ANNUAL REPORT TO CDNL 2012

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.

In March 2012 the Library released a new strategic statement for 2012-2014. (http://www.nla.gov.au/library/directions.html).   The Library has made some decisions regarding its priorities in order to ensure that it has the capacity to maintain its online presence and to sustain the program of collecting, digitising and preserving information in digital form.

Digital Library Infrastructure Replacement Project
The Digital Library Infrastructure Replacement project commenced in early 2011 and will run over five financial years. It will replace existing systems that form the backbone of the Library's digital library infrastructure and will deliver capabilities for digital preservation, online deposit and the ability to support an extended range of digital formats.

Extension of Legal Deposit
Over the last decade, in response to the dramatic impact of digital technology on information dissemination, the Library has advocated for change to the legal deposit provisions of the *Copyright Act 1968* (section 201) to include publications such as CD-ROMs and DVDs, web sites, e-books, e-journals and magazines, online newspapers and blogs in the requirement that a copy of 'library material' published in Australia be delivered to the National Library. The Library welcomed the establishment of a working group to consider the Library's legal deposit requirements and to prepare a public consultation paper on the issue. A consultation paper was issued by the Attorney-General's Department on 7 March. It presented a model for how an extended scheme would apply to electronic publications of all kinds – both online

and offline in a physical carrier. The Library contributed a submission responding to the consultation paper and will participate in further discussions of the issue.

Opening of the Treasures Gallery
The Treasures Gallery was opened by Her Excellency Quentin Bryce AC, Governor-General on 6 October 2011. The Gallery is the culmination of many years of planning, fund raising, design and curatorial work. The gallery provides the Library with a world class space in which to display its treasures to the public for the first time. Over 77,000 visitors have enjoyed the gallery since its opening.

Other achievements
Other important achievements are outlined in the Library's Annual Report:
http://www.nla.gov.au/corporate-documents/annual-reports

2.   RELATIONSHIP TO GOVERNMENT

The Library fulfils its role by carrying out the functions defined in the *National Library Act 1960*. The Library is a statutory authority within the Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport portfolio of the Australian 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).

The Director-General contributed to the development of the new National Cultural policy through participation in the National Cultural Policy Reference Group. The new National Cultural Policy is expected to be released later in 2012by the Minister for the Arts, the Hon Simon Crean MP.

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. The Fact Sheet will be updated by 31 July 2012 with information on the year ending 30 June 2012.

4.   NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN CREATING AND BUILDING COLLECTIONS

Review of overseas collecting
Last financial year the Library began a review of its collecting of books and journals published overseas. It assessed options for reducing the cost associated with acquiring and processing overseas materials, taking into account the needs of researchers and developments in information dissemination such as e-publishing and mass digitisation. The Library has begun implementing the recommendations including work to make processes more efficient and a longer term strategy to shift the Library's largely print based collecting model to a digital collecting and access model over the next five years. As a consequence, the range of overseas resources accessible from the Library will decrease and a significant number of print journal

subscriptions and electronic services will be cancelled. This will be reflected in the revised Collection Development Policy which will be released later in 2012.

5. NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN MANAGING COLLECTIONS

Resource Description and Access (RDA)
The Library has been closely involved in the development of Resource Description and Access (RDA).   During the year the national libraries involved agreed that RDA would be implemented in early 2013. In preparation for implementation the Library has developed training materials and a training program to enable Australian libraries to adopt the new standard.

Digital preservation
In collaboration with the National and State Libraries Australasia consortium, the Library commenced a project to reinvigorate the approach to collecting significant Australian web sites for inclusion in Pandora web archive, which commenced in 1996. The intention is, over the next 1-2 years, to implement more sophisticated and flexible software that will support more efficient collecting and "user-friendly" delivery options for presenting search results.

6. NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN PROVIDING ACCESS TO COLLECTIONS

New Exhibition Gallery
The new Exhibition Gallery opened on 25 November 2011 and the inaugural exhibition was *Handwritten: Ten Centuries of Manuscript Treasures from the Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin.* The exhibition was a significant success with over 72,000 people visiting the exhibition. .

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). Through the Australian Newspaper Digitisation Program, the Library expects to have digitised almost 7 million newspaper pages consisting of almost 70 million articles by 30 June 2012.

7. COLLABORATIVE ACTIVITIES

National and State Libraries Australasia
The Library continued its work with National and State Libraries Australasia (NSLA) libraries to achieve the vision of 'Open Borders', supporting the freest possible flow of information resources among NSLA and other libraries.

Trove
Trove continues to be central to accessing the collections of this Library and of Australian collecting institutions of all kinds. More than 48,000 people use the service every day, many of them on mobile devices. Humanities and science scholars value Trove's digitised content, with many describing Trove as revolutionising research in their fields and opening new possibilities for enquiry.