



**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**  
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

---

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT AND CITY SERVICES  
Ms Suzanne Orr MLA (Chair), Miss Candice Burch MLA, Mr James Milligan MLA

## Submission Cover Sheet

### Inquiry into ACT Libraries

**Submission Number: 048**

**Date Authorised for Publication: 26 September 2018**

### **Inquiry into ACT Libraries**

I am an ACT based historian and writer. In my eight plus years living in Canberra, I have found the ACT libraries to be an invaluable community resource. I visit Civic library most frequently, but I draw on books through from all the libraries through the inter-library transfer service. I have also attended writing workshops at the library and attend a monthly writing group which is held in one of the Civic library public meeting rooms. The resources which have proven to be the most valuable to me are:

- **Print publications**  
While there is certainly value in e-resources, particularly access to e-books and database, I still often draw upon the print collection in my work. Often the history books I need to access are not digitised, some of them are pre-2000 publications, so I cannot access them in another form. I also sometimes prefer to navigate through a print publication, it is easier to locate information by flipping through or using the index. Please don't downsize the print collection!
- **Spaces for learning and creativity**  
I meet monthly in civic library in a room our group books in advance. This facility allows our group to connect frequently in a space in which we can chat about writing challenges and achievements and also do some co-writing when we choose. It is preferable to a café in some ways because there is no fee, or expectation of purchase and we're not holding up tables. It's also inspiring to meet among the books!
- **Co-located services**  
I have used ACT shopfront and found it very convenient having it co-located in the library. The number system meant I was able to wander the shelves while waiting my turn, so I borrowed a book and renewed my licence in the one trip, very convenient.
- **Education and training opportunities**  
I have attended a number of writing workshops held at the library and would happily attend more if they are offered.
- **Inter-library transfers**  
I find the facility which allows me to request a book and have it delivered to my nearest library very useful.