Redesigned website and more onsite visitors

Assistant Director, Ann Ritchie

The Northern Territory Library’s website has had a major overhaul in both functionality and content. The launch on Thursday 30th June was the culmination of months of planning and development, a joint effort with content added by nearly all NTL staff, and contributions from a number of specialists from within and outside our Department.

Changes have been made to the structure to make it easier to navigate and more intuitive to search and locate what you’re looking for – without much of the library jargon we can so easily fall into. A significant amount of content is new, including sections on history and services, and views in Parliament House – take the virtual tour to see some of the highlights.

Times are busy in the Library too. As you can see from the graph, onsite visits have been tracking steadily upwards since last September, and total numbers have increased by over 16% compared with the previous financial year. At the same time, inhouse inquiries have risen by an astounding 43%, showing that once we get people into the Library, they are using the reference and information services to support their research.

So browse our new website at www.ntl.nt.gov.au to find out what we offer, and come in and make use of the onsite facilities as well.

Heritage Services

Manager, Linda Marchesani

What’s new in the NTC?

The Northern Territory Collection (NTC) is the principal, documentary heritage collection for the Northern Territory, as it comprises a comprehensive collection of all significant materials relating to the Territory.

The Collection contains both historical and contemporary material, regardless of language or format. This includes:

- published works relating to the Northern Territory as a subject;
- works which are published in the Northern Territory;
- works which have a Territorian as ‘author’;
- works which are of significance to the Northern Territory.

Some recent acquisitions, published in 2005 are:

- *Australia’s Northern Capital: A short history of Darwin*, by David Carment
- *Darwin archaeology: Aboriginal, Asian and European heritage of Australia’s Top End*, edited by Patricia Bourke, Sally Brockwell and Clayton Fredericksen
- *Frontier justice: a history of the Gulf country to 1900*, by Tony Roberts
- *The policeman’s eye: the frontier photography of Paul Foelsche*, by Philip Jones

All these may be viewed in the Library, and all items in the NTC are in the Library catalogue, linked from: www.ntl.nt.gov.au
The past month has seen the Northern Territory go to the polls to elect members for the 10th Legislative Assembly. The Library holds many resources that reflect the changes of the NT Legislative Assembly since the conception of the 1st Assembly in 1978.

- Northern Territory Hansard reflects the workings of Parliament including the debates that have taken place in the creation and amendment of Territory legislation. Prior to 1978, governance of the Territory rested with the Commonwealth and with South Australia. Hansards from these jurisdictions are also available at the Library.

- A number of publications in the General and NT Collections provide an in-depth analysis of past election results, and changes to electorate areas, in particular those from the North Australia Research Unit by D. Jaensch, and from the Australian Electoral Commission (NT).

- Northern Territory newspapers are also a good source of information on Assembly members and election candidates. Many members write columns for their local newspapers. There is also biographical information on candidates, information on party policies, election results, plus the letters to the editor which reflect the various community issues and views. Newspapers can be viewed in hard copy, via the ANZRC database, or on microfilm.

If you would like further information regarding past elections or the 2005 Northern Territory election, contact our friendly reference staff for assistance.

Manager, Robin Hempel

Services for Senior Territorians

The Northern Territory Library offers a variety of resources and services for seniors. Our extensive Reference and General Collections cover a wide range of subjects from the academic to general user level.

One of the best ways to become familiar with these resources is to participate in the Library tours, held every Thursday from 4.30pm – 5.30 pm. Tours can readily be tailored to meet the needs of seniors. Recently we conducted tours for the Nightcliff Evergreens and the University of the Third Age – two large groups with special requirements, and both groups reported that the tours were informative and enjoyable. If your group can’t make it into the Library, arrangements can be made for the Library to visit you.

Other services popular with seniors are NTL’s Family History Service and the ‘Training on Tuesdays’ program, held weekly from 4.30pm – 5.30pm. Why not start with ‘Internet for Beginners’ or ‘Conquering the Catalogue’? No prior knowledge of the technology is required.

To find out more, contact the Northern Territory Library now on 89997177.