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## LIBRARIES TASMANIA AND AUSTRALIAN LIBRARIES JOIN FORCES TO BUILD NATIONAL DIGITAL COLLECTION

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Libraries Tasmania has been part of a world-first collaboration to build an Australian digital collection of books alongside other national, state and territory libraries.

The new National edeposit service (known as NED) launches this Friday and will make records easier to search for, and easy to find online.

NED also provides more equitable access to Australian publications while protecting the commercial interests of authors and publishers.

“NED is a testament to the strong commitment and collaborative spirit that exists across our collective libraries,” said Elizabeth Jack, Executive Director of Libraries Tasmania.

“It was a massive task to build a system that can satisfy nine sets of technical requirements and legislation, while balancing open access principles, copyright law, content security and protection of commercial viability for publishers, but we’ve done it.

“Tasmanian writers, book-lovers and curious minds can find Australian literary works alongside everything from organisations publishing their annual reports, to self-published authors,” Ms Jack said.

For more than 100 years, publishers have been legally required to deposit published works in Australian libraries.

With the creation of NED, Australian libraries now have the digital infrastructure to preserve Australia’s documentary heritage online for future generations, in the same way they always have for print.

Chair of National and State Libraries Australia and CEO of State Library Victoria, Kate Torney, said, “NED builds on a long history of collaboration between the national, state and territory libraries of Australia, which benefits all library users.

“This world-first national edeposit system highlights Australia’s library sector as a global leader, and sets a wonderful precedent for future projects.”



Journalist and author Peter Greste said, “In this age of information disorder, libraries have never been more crucial.

“Collecting, organising and making Australian publications available to people is not just fundamental to our freedoms, it is fundamental to our ability to make sense of the world.”

Publishers and authors can now upload electronic books, journals, magazines and newsletters through the [NED website](http://www.ned.gov.au) at [www.ned.gov.au](http://www.ned.gov.au).

Depending on the publication's level of access, the general public can access the collection online through [Trove](http://www.trove.nla.gov.au) at [www.trove.nla.gov.au](http://www.trove.nla.gov.au) or onsite in their national, state and territory libraries.

Visit the [National and State Libraries Australia](http://www.nsla.org.au) website at [www.nsla.org.au](http://www.nsla.org.au).

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