

Have your say on the 2006 Census

Would you like to have a say in how your clients will be accessing 2006 census data? Libraries are the main point of access to census information for the community. And librarians are well placed to know what users of census data want. The ABS would like your help in ensuring that 2006 census products and services are relevant and responsive to users' needs.

The recently released *ABS Views on Census Output Strategy* (Cat. no. 2009.0) is an overview of proposed directions for 2006 Census products and services. The ABS posted your library a copy with an accompanying questionnaire. Please do contribute your views, comments and ideas regarding the strategies and proposals outlined in the paper. The ABS will accept comments until 15 December 2004. The paper and questionnaire is also available on the ABS web site at www.abs.gov.au. Click on 'Census'.

The user consultation process will be a significant factor in the 2006 Census Output Program. We want to hear from you!



Examples of 2001
census products

ISSUE 50/NOVEMBER 2004
ISSN 1039-5512

inside:

Editorial	2
NetNews.....	2
Yarra-Melbourne's City Library joins the LEP	3
The ABS at ALIA on the Gold Coast	3
ABS Web Site Guide	4
Training news... ..	6
All about the NT – on the ABS web site	7
New releases	7
Shortcuts – Always vital: ABS demographic statistics	8
LEP team and contacts ...	8

From the Editor



The LEP Newsletter is now one of the longest running currently produced ABS newsletters – this issue is number 50 in the series. The first issue was released in September 1992.

This issue carries on the tradition of helping keep LEP library staff up to date with what's new in the ABS and LEP. Page 1 highlights census 2006 user consultation. Libraries are very well placed to know what users of census information want – and I encourage you to complete and return the questionnaire that was posted to your library in October with *ABS Views on Census Output Strategy* (Cat. no. 2009.0).

The other big story in this issue is the double page spread on the new look ABS web site on pages 4-5. This covers many of the areas we think are useful for libraries. Pull it out of the Newsletter or use the print version on the web site.

Lastly, another year is almost over and, though it seems early to be saying so, I wish all LEP library staff a happy holiday and safe and prosperous New Year.

Kim Farley-Larmour
LEP National Manager

NetNews

New look for the ABS web site – and more to come

The ABS web site has had a face-lift. Back in 1995 when the web site was launched, it quickly became one of the top ten government web sites. That hasn't changed, nor has the ABS' commitment to improving the usability of the site.

When designing the new look web site the ABS consulted a wide cross-section of people from a range of occupations and backgrounds. This included new users as well as frequent users of the site.

Pleasing all users all the time is a challenge, but the feedback we have received since the new look was released in August has been very positive. Users used to tell us that they couldn't find what they were looking for and that the site didn't look very professional. They are now telling us quite the opposite, and that they didn't realise the ABS published so much information. Assistance from our users in the development process has been crucial in receiving these positive results.

The ABS has adopted a 'softly softly' approach to changing the web site and at this stage AusStats and eLEP remain the same. They will change in 2005. As with the changes made in August, the content of AusStats and eLEP will remain the same but navigation will become more user-friendly. Related information will be linked together more intuitively and we aim to ensure that ABS clients are more easily able to see what information is available.

Work also continues on refining the search facility and adding an improved Advanced Search.



If you would like to provide your feedback on the ABS web site or for more information please contact me at mano.georgopoulos@abs.gov.au

Mano Georgopoulos
ABS Statistical Publishing Development

Yarra-Melbourne's City Library joins the LEP

The Library Extension Program is pleased to welcome a new member. The **City Library** replaces Yarra-Melbourne's Corporate Library in the LEP. The **City Library** is a brand new library, created by a joint venture between Yarra-Melbourne Regional Library Corporation and the CAE, is unique in that for the first time in several decades the central area of Melbourne has a free public lending library. Situated in Flinders Lane, the library offers services for the whole community of Melbourne's workers, students, residents and visitors covering information, learning and recreation needs.

City Library was very keen to join the LEP and include ABS information in their comprehensive range of services. Currently they have a small collection of ABS titles as well as the CLIB 2001 product. They will soon be connected to the eLEP service to further improve access to the ABS for their library users. The library is very well appointed, with around 30 public Internet computers. Near the Reference collection are relaxing

deep sofas and study tables where patrons can research in comfort.

I was so impressed that I joined up on my first visit!

Helen Leary
LEP Coordinator, Victoria



A cosy corner of the City Library reference area

The ABS at ALIA on the Gold Coast

The ABS Trade stand at the ALIA conference in September was a hub of activity. It was great to catch up with many of our LEP clients!



Penny Jackson from Paroo Shire Municipal Library, winner of the ABS Quiz (centre), with Tanya Lucas, Qld. LEP Coordinator (left), and Karen Vitullo, Director, ABS Library Network.



Kim Farley-Larmour, National Manager, LEP (left) with Jan Richards, Manager, Central West Libraries.

With over one million hits per month the ABS web site is one of the most accessed web sites in Australia!

ABS Web Site Guide

The ABS web site has recently been redesigned to help you make the best use of the web site. This is not an

Global links

(bar at top & bottom of all pages)
A selection of links below

The Popular Statistics page

A one stop shop for our most requested statistics, including: the latest Population count, Consumer Price Index, Gross Domestic Product, Unemployment Rate, Retail Trade, Average Weekly Earnings, Estimated Resident Population – and more.

Census page

Check our range of census products, including free data and reference material. Census maps are now available here.

Themes page

Subject/Topic guides to ABS statistics.

(more under 'Handy Hints: Finding Information')

AusStats page

Our web-based information service, providing access to:

- ABS publications from 1998 onwards
- Over 2,000 spreadsheets
- Multidimensional datasets
- Census data
- ...and much more!

eLEP libraries have access to all publications. Students and staff of most universities can access the full range of products via their university networks.

Note: From 2005 the look and feel of AusStats will be changing. The content will remain unchanged.

Education Resources page

Check out our wide range of information resources and support material for students, teachers and researchers.

There is comprehensive information for universities, including information on AusStats.

Services We Provide page

Library Extension Program

A partnership between the ABS and a nation-wide network of member libraries.

- * Check our pages for products available through LEP libraries, training and promotional material and advice and support.
- * You'll also find a list of LEP libraries around Australia – useful when you need to find the nearest library with ABS information!

Services for Universities

Find out how universities can access and use ABS data.

...And lots more!

Links

Link to other Australian and international statistical agencies, including US, Canada, NZ.



"Quick links" (left hand bar on home page) for shortcuts to:

- publications, spreadsheets, time series etc. via AusStats
- Australia's latest key economic and social statistics
- ...and other useful ABS information

Keep informed

- * Sign up to receive releases where you want
- * Browse the M
- * Hear the M
- * relevant

to better meet our users' needs. This Guide focuses on some of the features to help you find information. This is not an exhaustive guide, so we encourage you to explore further.



Search is now here

Search Tips under 'Help'

Help includes

How do I?

Your Frequently Asked Questions answered

Census

Finding and using census data

AusStats

Information about AusStats and detailed AusStats help

e-Commerce

How to use our e-commerce facilities

Finding information

For search tips and to help you to find data in AusStats

Technical help

Includes help with SuperTABLE, .PDF files and time series spreadsheets

Handy Hints

Finding information

Browsing

Our Theme pages are a great place to start looking for ABS statistics. They are subject guides to statistical information, bringing together the main ABS publications for the topic, statistical information from a variety of surveys, and links to other organisations with complimentary information to the topic. *(Link at top and bottom of pages)*

Searching

Use the Search box (at top right hand side of pages), or click on Advanced Search (soon to be added) for more search options.

'Search Tips' provide extensive help in how best to search our web site.

(Link from 'Help' at the top and bottom of pages, or from Advanced Search when available)

Alternatively, use your favourite Search Engine to search our web site. Remember to limit your search to the ABS web site by typing www.abs.gov.au in the Domain box (eg. Google Advanced Search)

Up to date with ABS information!

Sign up for our free email notification service and receive an email after 11.30 on the day of a product's release. You'll be linked back to the ABS web site, so you'll be able to find out about the latest information relevant to your needs.

Receive through daily, past and future product releases.

Interested about ABS statistics in the media? Check out the Media Release information by date and link to the latest product.

Regional Information

Many library users want information about their local areas. **National Regional Profiles** provide a range of social and economic data from ABS as well as non-ABS sources for the local area of your choice. This is the first time small area data has been so easily available!

Information covered includes: population, births, unemployment (from DEWR), income support (FaCS), average individual taxable income (ATO), building approvals... and much more!

Link your library to ABS information

Put a link to our web site on your library web pages.

*For libraries with eLEP connection, we suggest you link to the eLEP entry page *(Services We provide>Library Extension Program>eLEP Web Service)*

*University libraries may want to link to our home page at www.abs.gov.au to give users access to the range of information not available from AusStats (eg. Theme pages). We suggest you include the words: To access AusStats, click on the AusStats link at the top and bottom of pages.

Training news...

The ABS @ Open Day in Canberra

Take a bustling campus. Add a liberal sprinkling of enthusiastic young people. The result: a very successful Open Day at the **Australian Catholic University's Signadou campus**, the **Canberra Institute of Technology** and the **University of Canberra** on 28 August!

Our LEP member libraries used the occasion to showcase ABS information to prospective students and their families in three exciting displays. There were AusStats and Statistics @ Your library display stands, ABS publications featuring local information, stickers, mousemats, brochures and posters, including one from the ACT Social Atlas showing where Canberra and Queanbeyan's young people lived. The latter proved to be a source of much interest.

Displays were left up for a few weeks for the benefit of current students. Glenis Matheson, University of Canberra's Facilities Manager, wrote, "Some feedback from the ABS display – it has been great! The display has generated lots of interest from students."



Open Day at (from top to bottom) the University of Canberra, Australian Catholic University and Canberra Institute of Technology.

ABS Display at Australian Catholic University, Mount Saint Mary Campus Library

To promote the use of ABS statistics in the Mount Saint Mary Campus Library at Strathfield, staff put together this display which included statistics about Internet usage and library attendance from the Australian Year Book. The Display was designed by Information Services Librarian, Vicki Bourbous, who is the LEP contact at the library. Vicki says "The students who are studying Education, and Habilitation use a lot of ABS statistics. They are also used by students in the Arts and Sciences Faculty, particularly those studying Geography and Economics." Library staff have also included ABS statistics and services in their subject pathfinders and 'Hot Topics' guides.



Showcasing ABS information on Open Day.

All about the NT – on the ABS web site



We continue our (occasional) series on state and territory Theme pages on the ABS web site.

The Northern Territory page has a new look and is a great place to start if you need a quick path into information about the NT. Everything you need to find out about ABS information on the NT can be found from this page.

Catherine Blacker, who designed the page with Bev Fauntleroy (the NT LEP Coordinator), said that the page had been “geared towards user requirements, hoping to make it easier for them to access ABS information for this region. We’re not stopping there! We hope to make more comprehensive information available in future updates, particularly focussing on areas of interest, such as Indigenous statistics.”

Find the page by clicking on the Themes link at the top and bottom of ABS web pages and then on Northern Territory under ‘Regional’.

The September 2004 issue of the Local Government and ABS Newsletter includes:

- Recent changes to the ABS web site
- How to find **regional data** on the ABS web site
- Local Government spending on the **environment** is up
- What’s happening in **Local Government Finance**

See the full text on the ABS web site at www.abs.gov.au. Choose the ‘News & Media’ link then ‘ABS Newsletters’ and then the ‘Local Government and ABS’ twistie.

New and forthcoming releases

These titles are a **selection** of what the ABS is releasing this quarter. Full information on Releases is available from the link on the centre of the ABS homepage. Keep up to date by subscribing to the free ABS Email Notification Service.

AusStats and eLEP subscribers have access to these titles on the ABS web site as soon as they are released. Core list LEP libraries may request a copy by emailing library@abs.gov.au

Mature Age Persons Statistical Profile: Population and Cultural Diversity, Oct 2004 (Cat. no 4905.0.55.001)

Draws on relevant ABS and non-ABS data sources to provide a comprehensive analysis of the characteristics of mature age persons, ie persons aged 45-64 years.

Health of Children (Cat. no 4829.0.55.001)

Outlines the prevalence of common conditions in childhood. Causes of death, reasons for hospital and GP visits, types of mental disorders and level of disability are analysed.

Divorces, Australia (Cat. no 3307.0.55.001)

Replacing Marriages and Divorces, Australia (Cat. no. 3310.0), this is a valuable tool to analyse family dissolution in Australia. Watch out for another new product, Marriages, Australia (Cat. no. 3306.0.55.001)

New eLEP subscribers

Logan City Council Libraries (Qld)

Emerald Library (Qld)

Latrobe City Library Service (Vic)

Goulburn Valley Regional Library Service (Vic)

Gannawarra Library Service (Vic)



LEP team & contacts

LEP Coordinators

NSW

Anne Freer
(02) 9268 4569
anne.freer@abs.gov.au

VIC

Helen Leary
(03) 9615 7535
helen.leary@abs.gov.au

QLD

Tanya Lucas
(07) 3222 6403
tanya.lucas@abs.gov.au

SA

Carla Bianco
(08) 8237 7588
carla.bianco@abs.gov.au

WA

David Brown
(08) 9360 5205
david.brown@abs.gov.au

TAS

Mary Eagle
(03) 6222 5812
mary.eagle@abs.gov.au

NT

Bev Fauntleroy
(08) 8943 2189
bev.fauntleroy@abs.gov.au

ACT

Pat Tracey
(02) 6252 6606
pat.tracey@abs.gov.au

LEP Liaison

Michael Janssen-Gibson
(02) 6252 6364
michael.janssen-gibson@abs.gov.au

LEP Newsletter & Promotions

(02) 6252 6364
library@abs.gov.au

LEP National Manager

Kim Farley-Larmour
(02) 6252 6966
kim.farley-larmour@abs.gov.au

Director, Library & Extension Services

Karen Vitullo
(02) 6252 6603
karen.vitullo@abs.gov.au

www.abs.gov.au

shortcuts

Always vital – ABS demographic statistics

Demographic information – births, deaths marriages and divorces – are vital statistics in libraries. Not only does this data answer all sorts of questions that come to library Information Desks but it is fascinating in its own right!

Access to demographic data has just become simpler with the release in May 2004 of a new web title, **Demography Australia** (Cat. no 3311.0.55.001) This is free and provides an annual summary of key Australian demographic data.

To keep up to date between the annual releases of Demography Australia, refer to the quarterly **Australian Demographic Statistics** (Cat. no. 3101.0). This one is a print title and is sent to all LEP member libraries. But libraries like it online too – in fact **Australian Demographic Statistics** has been the title most often downloaded by libraries subscribing to eLEP.

Whilst the state Demography titles have now ceased in print form, the data is still available. The free **National Regional Profile** on the ABS web site provides demographic data down to Statistical Local Area (SLA) level and should be the first place to go to find this important local information.

Subscribers to AusStats – and this includes most Australian universities – should also look for the **time series spreadsheets** that complement Australian Demographic Statistics. They provide quarterly figures going back, in some cases, to 1981. Another set of Excel spreadsheets also offer specialist demographic data. All of these are a valuable resource for researchers and academics.

For expert researchers AusStats also offers **datacubes**. These allow users to manipulate data in sophisticated ways – using free SuperTable software. Demographic data is well represented among the ABS' datacubes – look for ABS Catalogue numbers beginning with '33' in the datacubes section of AusStats. Another valuable resource for researchers within AusStats are the Excel spreadsheets that form **Australian Historical Population Statistics** (Cat. no. 3105.0.65.001).