



## ANNUAL REPORT TO CDNL 2010

### AUSTRALIA: NATIONAL LIBRARY OF AUSTRALIA

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

The National Library of Australia plays a major role nationally in supporting education, innovation, scholarship and creativity by providing access to a comprehensive and diverse collection of Australian and overseas documentary resources. The Library issues a strategic directions statement every three years outlining its vision and desired outcomes for the period ahead. The most recent is for 2009-2011

(<http://www.nla.gov.au/library/directions.html>).

New Discovery Service: Trove (<http://trove.nla.gov.au>)

The most significant new development for the Library over the past year has been the implementation of a major new discovery service, Trove. Trove is the Library's flagship service for discovering content within Australian collections. Trove offers a single search across 90 million items, including books, video and sound files, images, manuscripts, original research and newspaper articles. Many of the items are available for viewing online; and others are found in Australian library collections. Trove users have been identified as being located in 205 countries, although 65% of the usage is coming from Australia.

#### Survey of onsite visitors

In 2009 the Library commissioned an independent market research company to conduct qualitative and quantitative visitor research in order to gain a deeper understanding of the range of onsite visitors to the Library, their behaviour and usage patterns, and their attitudes to the Library's services and facilities. The research study showed that the Library's core visitors are drawn from an older and highly educated population, with professional visitors likely to have completed a post-graduate or doctoral qualification. Similarly, student visitors are completing a high school course, undertaking an undergraduate or technical degree or a postgraduate or doctoral degree. Use of the collections and facilities for research and study remains the key motivation for almost 60% of visitors to the Library.

## Other achievements

Other important achievements are outlined in the Library's current Year in Review statement: <http://www.nla.gov.au/pub/yearinreview/>

## **2. RELATIONSHIP TO GOVERNMENT**

The Library fulfils its role by carrying out the functions defined in the *National Library Act 1960*. It is a statutory authority within the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts portfolio of the Commonwealth Government. The Library operates within a reporting and accountability framework as set out in the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act (1997)*. The Library measures its activities through the Balanced Scorecard performance management system and reports to government annually through its *Annual Report* (<http://www.nla.gov.au/policy/annual.html>) and to a broader readership through the *Year in Review* ([www.nla.gov.au/pub/yearinreview/](http://www.nla.gov.au/pub/yearinreview/)).

## **3. KEY FACTS AND FIGURES**

The National Library's Fact Sheet sets out key facts and figures: (<http://www.nla.gov.au/library/factsheet.html>).

## **4. NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN CREATING AND BUILDING COLLECTIONS**

### Forgotten Australians

In 2009 the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs provided a significant grant for a multi-year project to record oral history interviews with 'Forgotten Australians' — those who experienced out of home care as children  
<http://www.nla.gov.au/oh/fafcm/> .

### Pandora: Australia's web archive

In 2009, the Library commenced archiving online newspapers and associated public blogs in *Pandora: Australia's web archive*.

## **5. NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN MANAGING COLLECTIONS**

### Archivists' Toolkit

Management of the Library's manuscripts collections has been improved significantly with the implementation of the open source Archivists' Toolkit.

### Rights Management System

In 2009 the Library implemented a Rights Management System. The system aims to address four issues:

- difficulty in accessing rights information for works held in the Library's special collections;
- lack of consistency in recording rights information across the various special collections;
- the need to streamline the time-consuming work of gathering rights information and answering rights inquiries; and

- the need for a rights database to support future system developments, such as unmediated access to high resolution 'rights-simple' images of collection material.

## **6. NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN PROVIDING ACCESS TO COLLECTIONS**

### **Treasures Gallery**

In late 2011 the Library will open two new exhibition galleries. The Treasures Gallery ('permanent' exhibition) will display many of the Library's greatest collection items. The Exhibition Gallery will be programmed with collection-based exhibitions and occasional Library 'blockbuster' exhibitions.

### **Stolen Generations website**

To coincide with the 2nd anniversary of the Apology to the Stolen Generations in February 2010, the Library launched a website featuring a selection of interviews from the Stolen Generations project. (<http://www.nla.gov.au/digicoll/bringing-them-home-online.html>).

### **Digitisation**

The Library's collections digitisation program continues to improve access to the collections. Progress with digitising different formats of material is reported through the web site at (<http://www.nla.gov.au/digicoll/index.html>). The newspapers digitisation program is on track to complete digitisation of 4 million pages of major Australian newspapers that are out of copyright, by June 2011. A recent digitisation project that will provide easy online access to an iconic resource on Australian social and cultural history is digitisation of the *Australian Women's Weekly* magazine, from 1933-1982.

## **7. COLLABORATIVE ACTIVITIES**

During 2009-2010 the Library will continue to work with partner libraries in the National and State Libraries Australasia consortium on ten projects which form a major initiative, 'Re-imagining Libraries' <http://www.nsla.org.au/projects/rls/>.

The project aims to better meet the needs of Australians for access to library services in the digital age. This is a major commitment for the Library which has input into all projects, is especially active in relation to *Project 1: Do it now*, *Project 3: Virtual reference* and *Project 4: Delivery*, and is leading on two projects *Project 8: Description and cataloguing* and *Project 10: Connecting and discovering content*.