

Annual Report to CDNL 2005

Name of Country : New Zealand
Name of Library : National Library of New Zealand
Name of Chief Executive : Ms Penny Carnaby

Country report from the National Library of New Zealand

June 2005

Purpose of the National Library

The National Library is a government department, and its purpose has been defined by Parliament in the 'National Library of New Zealand (Te Puna Mātauranga o Aotearoa¹) Act' 2003, as to "enrich the cultural and economic life of New Zealand and its interchanges with other nations" by:

- collecting, preserving and protecting documents, particularly those relating to New Zealand, and making them accessible for all the people of New Zealand, in a manner consistent with their status as documentary heritage
- supplementing and furthering the work of other libraries in New Zealand
- working collaboratively with other similar institutions in New Zealand and abroad

In addition, the Library's role is to advise and assist the Minister Responsible for the National Library on library and information issues.

The overall outcome of the National Library's work (as expressed in its Statement of Intent to the Government for 2005-2006) is intended to be that New Zealanders are "connected with information important to all aspects of their lives". The National Library is engaged in a process of organizational transformation called the Next Generation National Library strategy. A central feature of this strategy is the development of the National Digital Heritage Archive, which will preserve New Zealand's digital memory for future generations.

The National Library works closely with the Library and Information Advisory Commission (LIAC), an independent statutory body whose function is to advise and report to the Minister Responsible for the National Library on all matters relating to libraries and information.

The National Library applies the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi, New Zealand's founding document. The National Library provides access to information relevant to all the people of New Zealand: it holds the world's foremost collection of Māori culture (and significant Pacific material) in the form of manuscripts, texts, recordings and images. To compile complete records of these materials, and to provide access to them, the Library works in partnership with Māori clients and iwi (tribes), and has established internal service protocols for consultation with Māori. The Library's access tools to assist clients have been developed in collaboration with specialists and iwi knowledgeable about the provenance of the documents. The National Library's bilingual website www.natlib.govt.nz reflects the fact that the Māori language is an official language of New Zealand.

World Summit on the Information Society

The National Library is the lead agency for the New Zealand Government's engagement in the ongoing World Summit on the Information Society. The Library represented New Zealand at the PrepCom meetings which produced the Declaration of Principles and Plan of Action adopted at the Summit in Geneva in December 2003. In the current phase of the WSIS, the National Library is again working closely with the Ministry of Economic Development, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade and other government departments to prepare New Zealand's response to issues raised, particularly in terms of implementation of WSIS action lines and Internet governance.

New Zealand's new national 'Digital Strategy'

¹ The Māori name of the National Library means "well-spring of knowledge".

The WSIS Principles are a natural frame of reference for the development of national e-strategies. The New Zealand government's goals, as set out in its Growth and Innovation Framework, are: growing an inclusive innovative economy for the benefit of all, improving New Zealanders' skills, and strengthening national identity and upholding the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi. Working toward those goals, in May 2005 the Government launched its national 'Digital Strategy'², which provides an integrated enabling framework for action for social and economic transformation.

The National Library played a significant role in developing the concept and the substance of the Digital Strategy, particularly in defining the three core elements of 'content', 'confidence' and 'connection', and was able to ensure that it takes into account the cultural role and economic impact of library services. The National Library remains closely involved in the governance of the implementation of the Digital Strategy. Actions flowing from the Digital Strategy include the development of a 'national content strategy' for digital access to content across all disciplines and all sectors of the economy. The National Library is also working closely with other government agencies and local government to ensure that the \$20m 'community partnership fund' provided under the Digital Strategy will be effectively applied to achieve outcomes needed in New Zealand's developing knowledge society.

National Digital Heritage Archive

Under the National Library of New Zealand (Te Puna Mātauranga o Aotearoa) Act 2003, the National Library of New Zealand is now required to collect, preserve and make accessible digital collections, along with the collections in conventional formats, in ways that ensure current and future access to New Zealand's documentary heritage. The extension of the legal deposit regime to include digital as well as print materials, highlights the need for the Library to put in place a reliable archive for the preservation of that digital content to ensure its ongoing access.

The Library has established a major IT and business change programme, called the National Digital Heritage Archive (NDHA) Programme to lead and control the development of software that will process the ingest, storage, preservation and access of e-legal deposited published digital material and donated unpublished digital material. Physical (analogue) material digitised by the Library will also be stored. Automated processes will be developed (perhaps in collaboration with National Library of Australia and other national libraries) for selected web harvesting (an example of e-legal deposited published material). The archive will be known as the National Digital Heritage Archive (NDHA).

Funding of \$24 million over four years was appropriated to the Library in the Government's 2004 Budget for this development which is expected to be operational by June 2008.

The business objectives that need to be met to deliver the goal are:

1. To provide an environment that will give protection for all digital objects from the moment they come under the control of the National Library.
2. To provide an environment ensuring the preservation of digital objects from the moment they are ingested into the file repository.
3. To ensure the Archive is designed with regard to international best practice for digital archives.
4. To ensure providers and users have confidence in the Archive.
5. To ensure the Archive is designed and built to enable appropriate access to the digital objects.

The NDHA Programme has been running for about nine months now. In that time, interim systems and processes have been strengthened to enable the Library to continue to collect, store and provide access to digital material over the next three years. A specification of the Library's business requirements has been developed and work has now begun on specifying the functional requirements for the NDHA system. The Library has

shortlisted two vendors to provide the software for the NDHA, and hopes to be able to make that critical selection decision by mid-2006.

Projects

National Digital Forum

The National Library will hold the next in a series of National Digital Forums in November 2005, in collaboration with Archives New Zealand, the Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa, and other major academic and heritage institutions.

'Matapihi'

² 'The Digital Strategy: creating our Digital Future' – ISBN 0-478-28435-7 - see www.digitalstrategy.govt.nz

The National Library launched Matapihi ('window' in Māori) in late 2004. This is a multi-organisation, distributed application, based on a centralised metadata repository with links out to digital objects located within the participating organisations' web sites. (See www.matapihi.org.nz.) Users of Matapihi can search across the digital collections of some major New Zealand cultural organisations: over 50,000 images are currently available, including photographs, drawings, prints, sculpture, some virtual 3-d objects, and a small number of sound files.

Māori Subject Headings

A collaborative project is underway, managed through a partnership involving Te Rōpū Whakahau (the organization which unites Māori librarians and information workers in New Zealand), the Library and Information Association of New Zealand Aotearoa (LIANZA) and the National Library of New Zealand, to establish tools for cataloguers to use in creating subject access in te reo (the Māori language). The Project has already compiled and published an authoritative list of Iwi (tribe) and Hapū (sub-tribe) names. Work is now progressing on the development of a core Māori Subject Headings List. The Project expects to launch the List during this year's LIANZA conference.

The National Library of New Zealand is already using the Iwi and Hapū Names List to establish the correct form of name for tribes and sub-tribes. These are being submitted to the (US) Library of Congress for inclusion in the Library of Congress Subject Headings List; however Māori subject headings will not be included in the Library of Congress Subject Headings List: the Māori Subject Headings List will be maintained as a separate list, allowing New Zealand requirements to be met in ways that an international tool does not allow.

When the Māori Subject Headings List is published the National Library will continue using Library of Congress Subject Headings, but will also add Māori subject Headings to New Zealand publications in Māori or to publications in English that are of particular interest to Māori. Other libraries within New Zealand will be free to make their own decision about the way these cataloguing tools will be used in their libraries.

Support for New Zealand libraries and education

School Services

The National Library of New Zealand provides a unique model internationally of support and development to school libraries, through its School Services division. The focus of the division's work is ensuring that all schools have the tools to use and manage information effectively to support the teaching of the New Zealand curriculum. School Services provides access to lending collections and reference services and to professional advice and support for schools in developing their own school library and information services.

'AnyQuestions.co.nz'

This nationwide Internet-based bilingual (English and Māori) reference service is a collaborative project of the National Library, public libraries, the Ministry of Education and SLANZA (School Libraries Association of New Zealand Aotearoa). It was launched in 2004 to help New Zealand school students with their homework, and has been highly successful. Students can talk online in real time with a librarian, using interactive chat software. This new service complements the services available through school libraries and is available Monday-Friday, 1.00pm-6.00pm. See www.anyquestions.co.nz

EPIC

EPIC (Electronic Purchasing in Collaboration) is a venture between New Zealand libraries led by the National Library, and the Ministry of Education. Launched in 2004, it is based on a consortium approach to purchasing electronic resources, through agreements reached with EBSCO and Gale Publishers. Membership of the EPIC consortium is open to all New Zealand schools and libraries. EPIC gives subscribing libraries access to an unparalleled package of high quality e-resources, including over 16,000 journals not otherwise freely available, to all New Zealanders through their libraries. Costs are funded by consortium member libraries. It has been very successful and is currently in an expansion phase. See www.epic.org.nz

National issues

e-Government

The National Library provides support to the E-Government Unit of the State Services Commission for the implementation of the E-Government Strategy (being particularly involved in metadata development for interoperability).

Copyright

The National Library has continued to provide advice to the Ministry of Economic Development which is responsible for the 'digital copyright review'. This has resulted in a Copyright Amendment Bill soon to be tabled in Parliament. The Bill would bring copyright law fully into the digital era: it includes provisions on transient copying, technological protection mechanisms, caching, electronic rights management in the context of web-based distance education; it confirms a number of exemptions and permissions accorded to libraries and the education sector; and it creates a new 'communication right'.

Advanced Network

The National Library is closely involved with the Ministry of Research Science and Technology, research institutions and private sector organisations in the design of a next-generation Internet for New Zealand, to be called the Advanced Network. The Government may take final decisions on this within the next few months.

Strategic Framework for Public Libraries

In September 2004 the National Library signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the public libraries of New Zealand. Under the terms of this agreement the National Library is working collaboratively with public libraries, local authorities (who fund and operate public libraries in New Zealand), the Department of Internal Affairs and Te Ropu Whakahau (Māori Library and information workers association) to develop a strategic framework for the development of public libraries in the 21st century. Opportunities presented by the Digital Strategy and the Local Government Act 2003 have highlighted the need for a whole-of-country approach to ensure public libraries develop the infrastructure and capability needed to respond to the changing environment and to meet the outcomes wanted and expected by local communities. The strategic framework will be available for consultation in August/September 2005 with a final document available end of 2005.

The Education ICT Strategy

The National Library works closely with a number of education agencies and in particular, the Ministry of Education. The Library's knowledge and understanding of systems, information management and provision of content for e-learning has put it in a strong position to provide advice and comment on a range of ICT matters. The CEO of the National Library is the Deputy Chair of the Committee which oversees the progress of the Education ICT Strategy.

Conclusion

The National Library is at the forefront of developments in preserving and providing access to New Zealand's cultural heritage in documentary form, and also in providing New Zealanders with access to a wide range of information resources from around the world.

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