



# Update



AUGUST 07

## Farewell from the EGG Chair:

Kia ora EPIC Libraries

Welcome to the EPIC mid-year update.

I have been on the EPIC Governance Group (EGG) for 3 years and over that time we've achieved and experienced many challenges and successes. We now have 185 members of all library types - not to mention every New Zealand school (thankyou Ministry of Education!). EPIC has negotiated licenses for 21 different online resources providing New Zealanders with access to an astounding range of high quality information. I'm really proud of what we've achieved.

Over the last 3 years EPIC's focus was negotiating national 'all of country licenses' for high quality online resources. However, one of our biggest challenges has been balancing the need for more training with the demand for more content offerings. In response to this the EGG agreed on the following statement at their 14 June 2007 meeting:

*It was agreed that EPIC's core deliverable is to negotiate national site licences for high quality electronic information for all New Zealanders.*

*EPIC will now also expand its role to enable the collaborative purchasing of specialised content for segments of the library market.*

*In addition, and to ensure the consortium's sustainability, we are also focusing on training and capability to enable libraries to get the full benefits of their investment into online resources.*

We are currently working on two priority areas:

- An all of country deal for New Zealand content - which will be announced very soon (see next page)
- The EPIC LIANZA Training Initiative supported by the recent appointment of our new EPIC Training Coordinator, Craig Cherrie (see next page).

In the second half of this year we will be reviewing the cost, subscription and operation models to ensure that EPIC is sufficiently resourced and structured to expand its offerings. This will include implementing a process for selecting, evaluating and managing additional products.

These are very exciting times for EPIC – but it is important to remember that EPIC can only develop with your continued support. Without you EPIC will not exist.

It is also a time for change for the EGG. I will be completing my term as the EGG Chair and the Polytechnic and other Tertiary Libraries' representative. My replacement will be announced in August. I would like to acknowledge my other colleagues on the EGG. They are a fantastic, dedicated group that ensures that your interests are considered in all of our activities and decisions. We'll acknowledge the other outgoing EGG members in a special edition of this newsletter in August.

So farewell from me as EGG Chair. Of course my library will continue to be a member of EPIC and so I look forward to our continued collaboration through our national consortium!

*Barbara Gariock* - EGG Chair

## An EPIC New Deal On the Way

All EPIC members will be receiving information about a new EPIC deal in the next few weeks. We have been negotiating access to New Zealand content over the last year and are very close to being able to announce a very exciting deal. This will be an 'all of country' licence and the success will rely on a sufficient level of commitment from New Zealand libraries.

We will be in touch with your library's EPIC contact with all the information you need very soon. The main contact is usually the library manager or the person responsible for online database subscriptions. Please send any changes of contact to [fiona.rigby@epic.org.nz](mailto:fiona.rigby@epic.org.nz)

## Training!

The EPIC LIANZA Training Initiative (ELTI) aims to set up a network of skilled trainers who will train colleagues in their own, and surrounding, organizations. In February 2006 Craig Cherrie was appointed as the Training Coordinator and he was responsible for developing the content and then delivering *Becoming a Trainer* sessions. This involved the training of 58 librarians (from a range of library sectors) in 12 full day sessions over April 2007.

These trainers are currently testing their new knowledge and skills in their own organisations and also getting to know each other via their very own online social community. The process for rolling out the training support to libraries will be communicated to you in the next few weeks.

EPIC is delighted to announce that Craig Cherrie has accepted a longer-term role as EPIC Training Coordinator. He is responsible for developing and delivering training support to EPIC Member Libraries across the country as well as supporting the ELTI Trainers.

Craig Cherrie is an experienced librarian and trainer. Previous to this position he was Information Services Team Leader at Hutt City Libraries where he was responsible for provision of reference/research & user education services as well as management of reference & digital collections.

See page 4 for some Training Tips and Tricks from Craig.



*Craig Cherrie – EPIC Training Coordinator*

## EPIC at LIANZA Conference

It would be great to see all our EPIC Members at the EPIC lunchtime meeting on Monday 10 September at the LIANZA Conference in Rotorua. This will be an informal and interactive session where you can meet the EPIC Governance Group members, EPIC Manager and EPIC Training Coordinator. We'll also tell you about new developments and we can share ideas and experiences.

Fiona Rigby and Craig Cherrie will also be presenting a paper about the ELTI. They'll provide an overview of the initiative, discuss the collaborative approach and comment on the experience of delivering this training. You can also learn how participation in the Initiative could provide your library with the resources and method to deliver more effective training.

## EPIC meets ERA



Fiona Rigby (EPIC Manager) and Barbara Garriock (Chair of the EGG) attended the Australian Libraries' 4<sup>th</sup> National Licensing Forum in Canberra in May 2007. This forum officially launched ERA (Electronic Resources Australia), a new consortium that has negotiated access to 9 different products that Australian libraries can subscribe to.

Fiona and Barbara shared their experiences of setting up EPIC and talked about ways to collaborate successfully. We also acknowledged the hard work that our Australian colleagues had put into ERA by introducing them to the Kiwi tradition of the chocolate fish.

ERA has taken a different approach to EPIC. The offerings are on an opt in/opt out basis - where libraries can subscribe to any one (or more) of the products. The vendors manage the licenses and there are different cost structures for each library sector and each product.

To learn more about ERA visit <http://era.nla.gov.au/>



Barbara Garriock (front) and Fiona Rigby (back) presenting at the 4th National Site Licensing Forum, National Library of Australia, Canberra, May 2007.  
*Photo: Loui Seselja, National Library of Australia.*

## Tips and Tricks

### Usage Reports

Did you know that you have access to the usage reports for all the EPIC databases? It is possible to set up scheduled reports for EBSCO, Gale and Proquest and you have direct access to the Britannica and Oxford report modules.

For instructions visit: <http://epic.org.nz/nl/USAGE.html>

Email [epic@epic.org.nz](mailto:epic@epic.org.nz) if you need any help or if you've misplaced your passwords.

### Dealing with Diversity - or 'uh-oh' When Did I last Use This...?

With 9-10 different interfaces over 21 EPIC databases it's a challenge to feel comfortable using a range of the resources, especially if you only need some of them occasionally. If you're with a customer you don't want to be spending 5 minutes figuring out how to drive the thing before starting a search.

If you step back from the different 'looks' to the interfaces, you can develop some common ways of searching across all of them. This is particularly so if you stick to the 'basic' search boxes - which will pretty much provide us with a useful search most of the time.

In general the following features can be safely deployed:

- **To search for a phrase** (names, titles, expressions..) use: `"..."` [double quotes]
- **To require all your terms** to be present in any item use: **AND** between them [in caps]
- **To search on the root of a word** (truncation) use: `*` [an asterisk]

Some of these are not essential in some databases (eg. the uppercase AND in some, or quote marks in others) but this doesn't matter as the database ignores such niceties and just ploughs on with a sound search. Where they are essential then we are saved from odd results.

Bear in mind that just these 3 broad rules of thumb means we aren't faced with desperately trying to remember how to structure our searches for an individual database. Our focus can then be on using our (librarian) skills of selecting the best words and evaluating what's retrieved.

This is an example of the approach we are using to build confidence in using EPIC resources in our ELTI Training sessions.

## Keeping In Touch With EPIC

EPIC-L, the EPIC listserv is the best and easiest way to stay in touch with EPIC. To join visit <http://lists.natlib.govt.nz/mailman/listinfo/epic-l> All staff of EPIC member libraries are welcome to join the listserv and there is an archive of previous messages.

EPIC updates and announcements are sent to this list. Though specific communications will still be sent to our main contacts at each library.

Don't forget about the EPIC Website [www.epic.org.nz](http://www.epic.org.nz) for a wealth of information about training, promotion and answers to frequently asked questions.

## EPIC Help

If you have any questions about your EPIC subscription or databases then don't hesitate to email [epic@epic.org.nz](mailto:epic@epic.org.nz) or call 04 474 3000 ext 8771. We're there to help!

For contact details for the vendors visit: <http://epic.org.nz/nl/libsupport.html>