

[LAW]

Blake Dawson Waldron Library Services: resource guides

The national library team, Blake Dawson Waldron

Librarians have always been experts in filtering information into meaningful and useable segments, and this role has never been more important.

The national library team at Blake Dawson Waldron recognised that the vast amount of information available to lawyers needed to be more effectively managed. They achieved this with the development of a series of online resource guides which provide subject-specific information to lawyers, quickly and easily. The guides are a subject-based 'one-stop-information-shop' with references to print sources and links to online services.

The process of developing the guides encourages co-operation between legal staff and librarians, strengthening the relationship between Library Services and their clients. For the librarians creating the guides, it creates an empowering self-learning environment and sense of contribution to the national electronic 'face' of the library services — the intranet.



Melanie Adam, Carmel O'Sullivan and Moyra McAllister, of the Blake Dawson Waldron Library Services team

As a training tool, the guides present the most-relevant information sources together with related training materials and can highlight areas in which lawyers need more in-depth training. For librarians, the development of the guides provides a valuable subject-area training tool.

The development of the guides has made information retrieval easier for Blake Dawson Waldron lawyers, it has developed the skills of Blake Dawson Waldron librarians, and it has pro-

moted the services of the library both internally and externally.

In conferring the ALIA Award for Innovation [Law] to the Blake Dawson Waldron Library Service, the Association acknowledges the innovation displayed by the library service staff. They have provided an invaluable service to their clients, and at the same time have helped to develop the skills of library staff. The resource guides combine innovation in information management and innovation in training. ■

[HEALTH]

Development of topic query technique to support the navigation structure for HealthInsite

HealthInsite Editorial Team, Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care

The HealthInsite website was developed by the Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care to meet the needs of a growing number of Australians who search the internet for information on health. It is a gateway to quality health information and provides links to some of Australia's most authoritative health organisations and their websites.

The HealthInsite Editorial Team's role has been to define publishing and metadata standards, to create the searching and navigation structures

for the site, and to work with information partners and other stakeholders to build quality and credibility into the site. The development of a topic query technique to support the navigation structure for the website was an innovation that benefits users of the website. With the development of the topic query technique, users were able to browse the site via a variety of pathways.

Topic queries search the HealthInsite metadata database, which includes subject terms from the department's *Health and Aged*

Care Thesaurus. Topic queries can easily be modified. Thus the team has ensured that the navigation structure is able to be developed and adjusted over time, depending upon user needs, government priorities and the quantity of resources available.

In awarding the Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care HealthInsite Editorial Team the ALIA Award for Innovation [Health libraries], the Association recognises the team's innovative approach to information retrieval. ■