



# Current trends within the Australian economy & legal industry & its impact upon law librarians

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Deacons



# Australian economy

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- Change of political parties
- Household debt & interest
- Employment
- Commercial property
- Bull to bear market

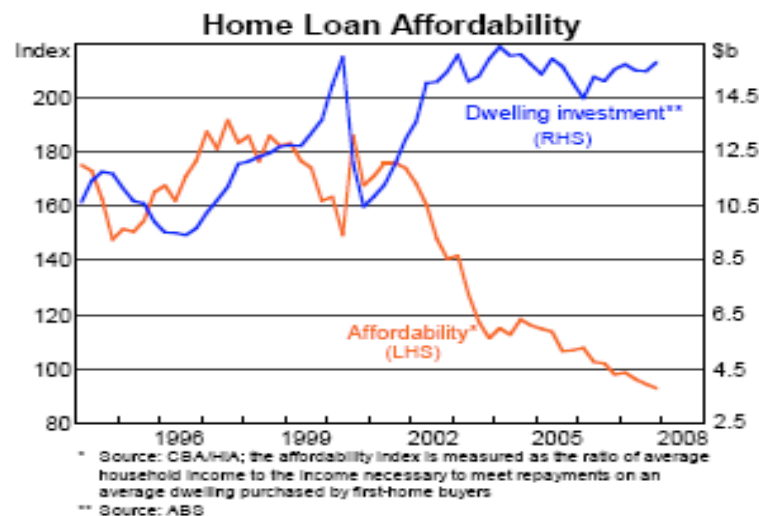
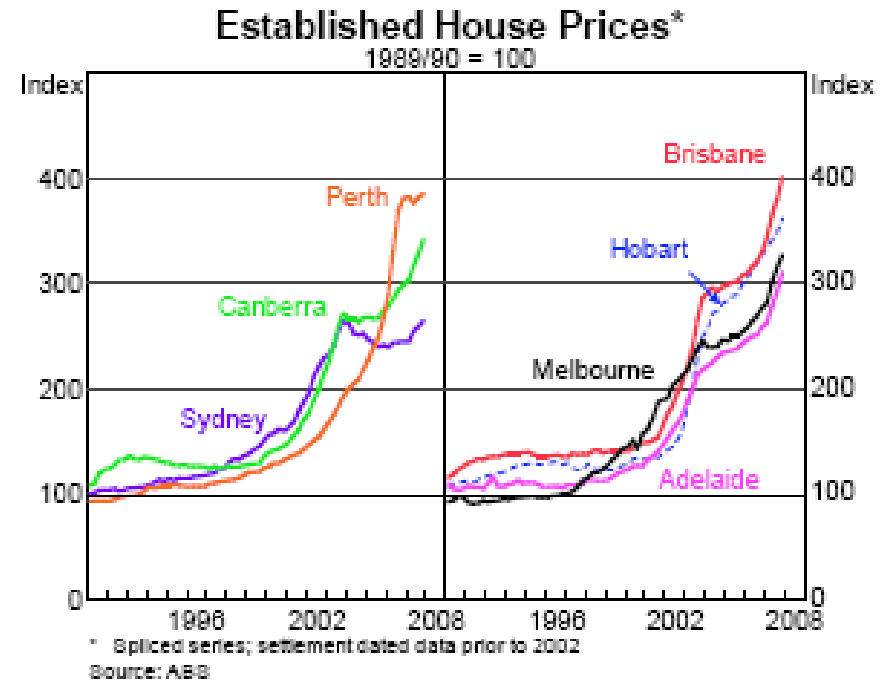


## Change of political parties

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- 1996-2007: Liberal Party
- 2008-: Labor Party

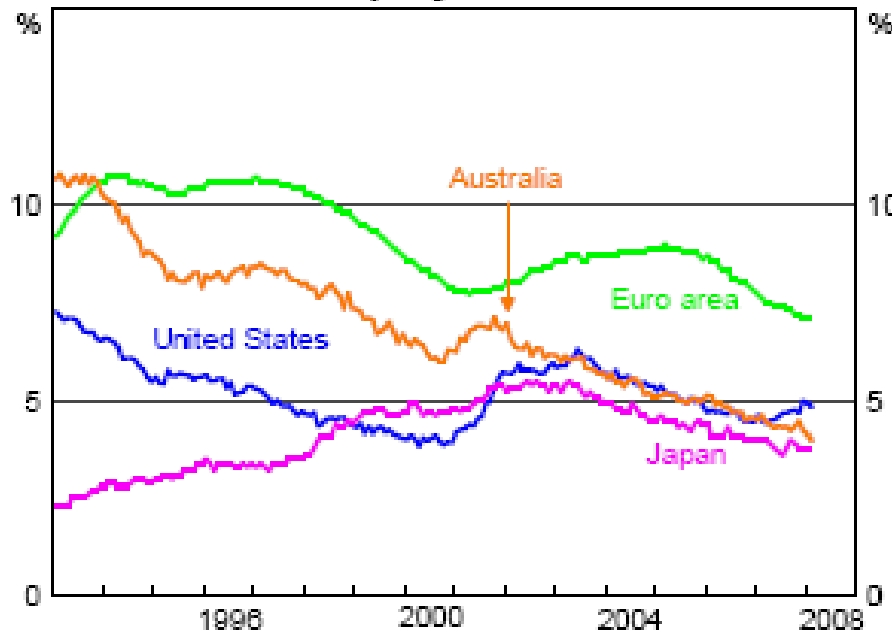
# Household debt & interest



# Employment

- Ageing population
- Skills shortage

### Unemployment Rate



Sources: ABS; Thomson Financial

### Employment by Industry

1997 = 100



Source: ABS

### Labour Force



Source: ABS



# Commercial Property

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- Occupancy rates
- Rents
- Space



## Bull to Bear Market

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- Foreign credit crunch trigger
- Energy & natural resources
- Public infrastructure
- Foreign investment
- Climate change



# Australian Legal Industry

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- Economic downturn
  - increase in CDR, M&A, corporate restructuring
  - some decrease in banking & finance
- Emerging new practices
  - climate change
  - public sector infrastructure
- Growth in
  - natural resources investment
  - Asian investors
- Law firm mergers
- Office space pressures
- War for talent
- Outsourcing





# Technology

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- Google
- Blogs & Wikis
- RSS Newsfeeds
- Intelligent agents
- FaceBook, Youtube, My Space
- RFID
- Publishers



# Australian Law Library Landscape

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- ALLA
- Library workforce
  - Demographics
- Education
- Resources
- Emerging roles



# ALLA - Australian Law Librarians' Association

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- National President: Petal Kinder
- Formed in 1969
- Incorporated on 31 December 2001
- Name change from ALLG to the ALLA in 2007
- 700 + members
- Aim to:
  - promote a network for Australian law librarians
  - provide forums for continuing education
  - advocate on behalf of the interests of law libraries
  - promote access to legal information within the wider community



# Library Workforce & Demographics

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- Approx 700 law library staff
  - 91% female: 9% male
  - 44% > 45 years or older
  - 45% employed in profession > 16 years
- Employed in
  - law firms 42%
  - government departments: 28%
  - courts: 28%
  - academic institutions: 10%
  - other: 10%



# Education

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- Course types
- Graduate numbers
  - 1997-2005: 3662 to 2184
- Course content - out of touch
- Educational reforms



# Resources

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- Physical library space
  - Offsite storage
- Centralisation of resources & services
  - Staffing
- Onsite & offsite clients

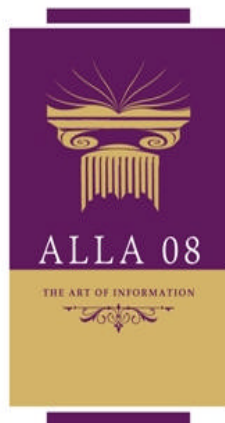


# Emerging Roles

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- Blurring of IT/IM/KM/RM skills & roles
- Natural transition away from traditional search & retrieval activities
- Hunters & gathers of IT applications
- Hybrid library has arrived
  - Engine room practitioners (LTs and LOs)
  - Specialist pods
    - Web 2.0 (IT)
    - Complex or “hard to find” research (Librarian)
    - Competitive Intelligence (Librarian)

# ALLA 2008 Conference (Perth)



- >Welcome
- >Program
- >Registration
- >Exhibition & Sponsorship
- >Social Events
- >Satellite Events & Tours
- >Perth
- >Accommodation
- >Transport
- >Contacts

[ALLA homepage](#)

## ALLA 2008: *The Art of Information*

Art (defn): *skill as the result of knowledge and practice.*

The Australian Law Librarians' Association invites you to attend our 2008 conference: The Art of Information.

To be held 17-19th September 2008 at the Subiaco Arts Centre, Perth, Western Australia, this conference is the premier professional development event for librarians and information professionals working in law libraries.

The conference theme reflects our skills and expertise, our continuous development in a rapidly changing, organic information landscape. The theme is also a reference to our beautiful conference venue, the [Subiaco Arts Centre](#), set in beautiful gardens in the heart of Perth's best arts, entertainment and shopping precinct.

Information seeking is an organic process, we search for truth and accuracy where there are no absolutes, we collaborate with our colleagues and our clients for learning and advancement.

ALLA 2008 will give delegates insights into best practices, innovations and developments in legal research, legal publishing, law collections, legal information literacy and reference services.

The range of fantastic social & satellite events on offer includes opening drinks and a private art viewing, conference dinner at the award winning Frasers restaurant in Kings Park, library tours, wild flowers and wine tasting.

You will have opportunities to meet and network with colleagues from around the country.

The Conference Organising Committee once again extends a warm welcome to ALLA 2008 and we look forward to seeing you in Perth.

**Registration Now Open**

[Registration form](#)