ANNUAL REPORT TO CDNL 2013

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's strategic statement for 2012-2014 can be found at (http://www.nla.gov.au/library/directions.html).   Since the commencement of the current period of strategic planning the Library has made several major 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 whilst at the same time providing a world class on-site service. These decisions include the redirection of overseas collecting from print to digital resources; amalgamation of five reading rooms into two integrated reading rooms for published and original materials and the development of a new system to support collecting, digitising, preserving and providing access to digital resources. These activities are described below.

Digital Library Infrastructure Replacement Project
The Digital Library Infrastructure Replacement project commenced in early 2011 and will be completed in 2016. 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. The project is based around in-house development that utilises the functionality of both open source and market based products to meet the Library's specifications. In October 2012, following an extensive procurement process, the Library selected two systems for acceptance testing – the docWorks product from Content Conversion Specialists GmBH for our digitisation workflow system and Tessella Ltd's Safety Deposit Box product for our core digital library functions including digital preservation. Issues raised following acceptance testing have been

addressed and work has commenced on a system to manage books and journal digitisation and to manage bit level digital preservation.

<u>Extension of Legal Deposit</u>
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* 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. During 2012 the Library participated in a working group that prepared a public consultation paper on the issue. The paper presents 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 is now participating in a series of meetings with publishers to explore and resolve issues (mainly relating to access) and has prepared an information package to assist publishers to understand proposed future requirements for deposit of online and offline electronic materials.

<u>Other achievements</u>
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 National Cultural Policy through participation in the National Cultural Policy Reference Group. The National Cultural Policy, *Creative Australia*, was launched on 13 March 2013 and can be found at http://creativeaustralia.arts.gov.au/ .

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

<u>Review of overseas collecting</u>
Last 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. In February 2013 the Library issued a revised Overseas Collection Development Policy that outlines the new collecting principles and reaffirms the Asia pacific region as our priority collecting area. The policy can be read at http://www.nla.gov.au/overseas-collection-development-policy/foreword .

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 is decreasing and a significant number of print journal subscriptions and electronic services are in the process of being cancelled.

5. <u>NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN MANAGING COLLECTIONS</u>

<u>Resource Description and Access (RDA)</u>
The Library has been closely involved in the development of Resource Description and Access (RDA).   The Library made it a priority in 2012 to develop and deliver training programs to the Australian library community to enable it to implement the new rules in 2013. For more information see http://www.nla.gov.au/acoc/resource-description-and-access-rda-in-australia . In April the Library successfully adopted RDA as the standard for all new catalogue record creation work. As part of its leadership role the Library has also identified changes to library systems and workflows which will assist the Australian library sector as it implements RDA. The Library's training materials are freely available at http://www.nla.gov.au/acoc/training-materials-for-resource-description-and-access .

6. <u>NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN PROVIDING ACCESS TO COLLECTIONS</u>

<u>Trove</u>
Since its launch in November 2009, the Library's discovery service, Trove http://trove.nla.gov.au/ , has moved from being a strategic project to a flagship service with a leading role in Australia's information landscape. By February 2013 Trove has an average of 60,000 unique visitors per day, nearly double that of a year ago. Trove has a national reach with use in each Australian state and territory closely matching the population. Trove users are increasingly accessing Trove content and services via mobile devices, with more than 14% of all use via smart phones and tablets. A high percentage of searches in Trove occur in the newspaper zone and this area of Trove is currently being upgraded in order to maintain the high performance standard expected by Trove users.

In October 2012 Trove was announced as the winner of the Australian and New Zealand Internet Award for Innovation.

<u>Integration of reading rooms</u>

The integration of the Library's reading rooms is part of the Library's broad master building plan for modernisation of the Library's public areas in order to provide a twenty first century service. Consultation and feasibility work were completed in the second half of 2012. The project has two aspects – the integration of the two public reading rooms (the main public reading room and the newspaper reading room used intensively by family historians) which account for 80% of users and the integration of the specialist reading rooms where major research and use of original materials is undertaken.

The schematic design work has been completed and the detailed design work is now underway and will be completed by October 2013.

7. <u>COLLABORATIVE ACTIVITIES</u>

<u>Digitisation</u>

The Library's collections digitisation program continues to improve access to the collections. Our digitisation policy can be read at http://www.nla.gov.au/policy-and-planning/collection-digitisation-policy and progress with digitising different formats of material is reported at http://www.nla.gov.au/digicoll/index.html .

At present Australian newspapers constitute the largest part of our digitisation program and a partnership funding model has been developed to assist the Library manage its collaboration with interested parties, see http://www.nla.gov.au/content/contributor-guidelines . In November 2012 the Library signed a funding agreement with the State Library of New South Wales to digitise six million newspaper pages and deliver them for inclusion in Trove over the next four years. To date over 20 libraries and organisations have contributed funding to digitise half a million pages from 21 newspapers.

The Library has recently received government funding for an important social history project to digitise a collection of 17,000 glass plate photographic negatives donated to the Library by the Fairfax media company.

<u>National and State Libraries Australasia</u>
The Library continues to collaborate closely with the Australian state and territory libraries through the work of National and State Libraries Australasia and in particular the Reimagining Libraries program http://www.nsla.org.au/projects . Over the past year Library staff have led or participated in working groups tackling issues associated with the preservation of digital heritage, the implications and challenges of digital collecting and the accessibility of large pictures and maps collections.