



ALIA Access 2010 Conference
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Australian
Library and
Information
Association

MCC LIBRARY & THE NATIONAL SPORTS MUSEUM
David Studham, Melbourne Cricket Club Library, VIC

During the Northern Side redevelopment of the Melbourne Cricket Ground from 2003 to 2008 the staff and volunteers of the Melbourne Cricket Club Library played an integral part of the design and development of the Melbourne Cricket Club Museum and the National Sports Museum (NSM), adding value to the projects through the collection items, as well as the accumulated corporate and expert knowledge.

The MCC Library, established in 1873, has developed Australia's leading specialised sports history collection. Staffed by professionally trained librarians, complemented by 20 volunteers, the library team contains some of Australia's leading sports historians.

Based at the MCG, with the initial installations funded by the Australian Government (AUS\$25million), the National Sports Museum opened on March 12, 2008. The NSM contains six separate exhibitions, an interactive area, temporary exhibition space and a direct connection to the (AUS\$3million) MCC Museum on non-event days.

Nine of the MCC Library staff and volunteers were seconded onto the various exhibition committees for the National Sports Museum, using their expertise to assist in selecting themes and stories or supplying content and artefacts, text and label writing for the NSM designers and exhibition team. Indeed the MCC Library proved to be a vital readymade resource for the NSM project in both human and collection terms. The NSM was able to tap into both the collection and the accumulated knowledge and expertise. The inside knowledge and treasures provided by the library proved invaluable to streamlining the NSM project and demonstrates the value of the MCC Library collection and team to the organisation as a whole and the wider community.

In the words of the NSM Exhibition Producer, "We would not have been able to have accomplished this project without the knowledge and assistance of the Library team and their collection".