

Australian Social Trends 2003 goes rural and regional

out now

The 2003 issue of *Australian Social Trends* features new information on social, demographic and labour market topics, with articles on Internet use, employee training, and crime and safety.

Australian Social Trends is one of the ABS' most popular annual publications. It reports annually on the nation's social

conditions and well-being and the 2003 edition includes several topics relevant to regional and remote Australia.

All LEP member libraries will have received a print copy, as *Australian Social Trends* (ABS Cat. no. 4102.0) is on both the LEP Flagship List and the LEP Core List. Subscribers to the eLEP or AusStats web services will have had access to the full text of *Australian Social Trends* 2003 from the day of release on the ABS web site. Core List subscribers will have needed to wait until the print copy arrived in the mail.

The 2003 *Australian Social Trends* also features articles on topics related to population, family and community, health, education and training, work, economic resources and housing. The articles complement the up-to-date suite of national and state indicators on each of the main topics.



An Australian potato farmer. AST 2003 includes articles on farming families.

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From the Editor



I am delighted to introduce a new look to the LEP Newsletter. As well as the new design and colours we are also introducing a new **shortcuts** feature on page 8. This will give brief tips on using ABS web pages or CLIB or on many other topics of interest to LEP libraries.

A free service for LEP libraries is eLEP on the web featured in this issue. Subscribers to eLEP gain free access to much more ABS information than is available from the LEP Core Lists. If your library has not yet subscribed turn to page 4 to find out more.

Lastly thank you to all those libraries who responded to our emailed CLIB Installation Survey in April and May. Recently I emailed a 'progress report' on development of the re-release of the run-off-the-ROM version of CLIB. Please contact the Census Help Line on 1800 676 646 for further information.

Kim Farley-Larmour
LEP National Manager

What's new on the web

NetNews

Well another *LEP Newsletter* rolls into libraries and this is my 10th Newsletter article (my first was back in February 2001!).

Since the last Newsletter, work has continued on trialing a new search engine on the ABS web site. We are looking at implementing Lotus' Discovery Server (LDS). I expect implementation in the next few weeks.

The LDS search engine we are evaluating is a high-level discovery engine. The ABS will be using it for the ABS Intranet as well as the web site.

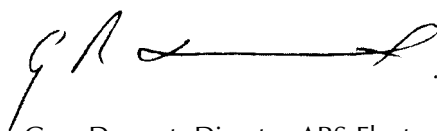
Currently the ABS uses an "out of the box" search engine (Domain Search) on the ABS web site, which, at the simplest level, uses "string searching" rather than the librarian's favourite – Boolean. The Domain Search "relevance ranking" algorithm also places too much emphasis on the frequency with which words occur and doesn't take account of "location on the page" and "off the page" attributes such as metadata.



Gary Dunnet

In testing, LDS has obtained clearly better result sets than our existing Domain Search engine. The LDS search engine has a number of advantages over Domain Search. Its "simple search" uses Boolean by default and the search algorithm takes account of location, linking and click-through. Discovery server can also index and integrate content from different web sites – spidering content and automatically compiling a taxonomy which reflects the attributes of the content indexed. Consequently, it would be possible for the ABS to index and categorise the content of our own web site and then spider content of other statistical and related web sites, integrating this content into our own web site structure (taxonomy). For more information about Lotus' Discovery Server see: <http://www.lotus.com/products/discserver.nsf>, including a feature article on the ABS.

I'm not sure if you find my articles of interest so I would like to hear from you – please drop me an email about the sorts of things that you would like to hear about @ gary.dunnet@abs.gov.au.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Gary Dunnet'.

Gary Dunnet, Director ABS Electronic Dissemination

Cooloola keen on CLIB

This year, Gympie-based Reference Librarian Rachael Harrison conducted public training on CLIB 2001 at Rainbow Beach library with enthusiastic attendance.

“LEP Coordinator for Queensland Judy Tayt conducted training for staff at Gympie Library in March which has helped the Reference staff enormously by de-mystifying the ABS site,” said Rachael.

Gympie Library is one of four branches of the Cooloola Shire Library Service in Queensland – Gympie, Imbil, Tin Can Bay and Rainbow Beach. State Library Queensland statistics for 2001-2002 revealed that Cooloola Shire libraries were third busiest in the state per head of population. With a population of approximately 34,000 this public library has about 25,000 registered members.

CLIB and the eLEP web service are available at all four branches. According to Rachael, residents of Cooloola



Rachael Harrison at the Information Desk, Gympie Library

Shire have been keen to see the Census results as they relate to Cooloola. Rachael is planning to continue the training at other branches throughout the year. Rachael explains, “We are keen to educate the public in these databases to enhance their library experience, further their skills, and contribute to the Smart State commitment”.

ABS Week at Holmesglen TAFE

In April, Holmesglen TAFE in Victoria celebrated their connection to the eLEP service by hosting an ABS Week at each of their campus Information Commons. The Holmesglen TAFE Information Database Librarian, Annie Yee, said there was a great need in the community for statistical data. Annie was the driving force in obtaining access to the service and also in promoting it across the campuses.

In discussions about the eLEP service, Annie wrote “our students and staff are well aware of the invaluable information available from ABS and we are very keen to move into electronic dissemination with help from the LEP.”

During the promotional week each campus displayed a series of eLEP Display Stands in prominent positions. Training sessions were widely advertised to library and teaching staff to introduce them to their new eLEP service. Sessions on using the ABS web site and the

eLEP service, as well as CLIB 2001, attracted 72 library and teaching staff.

The last two days of the promotional week were for the students – Annie arranged a trivia quiz based on using the ABS web site to source the correct information, with some notable ABS publications as prizes.

Helen Leary, Annie's LEP Coordinator said “ABS Week at Holmesglen allowed us to spread the message to staff and students about the many advantages of using ABS statistical data online.”



Helen and Annie at Holmesglen TAFE – Chadstone Information Commons

8 good reasons to subscribe to the eLEP service

1. Free full text access to more than 700 ABS titles – every publication issued since 1998!
2. Ten times as many ABS titles as the LEP Core Lists
3. Web access on the ABS web site – no passwords
4. Connect your branch libraries – extend access to statistical information
5. Access information as soon as it is released. No more waiting for publications to arrive in the mail
6. Release shelf space in your library and save staff time with less accessioning, shelving and weeding ABS titles
7. Get the best of both worlds – subscribe to the eLEP service and, for LEP member libraries, also receive the hard copy ABS Flagship titles
8. Print complete publications to add to your library's collection – or not, as you wish. Your service, your choice!

New eLEP subscribers

City of Boroondara (Vic)
Collie Public Library (WA)
Glenelg Regional Library Corporation (Vic)
Albany Public Library (WA)
Shire of Carnarvon Library Services (WA)
Kimba School/Community Library (SA)
Upper Murray Regional Library, Albury (NSW)

The eLEP web service

Statistics @ your Library!

What is the eLEP service?

The eLEP service gives free full text access to all ABS publications issued since 1998. The service is available on the ABS web site. There are 4,500 issues of over 700 ABS titles in eLEP.

Every ABS publication issued since 1998 is included in the eLEP service in full text – not just the selected set of ABS publications in the LEP Core Lists.

The publications in eLEP are fully searchable using the search engine on the ABS web site and as eLEP is integrated with the rest of the ABS web site, your clients will be able to find all the available information on their topic of interest in one place.

The eLEP service was launched in 2001. Since then the National Library of Australia and all the state libraries have subscribed as have more than 300 public and TAFE libraries. If your library would like to subscribe you will find an Order Form and helpful information on the LEP pages of the ABS web site. From www.abs.gov.au choose 'Products and Services', then 'Library Extension Program'. Click on the 'eLEP' link.

Does eLEP need any special software?

The eLEP service requires commonly used software already used in most organisations. Your library will need to have:

- Internet access
- a web browser – either Internet Explorer version 4.0 or above, or Netscape Navigator version 4.0 or above
- Adobe Acrobat Reader, version 3.0 or above
- either a dedicated library proxy server, OR a fixed network Internet Protocol (IP) address, OR a fixed range of IPs



The best of both worlds – eLEP plus the ABS Flagship List

As an LEP member your library service will gain twice by subscribing to the eLEP service – as well as the full text access to all ABS publications in eLEP your library will also receive hard print copies of all the ABS Flagship titles. The Flagship titles for LEP member libraries include key reference titles such as *Year Book Australia* and *Australian Social Trends* as well as all the Census publications for your state.

eLEP – helping to empower Great Lakes Library Service

The headquarters branch of Great Lakes Library Service at Forster in NSW took up the eLEP service in March 2002. The library staff were so pleased with the service they launched eLEP with a public media event. The Mayor spoke at the launch, the press covered the event and library staff gave eLEP demonstrations.

Chris Jones, the Library Manager says that “eLEP has allowed the library to position itself as the FIRST point of call for information for council and the community.

“The roll-out of eLEP has meant not only greater access to more ABS information – which is what eLEP provides – but greater and more efficient access being facilitated through the library. We have seen a move toward cooperative purchasing between the library



Chris Jones, Library Manager, Great Lakes Library Service

and other areas of the council and eLEP has also raised the profile of the library and has put the information retrieval process in the hands of information professionals – the librarians.”



Want more information?

There is extensive information about eLEP on the LEP pages of the ABS web site. Find the eLEP Order Form, eLEP Frequently Asked Questions, eLEP training and promotional materials.

From the ABS home page www.abs.gov.au choose ‘Products and Services’, then ‘Library Extension Program’. Click on the ‘eLEP’ link.

Or call your LEP Coordinator – contact details on page 8.

Census makes sense online

CLIB @your Library

Release 2 of the special Census product for libraries – CLIB 2001 – was made in April. Feedback from libraries was very important in enabling the ABS Census team to make Release 2 even more user friendly than Release 1. Navigation has been streamlined and extra help pages added.

Installing CLIB

CLIB 2001 is the first ABS product offered in a range of installation options. Libraries may use CLIB on the web, or they may install it in its entirety to the hard drive of their PCs, or they can run CLIB “straight from the ROM”. Libraries may also use more than one installation method if they wish.

CLIB Survey

Thank you to those libraries who responded to the recent emailed CLIB Survey. The Survey has found

that libraries often use more than one installation method. Many libraries have installed CLIB in its entirety to the hard drive of their PCs. Quite a few are using the web version with the ROM version as a back up. Running CLIB “straight from the ROM” is also very popular as libraries do not need to have a large amount of hard disk space available for the product. If you would like to discuss any of the technical aspects of CLIB with the experts, please call the Census Technical Help Line on 1800 676 646.



CLIB Licence Conditions?

Some libraries have asked about the Licence Conditions for CLIB. The Licence is on the main entry page of CLIB and is also on the LEP pages of the ABS web site. From the ABS home page www.abs.gov.au click on Products and Services>Library Extension Program>CLIB. The CLIB 2001 Licence conditions link is on this page.

ABS web newsletters

The ABS publishes a range of free full text newsletters on the web site. These give up-to-date statistical information on topics from health to environment, crime and justice, to rural and regional statistics. The newsletters can be found behind the 'News' link on the ABS home page. Recent issues include a new e-newsletter, *Local Government and ABS* – read on...

E-news to help local governments plan

The ABS has a new quarterly e-newsletter which aims to help the Local Government sector to use statistics to assist with planning and other community servicing decisions. Public libraries in local government areas will be interested in this newsletter – *Local Government and ABS* – which will also announce new ABS initiatives as they evolve.

You can find the full text of *Local Government and ABS* on the ABS web site. From www.abs.gov.au choose 'News', then 'Newsletters'. Click on the 'Local Government and ABS' twistie.

Articles in the first issue (March 2003) include:

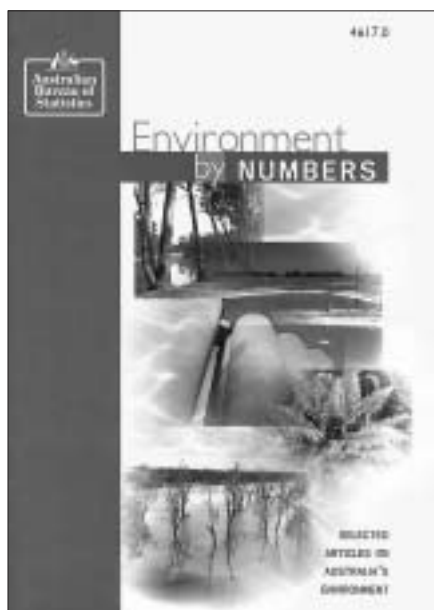
- Hot Links to take you to Free Populations Census data for your council area
- What's happening in Local Government Finance
- Future articles in Local Government and ABS.

The electronic newsletter is a result of the 2001 ABS Local Government Review which recommended that the ABS improve information solutions for the Local Government sector. Please contact Jeff Bulger, Account Manager Local Government Sector on (08) 8237 7621 if you have any comments or queries.

Measuring Australia's environmental challenges

Environment by numbers

The Australian Bureau of Statistics recently released *Environment by Numbers* – a collection of articles on



sustainability and the environment. Topics covered include climate change, Australia's rivers, renewable energy, forest conservation, salinity, and the impact of transport, construction,

fishing, mining, manufacturing and agriculture on the environment.

It provides an overview of ABS environment statistics by offering information about a lot of areas related to the environment, compared with *Australia's Environment: Issues and Trends* (ABS Cat. no. 4613.0) which has more detailed information on fewer selected issues.

Environment by Numbers: Selected Articles on Australia's Environment (ABS Cat. no. 4617.0) is available on eLEP and AusStats or for request by Core List LEP libraries.

Some of the findings included in the publication are:

- Australians have become less concerned about environmental problems. In 1992, three out of four Australians expressed concern, but this fell to 62% in 2001. The decline was most pronounced among young Australians aged 18-24; only 57% expressed concern compared to 79% in 1992.

- Wind energy is the fastest developing renewable energy source. Australia has among the best wind resources in the world and wind energy has become the cheapest renewable energy technology. Its use is expected to grow by 25% a year up to 2020, compared to 2.3% growth for total energy consumption.

New and forthcoming releases

These titles are a selection of what the ABS is releasing this quarter. It is not a complete list of ABS releases. Full lists of new releases are available from the 'Information on Releases' link on the ABS home page.

Sales of New Motor Vehicles, Australia, April 2003 (ABS Cat. no. 9314.0) Release 19 May 2003. AusStats and eLEP subscribers may access this title on the ABS web site. Core List libraries may request a free copy from ABS Subscription Services.

Occasional Paper: Measuring Dietary Habits in the 2001 National Health Survey, Australia (Free Electronic Publication ABS Cat. no. 4814.0.55.001) Release 29 May 2003. This title is not available as a printed publication.

Employment in Culture, Australia 2001 (ABS Cat. no. 6273.0) Release 29 May 2003. Provides details from the 2001 Census on people employed in the culture/leisure industry. Includes library workers. AusStats and eLEP subscribers may access this title from the ABS web site. Core List libraries may request a free copy from ABS Subscription Services.

Retail Trade, Australia, April 2003 (ABS Cat. no. 8501.0) Release 30 May 2003. AusStats and eLEP subscribers may access this title on the ABS web site. Core List libraries may request a free copy from ABS Subscription Services.

Population Characteristics, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians (ABS Cat. no. 4713.0) Release 29 July 2003. All LEP member libraries will be sent this Census title as a printed publication. It appears on the Core List as well as the Flagship List. AusStats and eLEP subscribers may access this title on the ABS web site from the day of release on 29 July.



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shortcuts

What are twisties on the ABS web site?

You don't eat them, you click them!

The ABS uses 'twisties' or expandable lists to organise information on its web site. Twisties are shown by a blue triangle symbol ►

Whenever you see a twistie pointing to the right ► it means that there is an expandable list sitting behind it. Simply click on the twistie to expand (or open) the list to see the information behind it.

Expanding a list will only open one section (or go down one level) of that list at a time. You may have to expand several twisties in order to fully expand the list.

If the twistie points down ▼ the section of the list is expanded (opened)

If the twistie points to the right ► the section of list is collapsed (closed)