

## Northern Territory Library International success



The Northern Territory Library (NTL) is the proud recipient of the 2007 Access to Learning Award of \$1.2 million from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation's Global Libraries initiative. The award recognises the Library's work in providing Indigenous communities with computers, Internet access and training. Jo McGill NTL Director received the Award in Durban, South Africa, during the 2007 International Federation of Library Associations' General Conference.



NTL received the Award in recognition of the 'Our Story' database, as part of the Libraries and Knowledge Centres program. Through the program, NTL has helped train Indigenous library staff to increase their technology and literacy skills to share and build digital archives of their culture.

Indigenous people in the communities use computers, cameras, scanners, printers, voice and video recorders and capture traditional and contemporary art, maps, songs, and photos. They also film events, interviews and traditional practices and store all this information and knowledge in the 'Our Story' database.



"Being recognised for the work libraries are doing in remote communities is a tremendous accomplishment. We join countries like Bangladesh, Denmark and South Africa in receiving this Award," said McGill.

Minister for Local Government, Elliot McAdam congratulated NTL on their success and dedication to delivering remote programs.

"Minister McAdam has few memories of his mother who passed away when he was very young. He was moved to find photos of his mother on one of the 'Our Story' databases, photos he didn't realise exist," said McGill.



"The personal content in each community's database is growing and interest in 'Our Story' is increasing with more men becoming involved. Community leaders recognise too that young people are interested in using computers and multimedia. It's an effective way of undertaking intergenerational work that helps strengthen culture," said McGill.

NTL will use the \$1.2 million Access to Learning Award to take progress three key priorities: Upgrading of the information technology to expand the preservation of culture material; Building capacity of both library staff and clients; and the implementation of the Indigenous early years literacy strategy.

## events

Adult Learners Week events [www.ntl.nt.gov](http://www.ntl.nt.gov).  
Curatorial talk on Northern Territory 'First Fleet' Journals & Frank Laver Album, Tuesday 11 September 2007.

