

# Media Release



## NSW State Library's new robot reader speaks your language

09/03/2016

The state's first free public automatic reader that speaks over 15 languages has been launched at the State Library of NSW as part of its Multicultural March 2016 celebrations.

The revolutionary automatic reader *Readit Air* helps people with vision impairment and those who have trouble reading by instantly capturing any form of text and reading it aloud. It detects books, newspapers or other printed forms written in English, Greek, Italian, French, Romanian, Spanish, with more languages to be added.

According to NSW State Librarian & Chief Executive, Alex Byrne: "This amazing new device will enhance the simple pleasure of reading, opening up our collections of books and resources in many languages."

"This exciting new onsite service complements the work we do outside the Library with public libraries to provide access to materials in 43 community languages, including books, health information, magazines and newspapers," says Dr Byrne.

The release of the new automatic reader coincides with beginning of the State Library's month-long celebration for Multicultural March. The Library's free program includes public talks, international story time for children, Library tours in Mandarin, Hindi and Arabic and a conversation with award winning author Sami Shah.

An exhibition of photographs celebrating Sydney's Jewish community is also open to the public.

"I encourage everyone to come along to the State Library in March and experience the kinds of activities and services we offer communities all year round," says Dr Byrne.

*Readit Air* is free to use in the Governor Marie Bashir Reading Room now.

For more information on Multicultural March activities at the State Library of NSW visit [www.sl.nsw.gov.au](http://www.sl.nsw.gov.au)

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