

## COUNTRY REPORT 2014-2015

### FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF DIRECTORS OF NATIONAL LIBRARIES (CDNL)

Tuesday 18 August 2015 – Cape Town, South Africa

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#### 1. GENERAL OVERVIEW OF RECENT MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS

Both the National Library and Archives New Zealand are located within the Information and Knowledge Services (IKS) branch of the Department of Internal Affairs (DIA). The DIA including the National Library, like all New Zealand government departments, has been working within a very constrained fiscal environment. However, by a constant process of review and innovation, the National Library successfully maintained and developed its services.

During the year July 2014 to June 2015, the National Library has:

- Progressed the 'Archives Exhibition' project, which will relocate the Treaty of Waitangi (1840) and other key historical documents to the National Library building for secure display and interpretation to the public in a purpose-built facility;
- worked with other units within the Department to develop its new business plan which takes digital services that were previously part of a separate strategy and mainstreams them as part of normal business. This responds to government policy objectives for enhancing the effectiveness of the public service;
- worked to implement within the Library the Department's new Māori Strategic Framework (particularly important in this 175<sup>th</sup> year since the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi);
- engaged with other government departments and cultural institutions in a national programme to commemorate the centenary of the 1<sup>st</sup> World War 1914-1918;
- strengthened cooperation with other National Libraries, especially those in the Asia-Pacific region, through regional associations and bi-lateral arrangements.

#### 2. RELATIONSHIP TO GOVERNMENT

This year the National Library will celebrate its 50th year - the 'National Library Act 1965' created the National Library by bringing together collections and services which had been set up separately at different times. In 2003, Parliament passed the new 'National Library of New Zealand Te Puna Mātauranga o Aotearoa Act 2003'. The 2003 Act defined the purpose of the National Library as being "to enrich the

cultural and economic life of New Zealand and its interchange with other nations.” The Act also established legal deposit of electronic publications..

In 2011 the National Library was integrated into the Department of Internal Affairs (DIA). The Minister of Internal Affairs is responsible for the National Library.

Although located within central government, the National Library also provides services and leadership to other parts of the wider library sector nationally, particularly to public libraries (operated by local government authorities) and to school libraries.

### 3. KEY FACTS AND FIGURES

The divisions of the National Library are:

- the Alexander Turnbull Library (ATL) (the heritage collections)
- Content Services (acquisitions, bibliographic processing, digital preservation, and national services provided to libraries, authors and publishers)
- Literacy, Learning and Public Programmes (Services to Schools, and Public Programmes)
- Digital New Zealand (DNZ) (for the development of shared content creation)

The total of National Library staff in post is currently 280 FTE. Most staff are based in Wellington, but others work in the Library’s regional centres in Auckland, Christchurch and other cities.

The Library’s operating budget is \$NZ31.7m (excluding overheads and depreciation), which comes principally from the Government through the DIA.

The National Library’s main building in Wellington has a floor area of over 24,000m<sup>2</sup>. The collections occupy a total of 95km of shelving (61kms of heritage collections and 34kms of general collections). The Library keeps 100% of the heritage collections in controlled-atmosphere storage.

Among the heritage holdings in the ATL, particular collection strengths are in the areas of indigenous Māori and Pacific studies, manuscripts, prints and drawings, sound recordings, and oral history recordings. The official government valuation of the heritage collections is over \$NZ1 billion.

Digital preservation is carried out using Rosetta. In the financial year July 2014 to June 2015, the National Library and the Archives together preserved c.1 million files representing 14Tb of data. The total of all digital collections stored is 140 terabytes.

During 2014-2015 the Library received an estimated 16,500 visitors per month (on average) in all public spaces, a figure which includes the estimated 4,500 monthly users of the open-access digital services and facilities on the ground floor. In terms of remote use, the Library recorded 1.4m visits on its main website [i.e. sessions, not page views].

### 4. COLLECTIONS AND SERVICES

#### *Public programmes*

Through the year, the Library continued to offer a very successful series of programmes, including: summer holiday activities for children, exhibitions in the main

gallery and other display spaces, story-telling events, talks, and other cultural events. One of the major themes running through the exhibitions and talks has been the commemoration of the centenary of the 1<sup>st</sup> World War and its deep impact on the national community.

#### *Support for literacy and learning in schools*

Good progress was made with the National Library's redevelopment of its Services to Schools. The aim of the redevelopment is to strengthen school library services for young New Zealanders, supporting their development as readers and digitally literate learners in modern library learning environments. The work has been carried out in close consultation with stakeholding organisations in the education sector.

#### *'Digital Preservation NZ'*

During the year, the National Library undertook consultations with stakeholders aiming to develop a coordinated national strategy for the collaborative digital preservation of data assets. Findings have shown the need to raise awareness of the high value of the assets held, to avoid duplication, to apply national standards, to prioritise the work. Further work will focus on cost modelling and sources of funding.

#### *Support for public libraries*

The Kōtui Consortium for collective procurement, led by the National Library, now has 28 members (public library systems of local authorities). The National Library has worked with public libraries on a national procurement strategy for e-resources.

The Aotearoa People's Network Kaharoa (APNK) is helping public libraries to break down the digital divide by ensuring citizens have the skills and connectivity to actively contribute to New Zealand's economic, social and cultural life. APNK is a managed network operating out of the National Library's regional centre in Christchurch.

During the year, APNK provided free public access to the Internet to connect communities through 54 public library systems of local authorities (including cities, small towns and rural districts).

## 5. NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN PROVIDING ACCESS TO COLLECTIONS

#### *Papers Past*

The Library's 'Papers Past' website continued to expand the range of newspapers available, and is always in great demand among many categories of users. It offers searchable digital access to the content of New Zealand newspapers of the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, in English and Māori. So far 3.83m pages have been digitised. Over the year the site registered 2.5m visits (sessions), representing 35m page views. For further details see the [National Library website](http://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz) and <http://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz>.

#### *Research in the National Library's collections*

Access to the rich resources of the National Library's collections has been facilitated by the award of several grants and fellowships in 2015. These include the 'Lilburn Research Fellowship' (researching the music collections), and the 'Friends of the Turnbull Library' grant to a scholar who will research a new biography of noted New Zealand writer Katherine Mansfield.

In partnership with Victoria University of Wellington, several grants have been awarded to students to research innovative ways in which the digital 'archives of the future' may be used.

## 6. COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE REPORTING LIBRARY AND OTHER NATIONAL COLLECTING INSTITUTIONS

### *Centenary of the First World War*

As noted above, the National Library is actively engaged in the national programme of events commemorating the centenary of the 1st World War (see <http://ww100.govt.nz>). See also the article on the National Library website [www.natlib.govt.nz](http://www.natlib.govt.nz) on the digitisation of diaries of New Zealand soldiers in WW1.

The unpublished collections of the National Library, audio and film archives, and military records from the national Archives were all drawn upon for the national events in Wellington centering on the opening of the National War Memorial Park, on Anzac Day, 25<sup>th</sup> April, to mark the centenary of the Dardanelles campaign in the 1<sup>st</sup> World War.

### *Digital New Zealand*

Use of the DigitalNZ API data service exceeded more than 26 million queries a month for the year to 28 Feb, 2015. The most significant new use of the data service is the Network for Learning (NfL), who are using DigitalNZ to funnel content from partners into NZ school classrooms. Contributions to DigitalNZ continue to be strong. There are over 186 content partners with over 29m records searchable in [www.digitalnz.org](http://www.digitalnz.org) and accessible through the API. DigitalNZ has also recently open-sourced the tool it uses for aggregating, searching and sharing metadata records. Known as 'Supplejack', it transforms 'messy' data, creates a unified search index and makes consistent metadata widely available via an open API data service.

### *International collaboration*

In the framework of the Library's Arrangement on Cooperation with the National Library of China, the Library sent two conservators to Beijing for discussions on preservation strategies and management, and the preservation of works on Chinese paper.

In the framework of the National Library's Arrangement with the National Library Board of Singapore, the two national agencies exchanged information for benchmarking of services, and discussed new developments in the area of collaboration between national libraries and national archives.

The National Library of New Zealand and the National Library of Turkey have exchanged 'letters of intent' to cooperate in providing digital access to documentary cultural heritage in areas of mutual interest.

The National Library continued to work actively with peer institutions in Australia through its membership of National and State Libraries of Australasia (NSLA). The National Library of NZ is particularly active in NSLA projects in the areas of digital preservation, digital access to heritage collections, legal deposit, and enhancing the level of digital skills among staff.