



Hon Mark McGowan MLA
Minister for Education and Training; South West

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Ms Jenny Dickman
President WASLA
PO Box 1272
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Dear Ms Dickman

Thank you for your letter dated 3 March 2008 regarding the provision of digital resources and the role of teacher librarians in public schools.

In Western Australia, the responsibility for selecting the most appropriate resource material to complement the educational programs provided to students has been devolved to schools. School Principals were alerted by the Department of Education and Training to the existence of the National Library of Australia's (NLA) consortium on 29 June 2007 and encouraged to consider joining. Ms Jill Midolo, Coordinator Evaluation, CMIS, Tel: 9264 4603, was listed as the Department's contact for advice regarding the value of joining the NLA consortium. The Department also has in place a subscription to the MacquarieNet online reference database for all public school students in Years 4-10 until September 2008. In addition, the Department is providing access to online resources through its Resources Online collection, the Schools Online Curriculum Services project and the K-10 Syllabus website.

In regard to your second point, Principals also have flexibility in deciding the allocation of teaching staff in their schools. Many choose to use this allocation to ensure that a teacher librarian is provided. Decisions in this area are usually made in consultation with staff and the school community. The value of teacher librarians is recognised by the Department and information about their role is provided to schools on the CMIS School Library Support website. This information is available for use by school communities when discussing the development of library programs and the provision of library staff to implement these programs in individual schools. The Western Australian School Library Association is also in a position to communicate this information to Principals and school communities.

Thank you for raising these issues with me.

Yours sincerely

HON MARK MCGOWAN MLA
MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING; SOUTH WEST

28 MAR 2008