Conference of Directors of National Libraries in Asia and Oceania
Annual meeting of 2017 – at the National Library of China, Beijing, China

Annual report of National Library of Australia

Period covered by this report: Financial year 2015-2016

Name of country: Australia

Name of library: National Library of Australia

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The functions of the National Library of Australia, as set out in the *National Library of Australia Act 1960*, are:

- To maintain and develop a national collection of library material, including a comprehensive collection of library material relating to Australia and the Australian people;

- To make library material in the national collection available to such persons and institutions, and in such manner and subject to such conditions, as the Council determines with a view to the most advantageous use of that collection in the national interest;

- To make available such other services in relation to library matters and library material (including bibliographical services) as the Council thinks fit; and

- To co-operate in library matters (including the advancement of library science) with authorities or persons, whether in Australia or elsewhere, concerned with library matters.

The Library enables and is a participant in the creation of knowledge. It develops, curates and preserves an astounding and diverse collection that inspires, delights and educates Australians. The Library's collections and services extend understanding of issues of contemporary significance, build strong community connections and underpin its leadership activities.

In 2015 the Library presented its Corporate Plan 2016-2020 with three strategic priorities:
1. Build the nation's memory
2. Make access happen
3. Lead, partner, connect and excel

The Corporate Plan 2016-2020 is available at http://www.nla.gov.au/corporate-documents/corporate-plans

   1.   RELATIONSHIP TO GOVERNMENT:

The National Library of Australia had its origins as the library of the Federal Parliament, established in 1901. With the passing of the *National Library Act 1960*, it formally separated from the Parliamentary Library. The Library fulfills its role by carrying out the functions defined in this legislation.

The Library is a statutory authority within the Department of Communications and the Arts. The Library operates within a reporting and accountability framework as set out in the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013*.

The *National Library Act 1960* provides that a Council of 12 members shall conduct the affairs of the Library. The Library's Council meets six times a year and includes representatives of the Parliament, academia, business and the general community. More information about the Library's Council can be found at http://www.nla.gov.au/library-council.

2. FACTS AND FIGURES:

- The National Library of Australia operating revenue for 2015-16 was $66.054 million comprising:
  - $48.74 million in government appropriation
  - $17.314 million in external revenue

- In addition to the above revenue, the Government provided the Library with $9.679 million to acquire materials for the collection.

- In 2015-16, the full time equivalent staffing average was 414:
  - 70% of staff are female
  - 71% of staff have worked at the Library more than 5 years
  - the median age of staff is 46 years

- The Library has a volunteer program with 73 registered volunteers who work at the Library welcoming visitors, offering public tours and engaging in a range of activities that make the collections more accessible, such as indexing archival, photographic and cartographic materials. In 2015-2016, the Library's onsite volunteers contributed more than 9,000 hours.

- The Library also has digital volunteers who contribute to Trove through newspaper text correction, the addition of tags and comments, and the creation of user-generated lists. Since June 2008, when Trove text correction began, this digital volunteer contribution is estimated to exceed $37.5 million in value.

- Onsite visits to the Library of local, national and international visitors numbered 483,000 in 2015–2016. 30,000 people participated in onsite public events including programs for school students.

- The National Library of Australia's websites received on average 77,000 visits a day, totaling 28 million visits in 2015–2016.

The Library is also digitising historic Australian newspapers and as at March 2017, nearly 21 million pages (over 204 million articles) were freely available to the public through Trove.

3. A BRIEF GENERAL OVERVIEW OF RECENT MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS:

Digital Library Infrastructure Replacement Program (DLIR): This program is replacing existing systems that form the core of the Library's digital library

infrastructure and is adding capabilities for digital preservation, online deposit and the ability to support an extended range of digital formats. This program is one of the Library's highest priorities, with implementation beginning in 2013, due for completion June 2017, and funded from the Library's existing appropriation from Government. The Library has completed four of five stages, and the program has successfully delivered new systems supporting end-to-end processing, from digitisation to end-user access. New production services are now in operation and support workflows for books, journals, pictures, manuscripts, maps, sheet music, digitised government gazettes and oral history recordings held in the Library's collection.

As at June 2016, following completion of the end-of-life system replacement portion of the program in 2015, the program delivered systems supporting the legal deposit of electronic publications, as changes to legal deposit laws became effective in February 2016. Focus for the remaining 12 months of the program now shifts to: developing and deploying next generation web archiving systems; and leveraging and enhancing the new infrastructure to support managing and preserving unpublished born-digital content. The Library has been benefiting from significant productivity improvements and end-user access optimisations since deployment of the first tranche of new systems, and additional business benefits are expected before the program is completed in June 2017 and beyond. For more information about the DLIR program see http://www.nla.gov.au/about-us/dlir.

Online education resources: The Digital Classroom (www.nla.gov.au/digital-classroom), a new online education resource, was launched in October 2015. Designed to take the Library's collections into Australian classrooms and aligned to the Australian curriculum, the education materials provide activities to engage students with digitized sources from the collection, delivered online via Trove.

The Digital Classroom currently has eleven modules and several links to additional resources. The modules cover content and skill development relating to History and Geography, with other resources for the English, Art and Civics and Citizenship curriculum areas. Recent content added to the site complements the Library's exhibition program, interpreting the history of advertising in Australia for the History, Visual Arts, and English curriculum. The platform continues to grow, and will soon include new modules relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' histories and cultures, focusing specifically on civil rights and the 1967 Referendum, which saw the removal of two references in the Australian Constitution which discriminated against Aboriginal people. Other modules in development include resources for English and Creative and Performing Arts curricula, and more History content exploring protest and the First World War. Since its launch in 2015, the Digital Classroom has an estimated reach of just under 60,000 people.

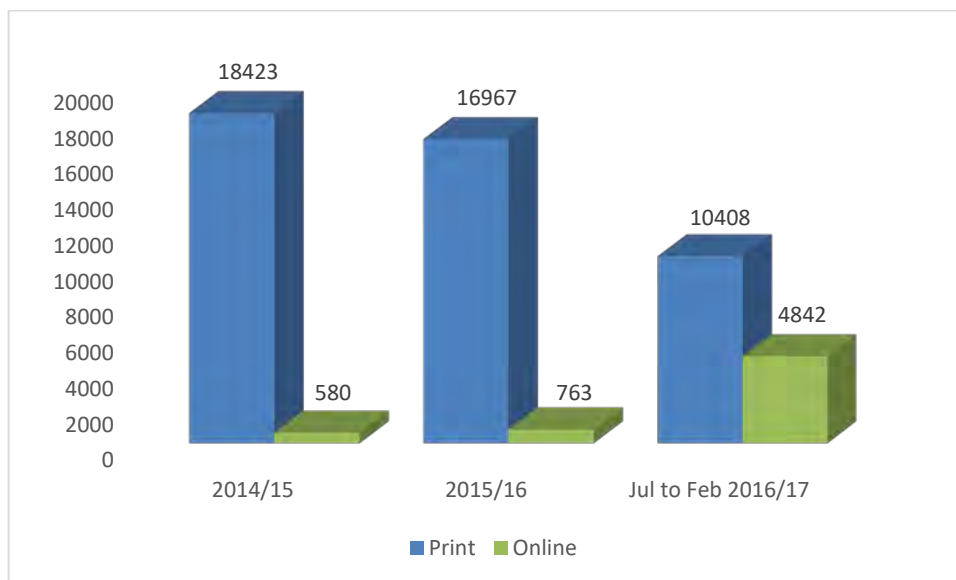4. **NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN BUILDING AND MANAGING COLLECTIONS**:

Implementation of Legal Deposit for electronic publications: CDNLAO members were informed at the last meeting that the Commonwealth government had enacted new provisions for the legal deposit of electronic publications in Australia. The provisions came into effect in February 2016 allowing the National Library to fulfil its mandate to collect all Australian published materials whether print or digital.

The Library developed a web-based edeposit service for publishers to upload new digital titles. The edeposit service provides a simple streamlined transaction for publishers to comply with deposit requirements. For large publishers not wishing to send publications one by one, the Library offers batch deposit processes to support the deposit of multiple publications.

A survey three months after the release of the edeposit service elicited favourable feedback from publishers with positive comments about the speed and ease of the process.

First year's activity: As at February 2017, one year since the implementation of electronic deposit, the NLA had received more than 6,200 electronic publications, including over 5,000 books and reports, 675 journals, magazines and newsletters, as well as digital maps and music scores. 75% of the works received are commercial publications, 20% are government publications and 5% non-commercially published.
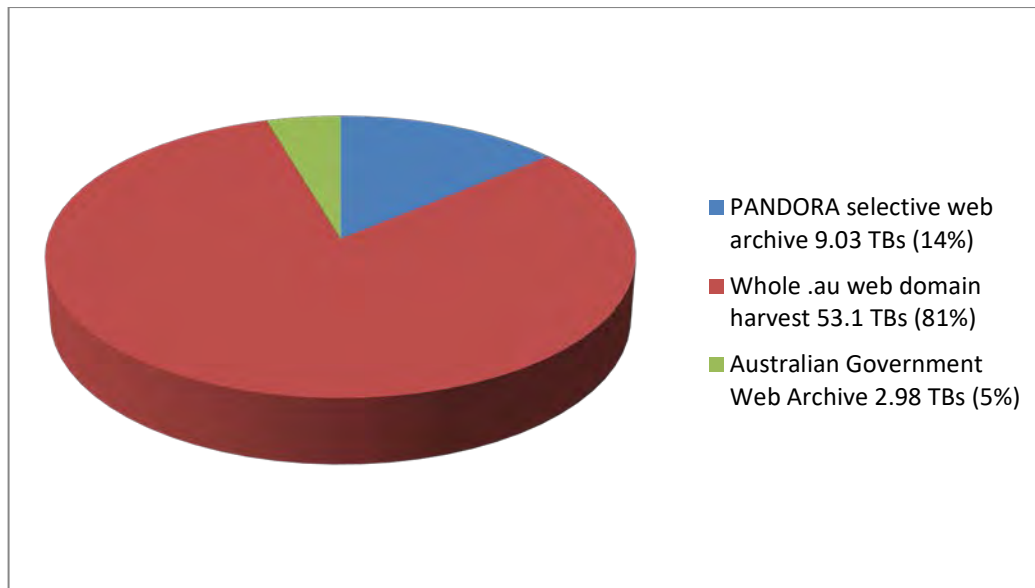
By comparison, in the twelve months preceding the new legislation, the Library had acquired just over 300 ebook titles through voluntary deposit and other collecting mechanisms then in place.

Comparison of Australian print and online book acquisitions from 2014/15 to February 2017

More than 5,300 issues for 675 serial titles have been deposited via the edeposit service and bulk deposit process, representing 17% of the Library's overall deposited issues. This includes over 3,000 back issues across 52 journals deposited by Wiley in January 2017. This material covers content dating back to the 1950s from peer-reviewed and scholarly journals.

Collection of websites: The Library collected nearly 700 million files through a harvest of the Australian web domain in the first half of 2016 as well as selectively archiving many sites, which the Library had been unable to collect previously due to the lack of publisher permissions. These included websites for online newspapers, peak bodies, iconic brands and political parties. The 2017 whole domain harvest commenced in February. As with previous harvests, the harvest is being conducted in partnership with the Internet Archive and this year the target is 900 million to 1 billion files.

Web content collected since implementation of electronic legal deposit

PANDORA selective web archive 9.03 TBs (14%)

Whole .au web domain harvest 53.1 TBs (81%)

Australian Government Web Archive 2.98 TBs (5%)

5. **NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN PROVIDING ACCESS TO COLLECTIONS:**

Public access to deposited electronic publications: The portal and batch edeposit processes are the first steps in full 'end to end' content management systems, which minimise requirements for staff processing, offer significant efficiencies, and ensure that materials can be made available to members of the public almost immediately after deposit, subject to agreement with publishers. When publishers deposit, they select what level of public access may be provided to their e-publications. In February 2017, over 2,500 of the freely available items were made accessible to the general public. They can be accessed and read online through Trove. Offsite users of the National Library's services, especially those in regional and remote areas, have greatly benefited from an increase in the volume and variety of new Australian digital content available. Access to commercially-published material is only available in the National Library reading rooms via a secure technical environment that prevents copying and electronic distribution.

Digitisation: In December 2016 the Library received additional funding – to conclude June 2020 – to undertake a number of large scale digitisation projects. Two of these projects will see two important federal government publications delivered online: the Parliamentary Papers (1901-2012) and the Commonwealth Gazette (1958-2012; 1.1 million pages of earlier issues already online). Another project covers digitisation of the Australian Joint Copying Project, which consists of millions of images microfilmed (10,000 reels) from British archival records dating from 1560 to 1984 and related to Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific.

The Library recently completed digitisation of the entire run of the *Pacific Islands monthly* magazine, with all issues freely available on Trove. The *Pacific Islands monthly* PIM) was first published in Sydney in August 1930, then published in Suva, Fiji from 1987 to its closure in 2000.

PIM was and is an unrivalled source of information about people, places and events in the Pacific region. It covers current affairs, agriculture, transport, communications, local people and their life and customs, commodities, geography, climate, mining, sport and much more. It is a rich documentary record of the links between Australia and the Pacific islands in this period. The Library's blog post publicising the release has already drawn favourable comment from Pacific islanders and Pacific researchers alike.

Trove and Improved delivery to users: As part of the Library's Digital Library Infrastructure Project, new delivery interfaces for all collection types have been developed and integrated into Trove, Australia's national discovery service. Users now experience consistent functionality, look and feel, and enhanced full text searching. Australians continue to benefit from the Library's digitisation partnerships with state and territory libraries, public libraries, some Government departments and a small number of universities, with many institutions funding digitisation of significant collections.

6. **NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN OTHER SERVICES:**

Redevelopment of Public Spaces: The Library completed a program to redevelop its major public spaces and integrate reading rooms. As the final stage in this multi-year project, the Main Reading Room was enlarged, providing extra space for quiet work; an attractive informal study space with lake views opened, with an expanded café and self-service lockers, replacing a staffed cloaking facility; and the theatre was renovated. Onsite reader services are now provided from the Main Reading Room for general collections; the more closely supervised Special Collections Reading Room for rare and unique materials and the Asian Collections Reading Room, with access to language specialists.

Collection Storage Planning: The rolling plan to manage storage of the growing collections was revised to cover 1915-1925 and issued as a comprehensive storage blueprint, including associated information on programmed shelving replacement and upgrades to airconditioning to meet preservation requirements. A two year project to replace old compactus accommodating the Maps collection was completed, including new purpose designed joinery installed to house rare maps and globes. The project provided capacity to accommodate the Maps collection for at least ten years and improved environmental sustainability,

Reducing Energy and Waste: In comparison with the previous year, the Library reduced its electricity consumption by 1%, to 5.6 million kWh, and decreased gas consumption by 6% to 4 million MJ. Water usage was 12,600 KL, a 9% reduction. Waste to landfill was 19% of total waste, a reduction of 1% to 37,090 kg, Paper consumption reduced by 9% to 5,500 kg compared with the previous year.

7. **NOTES ON YOUR COLLABORATION WITH OTHER LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES AND MUSEUMS IN YOUR COUNTRY:**

Libraries Australia: More than 1,100 Australian libraries collaborate to develop and maintain the national union catalogue and resource sharing service through the Libraries Australia service. The service manages and supports the Australian National Bibliographic Database and conducts large scale data processing. In 2016 the Library completed work to ensure that the holdings of Australian libraries implementing Alma and WMS library management systems are accurately represented in the union catalogue. In 2017 the Library commenced working with libraries and system vendors Ex Libris and OCLC to ensure the holdings for e-resources are represented and managed in the union catalogue. All data contributed to Libraries Australia is made available for public searching through Trove.

Digital Business Project: The National Library of Australia has been involved in many successful collaborative activities – such as Libraries Australia – for decades, with Australians reaping the benefits of these partnerships through increasing access to the nation's cultural heritage. One of the most visible and successful illustrations of this collaboration is Trove, a national platform that provides access to over 500 million resources and is visited by 57,000 users a day. The National Library is developing a new membership and shared investment model for its suite of digital services, including a revised governance framework and fee structure that will strengthen the influence of partner libraries, provide mechanisms for greater input into planning and future developments and better guarantee the long-term viability of our shared investment.

National Digital Deposit Network: The extension of legal deposit provisions to include electronic publications is not unique to the federal level of government, with some state legislation also making provisions for edeposit. The scale of collecting that edeposit makes possible, the National Library's investment in developing a sophisticated online deposit service (see **New Developments in Building and Managing Collections**) and the efficiencies to be gained for libraries and publishers, provide opportunities for further collaboration. The National Library has been working with State and Territory Libraries to develop policies, resolve jurisdictional issues, and develop specifications that would see the Library's new edeposit service expanded to meet national requirements for collecting, preservation, and access. Developing the infrastructure required to support a national electronic legal deposit system requires a truly national approach with all investors sharing the governance, risk, responsibility and benefits. A decision on whether to proceed with the national service will be made later in 2017.

8. **NOTES ON INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION:**

- The NLA adopted the Resource Description and Access cataloguing standard in 2013 and is an active member of the RDA Board, which provides international governance of the standard. The NLA also contributes to the work of the RDA Steering Committee through its participation in the Australian Committee on Cataloguing. The NLA is currently leading work to establish an Oceania RDA Community. The ORDAC group offers representation at Board level for all libraries in the Oceania region that have implemented RDA. A survey of libraries in the Oceania region is planned to ascertain their readiness to adopt the new standard and identify inhibitors.

- The National Library of Australia will become a financial supporting member of Rightsstatements.org in 2017, joining Europeana, the Digital Public Library of America and other national institutions to form the governance of the service. Rights statements.org provides 12 standardised rights statements that can be used by cultural heritage institutions to communicate to the public the copyright and reuse status of digital objects..

- The National Library is a partner in the READ (Recognition and Enrichment of Archival Documents) research collaboration which aims to develop and implement use of technology for the automated recognition, transcription, indexing and enrichment of handwritten archival documents. This will enhance access to the Library's rich, archival collections, making hand written text searchable

- NLA Publishing has collaborated with several overseas publishers to produce foreign language editions of its Publishing books. The National Library of China bought seven children's titles which have been translated and are due to be published in 2017. The comic book rights to one book have been sold to China Fine Arts Publishing House. Rightol agency is also representing NLA Publishing in the Chinese market with 12 books on its list. In India, NLA Publishing has sold the Marathi language rights to Mehta Publishing for one title.