

# AUSTRALIA

THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF AUSTRALIA

MS JAN FULLERTON — DIRECTOR-GENERAL

## ANNUAL REPORT TO CDNL 2001 – 2002

### ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

In 2001 the National Library of Australia celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The highlight of the anniversary celebrations was the major international exhibition *Treasures From the World's Great Libraries*, which celebrated the important role that libraries all over the world play in collecting, recording and preserving the history and culture of humanity. The willingness of national and other major libraries around the world to lend us their special items for this exhibition ensured that it was a huge success. During the three months that the exhibition was open (December 2001-February 2002) over 115,000 visitors saw 168 items from 24 countries. A further 60,000 people viewed the on-line version of the exhibition, which can be viewed at <http://www.nla.gov.au/worldtreasures/index.html>.

In our anniversary year we also invited all Australians to help us find key items not held in our collection. The 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday Booksearch resulted in a wide range of material being received by the Library, from rare Australian sheet music to missing issues of well known Australian comic series. The 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday Booksearch has made Australians aware of the Library's collecting aims and important documentary materials continued to be offered to the Library. Further details are available at <http://www.nla.gov.au/collect/booksearch.html>.

### MEMORY OF THE WORLD

The UNESCO Memory of the World Register lists documentary heritage items that are considered to have had a major influence on world history, or to reflect a periods of momentous change in world affairs. In December 2001, The National Library of Australia celebrated the inscription of two items from its collection on UNESCO's Memory of the World Register. The *Endeavour Journal*, a record kept by Captain James Cook during his first voyage to the Pacific in 1769-1771, and the Mabo Case Manuscripts which relate to the establishment of Aboriginal land rights in Australia in 1992, are the first Australian items to be listed on the register. During a visit to Australia in May 2002, the Director General of UNESCO Mr Koichiro Matsuura visited the Library to view these items.

## **DIGITAL INITIATIVES**

### ***MANAGEMENT OF DIGITAL COLLECTIONS***

Over the past two years the National Library of Australia has been developing an architecture for the management of its digital collections (both digitised and born digital information resources). In 2001 three parts of this architecture were developed and implemented: a *Digital Object Storage System* which meets the Library's needs for large-scale storage of digital collection resources; a *Digital Archiving System* which provides tools to manage the gathering of selected Australian web-sites and on-line publications, their long-term preservation and storage and the provision of access to the public and a *Persistent Identifier Resolver Service* (<http://www.nla.gov.au/initiatives/nlapi.html>) which allows all digital collection items to be assigned a permanent Internet address.

In 2002, two more parts of the management architecture were developed and implemented. The *Digital Collections Manager* (<http://www.nla.gov.au/dsp/doms/dcm.html>) supports the Library's digitisation workflows for pictures, maps, manuscripts and sheet music, and allows digitised images to be uploaded to the Digital Object Storage System. In future releases the *Digital Collections Manager* will support the management of digital sound and the management of the preservation of the Library's digital collections. The *Delivery Systems for Digital Objects* allows the Library to provide access to digitised manuscript collections through the Encoded Archival Description framework, and to its digitised sheet music. The Library is currently examining the issues relating to the web delivery of audio from its oral history and music collections.

In addition to the development of its digital collections architecture the Library has undertaken two new projects aimed at developing services to enhance access to digital information resources: the MusicAustralia service and the Electronic Resource Discovery Service.

### ***MUSIC AUSTRALIA***

The National Library of Australia is leading a collaborative research project to develop a system to deliver digital music objects in a range of formats and from a range of institutions via a single web search point. The first phase of the MusicAustralia project was completed in June 2002 with the development of a system which delivers 200 music digital objects, including digitised sheet music, digital audio files and original digital music scores held by the National Library of Australia and ScreenSound: the National Film and Sound Archive.

### ***ELECTRONIC RESOURCE DISCOVERY SERVICE***

Work on the first phase of this project was also completed in June 2002. The Electronic Resource Discovery Service aims to provide a single web search point for Australian digital resources whose content can be accessed directly via the web. The pilot project provides access to resources through an index of metadata elements for items held in various Australian subject gateways, the Australian Digital Theses archive, digital publications listed in the Australian National Bibliographic Database and several other sources.

## **DIGITAL REFERENCE SERVICES**

The National Library of Australia in collaboration with the Council of Australian State Libraries is developing a pilot 'chatroom' reference service. The service will enable people to engage in an online interactive session with a librarian and provide the facility for co-browsing of electronic information resources. The eight participating libraries will staff the service on a time-share basis, taking advantage of the different Australian time zones.

The Library has also continued its active participation in the Collaborative Digital Reference Service coordinated by the Library of Congress. In addition to sending and receiving enquiries, the Library has contributed to the development of a knowledge base function and has been a beta test site for the new replacement service, QuestionPoint.

## **PRESERVATION ACTIVITIES**

### ***CELLULOSE ACETATE MANAGEMENT PLAN***

During the year the National Library of Australia completed a national strategy for managing collections held on deteriorating cellulose acetate film, including many microfilm, photographic and sound recording collections. The strategy was developed in cooperation with the Council of Australian State Libraries, archives and other collecting institutions. The Library has begun identifying and treating its own extensive cellulose acetate collections. Details of the national strategy are available at <http://www.nla.gov.au/preserve/ca.html>.

## **DIGITAL PRESERVATION**

The National Library of Australia has continued to develop infrastructure and tools to support the long-term maintenance of digital information resources, including those publications selected for the National Collection of Online Australian Publications (formerly known as PANDORA). During the year the Library released its digital preservation policy and action plan, setting out its intentions and agenda for maintaining access to digital information resources. The policy is available at <http://www.nla.gov.au/policy/digipres.html>.

The Library also contributed to the development of international best practice for the preservation management of digital information resources through participation in the work of the OCLC/Research Libraries Group Working Group on Preservation Metadata ([http://www.oclc.org/research/pmwg/pm\\_framework.pdf](http://www.oclc.org/research/pmwg/pm_framework.pdf)), the OCLC/Research Libraries Group Attributes of Digital Repositories Working Group (<http://www.rlg.org/longterm/attribswg.html>) and the CDNL Working Group on Digital Archiving.

### ***INTER-LIBRARY LOAN AND DOCUMENT SUPPLY BENCHMARKING SURVEY***

The National Library of Australia has recently conducted the most comprehensive examination of inter-library loan and document delivery operations ever undertaken in Australia. The study was based on the methodology used in the very successful survey undertaken in the United States by the Association of Research Libraries, *Measuring the Performance of Interlibrary Loan Operations*. With the aim of looking at ways of improving the Australian inter-library loan system, the survey identified the characteristics of high performing inter-library loan/document delivery operations in libraries. Libraries using automated inter-library loan systems where most processes were managed on-line, and those using well trained expert staff were the most efficient and cost-effective requesters and suppliers. Australian libraries are being encouraged to benchmark their inter-library loan operations against the high performing libraries, and to look at ways of improving their own performance in this area. The full report is available at <http://www.nla.gov.au/initiatives/nrswg/benchmarking.html>.

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