

AUSTRALIA, Oceania	
Compiled by Elizabeth	Greef and Karen Bonanno, July 2016
Population and literacy levels	22,751,014 (July 2015 est.) Language: English (official) Source: CIA World Factbook
Overview of education and school library situation	Education in Australia is managed by the states. However, a national curriculum has now been introduced. Education is compulsory from the ages of five to either fifteen or seventeen, depending on the state or territory. State schools offer free education but there are also many fee-paying private schools, the majority with religious affiliations. There are six to seven grades in the primary school and six in the secondary. Vocational options are offered in the later years of secondary education. Source Education system in Australia Vocational education is moving more into private hands. There are many universities offering

tertiary options.

School libraries have had a long tradition in most Australian states. Some states, such as New South Wales, have mandated a qualified teacher librarian with dual qualifications as a teacher and as a librarian. Australia has become renowned for the excellence of its training of teacher librarians. However, it has recently become optional for principals to decide whether to employ a qualified teacher librarian or not. Also, with an economic downturn and reduced funding this option for principals has accelerated the de-professionalisation of school libraries across Australia. A government report on the *National Inquiry into School Libraries and Teacher Librarians* was released in 2011.

ASLA's <u>Statement on School Libraries in Australia</u> page also has links to other significant documents:

Standards of professional excellence for teacher librarians

Statement on library and information services in schools

Statement on teacher librarian qualifications

Statement on teacher librarians in Australia

Two universities in Australia provide degree programs in teacher librarianship - Charles Sturt University in New South Wales and Edith Cowan University in Western Australia - although there are more general librarianship degree programs in other universities. In Australia, a teacher-librarian today is a professional teacher (with a minimum 4-year degree for teacher certification), at least two years of successful teaching experience and generally speaking a Masters degree in Education or Applied Sciences (Teacher Librarianship). Some teacher librarians have an additional undergraduate library degree instead and some older teacher librarians did a teacher librarianship module as part of their original

	postgraduate education diploma or studied specific modules offered by the Education Department. The number of options for teacher librarian training has reduced over the past 20 years. The IASL conference has been held several times in Australia: 1978 in Melbourne with the theme: The democratization of education: Implications for school libraries 1993 in Adelaide with the theme: Dreams and dynamics
	2010 in Brisbane with the theme: Diversity challenge resilience: School libraries in action.
Links to important associations/contacts	ASLA, Australian School Library Association ALIA, Australian Library and Information Association
	ATOM, Australian Teachers of Media
	Council of Australian University Librarians
	QSLA, Queensland School Library Association (previously SLAQ)
	SLA NSW, School Library Association, New South Wales
	SLASA, School Library Association of South Australia
	SLAV, School Library Association of Victoria
	WASLA, Western Australia School Library Association

	Australian Government - Department of Education and Training
Particular issues and needs of the country	Consumption of illicit drugs; refugees; soil erosion; urbanisation; soil salinity; desertification; limited natural freshwater; threats to the Great Barrier Reef; threats to species through habitat loss Source: CIA World Factbook
Famous authors	Adults: Geraldine Brooks, Peter Carey, J.M. Coetzee, Richard Flanagan, Helen Garner, Thomas Keneally, Margo Lanagan, Patrick White, Tim Winton
	YA: Isobel Carmody, Gary Crew, Sara Douglass, Lian Hearn, Jack Heath, Melina Marchetta, John Marsden, David Metzenthen, James Moloney, Scott Monk, Garth Nix, Matthew Reilly, Craig Silvey, Markus Zusak
	Children: Ursula Dubosarsky, John Flanagan, Jackie French, Sandy Fussell, Libby Gleeson, Morris Gleitzman, Andy Griffiths, Paul Jennings, Emily Rodda, P.L. Travers,
	Picture books: Pamela Allen, Ahn Do, Hazel Edwards, Mem Fox, Jackie French, Katrina Germain, Sheena Knowles, Alison Lester, Shaun Tan, Marcia Vaughan Source: World through picture books, 2 nd edn. IFLA
Links to literature of the country	Australia's best authors
	Australia's top 100 favourite homegrown reads
	Australian children's writers
	<u>Australian writers</u>

	Fellowship of Australian Writers
	Popular Australian authors' books
	<u>International Children's Digital Library - Australia</u>
	World through picture books, 2 nd edn
Links to SL programs or advocacy tools	100 things kids will miss poster – Dr Nancy Everhart
	A profession at the tipping point (revisited)
	Advocacy: reason, responsibility and rhetoric by Karen Bonanno
	ASLA: 13 Project resources (digital citizenship)
	Australian Society of Authors advocacy campaigns
	Do school libraries really make a difference?
	Future learning and school libraries
	Inquiry into school libraries and teacher librarians in Australian schools
	Inquiry learning and the Australian curriculum (Mandy Lupton)
	Research: The value of school libraries in learning

	School libraries 21C The Hub: Campaign for quality school libraries in Australia Your child's school library: What you should know (for parents)
	What a difference a school library makes FAIR - Freedom of Access to Information and Resources
News/Reports	ASLA: The latest news UNESCO International Bureau of Education – Asia and the Pacific links including world data on the education in each country and contacts
	For information literacy resources and links related to Australia, see pages 154-163 of <u>UNESCO Overview of information literacy resources worldwide</u> , 2 nd edn. School libraries and teacher librarians in 21 st century Australia report (Australian Government response)

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