

# Good news for WA libraries

Deb Stanton, manager library services, City of Nedlands

## Services to seniors grant

The Lotteries Commission has awarded a \$24 800 grant for the appointment of a consultant to undertake a three-month research project investigating the future provision of public library services to seniors in Western Australia.

The research proposal was submitted by the City of Nedlands on behalf of the Seniors Reference Committee, a group of librarians from the public and state library sectors representing all public library services in Western Australia. The group responsible for preparation of the brief and grant application consisted of Ruth Balding (LISWA), Linda Charles (City of Armadale), Maureen Kahlert (Shire of Swan) and Deb Stanton (City of Nedlands).

The major outcome of this research will be the development of a plan for public librarians to improve and more-effectively promote public library services and programs to the seniors age group. The project will benefit all senior citizens in both rural and metropoli-

tan areas by providing information to facilitate the provision of:

- enhanced, relevant and well-targeted public library services for seniors; and
- improved access to relevant public library services for our seniors of the future.

The project will assist public libraries to:

- evaluate existing services to seniors;
- develop a demographic profile of seniors;
- determine the current use of libraries by seniors and what they require from public libraries;
- understand why some seniors do not use public libraries;
- understand the future role of technology in facilitating access for seniors; and
- determine the future service needs for the 'baby-boomer' generation.

## Best Practice Innovation Award

The Western Suburbs Regional Library Network — made up of Subiaco, Nedlands, Claremont and Cottesloe-Mosman Park-Peppermint Grove Public Libraries — has won a WAMA Best Practice Innovation Award.

The Network has been a long time in the making, beginning with the OWLS (Online Western Suburbs Libraries) group approximately ten years ago. Many librarians have worked hard to bring to fruition the concept of a co-operative but independent network, which provides superior customer service. The network should be congratulated for providing easy one-card access for Western Suburbs library clients to more than 140 000 items held in the collections of six local government authorities.

The project does not stop here, with planning for technology-assisted development and delivery of relevant services for the public library being an ongoing feature of the network. ■

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