Knowledge Bank of Australian and New Zealand School Libraries (KBANZSL) goes live

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Snapshot

Our CSU colleagues introduce the new Knowledge Bank of Australian and New Zealand School Libraries (KBANZSL) – an invaluable new resource for the profession.

Since 2020, a team in the School of Information and Communication Studies at Charles Sturt University have been working on a project which aims to provide a free and open access finding aid for documents and other resources about teacher librarianship and school libraries in Australia and New Zealand. The team responsible for the project brings a range of expertise and experience and includes Associate Professor Mary Carroll, Dr Kasey Garrison, Dr Judy O'Connell, Dr Simon Wakeling, Dr Kay Oddone, Dr Sue Reynolds and Jo Kay, the knowledge bank's designer and educational technologist. **The Knowledge Bank of Australian and New Zealand School Libraries** (KBANZSL) was launched in April 2023 and can be viewed at **https://kbanzsl.org/**.

KBANZSL
Knowledge Bank of Australian and New Zealand School Libraries

The motivation behind the development of this resource came from the 2011 Senate Enquiry into School Libraries and its call for the collation of longitudinal data about school libraries. The intention of **KBANZSL** is not however to gather raw data but to acknowledge in one location the intellectual output of the Australian and New Zealand school library community. By gathering the substantial legacy of writing and research about this profession, KBANZSL guides practitioners and researchers to documents,

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collections, and other resources for, and about, Australian and New Zealand school libraries and teacher librarianship. The aim is to provide as comprehensive as possible an overview and record of the collective memory and output of school libraries in Australia and New Zealand from 1900 onward. The team hopes that by providing this resource it will build understanding and knowledge to support advocacy, professional development and encourage essential research into school libraries and teacher librarianship.

There are some limitations to **KBANZSL** and further information can be found about the scope of the project in the KBANZSL scope notes. It is however useful to highlight some of the important limitations. Firstly, while the intention is to be as comprehensive as possible, KBANZSL is a work in progress. The team intends to expand and grow the resource with input and suggestions from members of the school library community, as well as when new resources emerge. Anyone can now make a suggestion for an item to be added to KBANZSL by submitting a resource suggestion via the '*About*' page. We encourage people to explore and offer suggestions to make KBANZSL grow.

Another important limitation is that unless considered a seminal contribution to the literature of the profession, **journal literature is generally not included**, as this literature is indexed and considered findable elsewhere. It is also important to note that the focus of KBANZSL is not to be a full text repository, but to be a finding aid to dispersed and perhaps not so easily findable critical reports, books, papers and other resources for and about teacher librarians and school libraries in Australia and New Zealand from 1900 to the present day. In this way, KBANZSL can act as an ongoing 'memory' of the profession and school librarianship and highlight the long and ongoing history of school libraries in Australia and New Zealand.

KBANZSL takes a broad approach and has identified items in the knowledge bank under six broad themes or nodes. These are:

- **Advocacy and funding** for school libraries and teacher librarianship in Australia and New Zealand
- **Governance** and regulatory resources related to school libraries and teacher-librarianship from all jurisdictions
- **Historical perspectives** on the development of school libraries and teacher librarianship in Australia and New Zealand
- **Landmark documents** related to school libraries and teacher librarianship in Australia and New Zealand
- **Professional practice** or pedagogical resources and;
- **Research** about Australian and New Zealand teacher librarianship and school libraries.

Users can limit by sector, location, publication decade and item type as well as viewing items more broadly under the main nodes. KBANZSL is also fully searchable.

One item the KBANZSL team is particularly pleased with is the image archive which brings together links to a selection of public domain and creative commons historical images of school libraries and children and adults engaging with reading. This is another area we would like to see grow in the future. We believe that the images are another useful way to tell the story of school libraries. The KBANZSL team anticipates practicing teacher librarians and administrators, scholars and researchers, will find the knowledge bank useful and explore what it holds. To begin, use KBANZSL to locate answers to the following questions, to build your familiarity with how the tool works and the types of resources it holds and to learn a few new things about school libraries!

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KBANZSL exploration questions.

1. How many books about school library management were published in Tasmania?

2. How long was the school library on Cockatoo Island opened each day (hint: check the image archive)

3. How many items are listed which look at advocacy and funding for school libraries and teacher librarianship?

4. Amy Hermon created Fighting for School Libraries about what jurisdiction?

5. What year is the earliest publication listed in KBANZSL?