



National Libraries and Archives Synergies : Perspectives

Roundtable on Libraries and Archives Singapore, 28-30 Jan 2013



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Spectrum of Library-Archives Integration



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Library and Archives Canada

- Full and active integration of archives and library
- Premised on a modernisation initiative driven by the digital environment
 - Service delivery transformation
 - Metadata strategy
 - Digital collection
- Challenges & learning points
 - Need for clarity of vision
 - Need for strong leadership
 - Need for detachment from professional identity
 - Need to think through how to organise transformation team



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National Library of the Netherlands

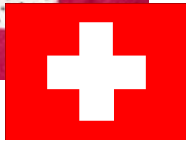
- Political push to explore merger
- Legal challenges encountered
- Questions/Concerns include: effect on innovation and organisational autonomy/structure, finance/funding, whether there would really be efficiency gains
- Merger process put on hold since Oct 2012 with change in government



Bill Macnaught,
National Librarian,
National Library of
New Zealand

National Library of New Zealand

- Both are part of the Department of Internal Affairs
- No integration, more of “Shared Development Areas”
- Goal: to reduce inefficiencies, duplication of efforts and the provision of better and higher use/value services in agreed priority function areas through working together in a shared way



Marie-Christine
Doffey, Director,
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Swiss National Library

- No plans on merger
- Project collaborations
 - De-acidification
 - Shared storage (temporary)

Learning Points : Branding

Roundtable felt that the professionals (librarians and archivists) could retain their titles for networking and collaboration with colleagues internationally

Learning Points : Collections

Possible synergies

- in bringing together collections such as maps, manuscripts, images, and other formats that both collect
- in backend processes such as digitisation, conservation and preservation, and possibly organisation of materials

Learning Points : Services

User services could be the area where gains might be more tangible as users could potentially gain access to materials in both library and archives in a seamless manner

Learning Points :

Change management

- management of change in the process of identifying possible synergies must be planned well, with the staff fully engaged from day one
- changes to be made must be planned and implemented in consultation with the staff concerned and they must own the process and the outcomes



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