

Libraries Australia: the UWA Library experience

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Availability to UWA clients

- **Pre Libraries Australia (Kinetica web interface)**
 - Password protected; mediated searches, pay per search
- **Post Libraries Australia**
 - Access via IP access; remote access via EZproxy; 24/7 access, annual subscription; clients do the searching.





Client access via the Library's CygNET web site

The screenshot shows the CygNET website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with a home icon, the CygNET ONLINE logo, and links for Staff Services and MyCygNET. Below this is a secondary navigation bar with buttons for Find information, Library services, About the UWA Library, and Education, training & support. A breadcrumb trail indicates the current page: CygNET home > Find information > This page. The main content area is titled "Search catalogues at other Libraries" and is divided into three columns. The first column, "Western Australia", lists several libraries, with "State Library of Western Australia" circled in red. The second column, "Australia", lists national and regional catalogues, also circled in red. The third column, "International", lists global library services. A fourth section, "Catalogues by Subject", lists health-related catalogues.

Western Australia

- Central TAFE LRC
- Curtin University of Technology
- Edith Cowan University
- Murdoch University
- State Library of Western Australia
- Western Australia Museum

Australia

- Libraries Australia (Australia-wide catalogue)
- National Library of Australia
- Australian Libraries Gateway
- University of Adelaide

International

- British Library
- COPAC (UK)
- Library of Congress
- Libweb: Library Servers via WWW
- WorldCat (2 simultaneous users only)

Catalogues by Subject

- Joint Serials Catalogue of Health Libraries in Western Australia
- Union Catalogue of WA Health Libraries - HeLIOS
- National Library of Medicine's LOCATORplus



Who uses Libraries Australia at UWA?

- Students doing Postgraduate degrees by research to ensure their work is original. Libraries Australia is the only comprehensive source for Australian theses.
- All UWA staff and students seeking materials on Australian topics – particularly staff, postgraduates and honours students who all have access to document delivery.
- Document delivery staff: replaces SIAL





How much is it used at UWA?

- During July-September 2005, out of a total of 2400 resources that the Library keeps PURL statistics for, Libraries Australia was ranked no. 73 with a count of 5406.
- This compares well with the long established WorldCat catalogue ranked at no. 66 with a count of 6453.





User feedback

From Law Honours Students:

“I've used it quite a lot..... I found it really useful because [it's] searching all of Australia rather than just UWA..... confirmed that there weren't a whole stack of relevant resources that I'd missed.”





User feedback (cont.)

“I have used Libraries Australia quite a lot - mostly in respect to journals. If I want to find an article that is not at UWA, I check whether it is at one of the other WA libraries where I can go get it myself. If not, I see if it is at least in Australia making it worth ordering.”





User feedback (cont.)

- “ I used Libraries Australia and found it to be an invaluable resource.
It's easy to use and the best aspect about it is the access it offers to recently published texts from Australia and overseas. I found it enabled my research to keep abreast of the latest developments in the area of law I am looking at, an edge I otherwise would not have had, had I been limited to searching the local university catalogues.”





Library staff training: Selling the sizzle

- In June I conducted two informal training sessions for UWA library staff
- The challenge: “You’ve seen one web based catalogue, you’ve seen them all!”
- The solution: “Sell the sizzle not the steak”.
- Libraries Australia: outstanding linkage to the NLA’s digital collections.





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