows Foundation, Wugularr Management Board, Wugularr School, DEET, NTL and the Nyirranggulung Madrulk Ngadberre Regional Council. Some funding has already been committed by the Fred Hollows Foundation for the project. The building will be completed early next year.

The Ian Thorpe Foundation has donated a large sum of money over the next three years to assist with the improvement of literacy in the region through the Literacy Backpack Project. Gail and Gibby will assist with the purchasing of resources for the schools and community libraries. With the co-operation of school staff and community library officers every school student will be able to take resources home for the whole family to enjoy. The Literacy Backpack Project will include books for babies, as well as newspapers and magazines for adults.

WADEYE COMMUNITY LIBRARY

During November David Murtagh and Christine Timms spent a week at Wadeye.

David worked with Mark Crocombe on Our Story harvesting 70,000 image files, deleting duplicates and adding information. Christine was kept busy with Bernadine Kungal and Majella Dungal training, planning and implementing library programmes. Children’s story time, making Christmas decorations, a ‘Women only’ group were well attended.

Plans were made to hold a weekly ‘Women only’ morning and a ‘Men only’ morning. During these sessions groups can come together to discuss issues of concern, do a craft activity, sing, tell stories, access the online resources and view Our Story.
A group of Anmatyerr men have decided to use the *Our Story* software to create *Anmatyerr Artwang*, a collection of materials viewable only by men. The database has been loaded onto a laptop and is taken out on country visits.

Strehlow Research Centre has also worked with the Anmatjere LKC on a number of repatriation projects and Family tree consultations. Co-researchers from the *Cultural Values of Water* Project (Charles Darwin University and Desert Knowledge CRC) have been using the library as a study and training area. Photos, videos and sounds recorded during their research are being deposited with the LKC on a regular basis.

**News from Samantha Greenwood**

On Monday I opened the library because they had Community Cabinet in the Council office. They came to the Library for a tour and to see the new building. The female ministers went to the school to have their meeting with the ladies. The Ti Tree School students organised the lunches for the ministers and the local people. The ministers were very happy about the secondary students helping out with the lunches at the school.

**Ltyentye Apurte (Santa Teresa) in 2005**

Ltyentye Apurte library said goodbye to long-term CLO, Shereen Crowe. School librarian, Bernice Cavenagh and Community Library Officer, Sky Tibbey have been active on the *Anwernekenhe Ayeye (Our Story)* Project. Bernice will be painting the *Anwernekenhe Ayeye* computer in traditional artwork and has been busy adding information and stories to the database.

Copies of photos from the Strehlow Research Centre and many private individual collections have been scanned-in and added to the database.

Big things are planned for the Southern Region libraries next year including more digital media training, more consultation with elders, setting up public display machines for *Our Story*, buying some new equipment and of course trying to track down more old photos, sounds and movies.