Conference of Directors of National Libraries in Asia and Oceania
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Annual report of National Library of Australia

Period covered by this report:  Financial year 2016-17

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**Name of library:**                     **National Library of Australia**

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1.    **RELATIONSHIP TO GOVERNMENT:**

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

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

     o   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;

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

o 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's three strategic priorities, as detailed in the Corporate Plan 2017-2021, ([www.nla.gov.au/corporate-documents/corporate-plan-2017-2018](www.nla.gov.au/corporate-documents/corporate-plan-2017-2018)) are:

  1. Build the nation's memory
  2. Make access happen
  3. Lead, partner, connect and excel.

- The Library is a statutory authority and one of many agencies in the Department of Communications and the Arts portfolio with responsibilities for collecting Australian cultural heritage materials and making them available to the Australian public.  The Minister for the Arts, Senator the Hon. Mitch Fifield, is the Minister responsible for the Library. The Library operates within a reporting and accountability framework as set out in the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013*.

- The Library is a legal deposit institution. Under the provisions of the *Copyright Act 1968*, publishers are required to deposit a copy of all Australian publications, ensuring that a comprehensive collection of published material relating to Australia and its people is preserved for the community and future generations.  In February 2016, the legal deposit provisions were extended to cover online publishing.

- The Library is a member of the National and State Libraries Australasia (NSLA), a leading library sector collaboration between the national libraries of Australia and New Zealand and the state and territory libraries of Australia.

## 2. FACTS AND FIGURES:

- The National Library of Australia operating revenue for 2016-17 was $66.178 million comprising:

  o $50.078 million in government appropriation
  o $16.1 million in external revenue.

- In 2016-17, the full time equivalent staffing average was 380:
  o 70% of staff female
  o 76% of staff have worked at the Library for more than five years
  o The median age of staff is 46 years

- The Library has a volunteer program with 74 registered volunteers who work at the Library welcoming visitors, offering public tours and

undertaking collection management activities, such as indexing archival, photographic and cartographic materials. 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.

- The Library's physical collections span 259 shelf kilometres with approximately 10 million collection items.

- The Library's digital collections comprise 5.69 petabytes of digital storage.

- In 2016-17 there were over 30.6 million visits to the Library's websites including an average of 61,000 daily visits to Trove.

- In 2016-17, there were 257,484 visitors to the Library's three Reading Rooms and 107,464 visitors to our exhibition galleries.  The Library also offers a variety of onsite programs including lectures, author talks and book launches, seminars, school programs and research information sessions. During the reporting period, 11,708 people attended public events and 7,625 school students participated in the Library's tailored education programs.

3.  **A BRIEF GENERAL OVERVIEW OF RECENT MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS:**

    **Digital Library Infrastructure Replacement Program**
    The six year, $15 million Digital Library Infrastructure Replacement (DLIR) Program was successfully completed in June 2017.

- Program achievements include:
    o The edeposit system ([www.nla.gov.au/edeposit](www.nla.gov.au/edeposit)) provides Australian publishers with a simple, secure and effective way of complying with legal deposit legislation;
    o Workflows and secure collection management systems that provide full lifecycle management for Australian digital publications and unpublished material;
    o Delivery systems supporting a wide range of devices, optimised for library content, showcasing digital collections and delivering innovative new services to improve national reach;
    o Significant efficiency and quality improvements to digitisation workflows; systems integration to support automatic flow of information, increasing throughput and quality; and
    o Scalable, robust and flexible digital library infrastructure capable of managing massively increasing digital collections.

- The DLIR Program was awarded the 2017 Asia Pacific Federation of Project Management Achievement Award in the "Telecommunications and Information Technology" category.  More information on the DLIR program is available from [www.nla.gov.au/dlir/project-details](www.nla.gov.au/dlir/project-details).

**Modernisation Fund Program**
– In December 2016 the Library received additional Australian Government funding of $16.4 million to support activities in digitisation; digital engagement; infrastructure projects and collection access and control.

– During 2016-17, the Library implemented new staffing and project management arrangements to maximise the benefits of this ambitious four year project. Early project gains were made with the digitisation of the *Commonwealth of Australia Gazette* (1901-1957) and the nineteenth century magazine *The Bulletin* (1880-1885). Digitisation of these two important publications have continued in 2017-18.

– The Modernisation Fund also supported engagement with many partner organisations wanting to add their collections onto Trove. A travelling roadshow to all capital cities and five regional centres attracted over 1,000 people from 622 organisations and established valuable relationships with collecting institutions.

– The Library is redeveloping its online discovery platform, Trove, to improve usability and discovery. A Trove Blueprint and Roadmap was completed at the end of 2017 to guide the new design, navigation, an upgraded Application Programming Interface and improved tools for collaborators.

– The Modernisation Fund has also enabled the Library to develop a digital engagement strategy and soon will be embarking on a refresh of its home page and second level pages.


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

**Special Collections**
– The DLIR program has implemented major improvements and efficiencies in managing the Library's unpublished manuscripts and other special collections.

– Previous CDNL-AO reports have briefed members of the development and implementation of the web based edeposit service for publishers to upload new electronic publications. In the past year, the edeposit service has been extended to unpublished digital collections. The Library now has end-to-end workflow capability to support selection, acquisition, management and discovery of unpublished digital collections. Creators, donors and depositors can submit up to 1,000 digital objects in a single submission via the online service, for staff to manage and process entirely within the digital environment. Large collections of digital photographs can also now be managed through this bulk deposit process.

– Similar end-to-end workflows were achieved for manuscript content, delivering business efficiencies, from digital management of collection

offers, through to searching and accessing accepted collections. Library staff can now select and appraise the digital records created by individuals and organisations, ingesting them into collection management systems for description and cataloguing, and automatically creating rights agreements and finding aids using data provided by the depositor.

– The Library has also completed a project to publish manuscript finding aids; almost 2,000 finding aids, representing decades of intellectual endeavour by archivists, are now fully searchable through Trove.

– The Library has made steady progress in delivering integrated audio recordings onto Trove Audio. Almost 6,000 hours of Oral History and Folklore interviews, accompanied by time-pointed transcripts and summaries, have been migrated to the Digital Object Storage System (DOSS). Users can now use the summaries to navigate quickly to specific points in the interviews.

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

### Digitisation

– As noted above, the Modernisation Fund is supporting large scale digitisation projects, including Significant Colonial Manuscripts, Parliamentary Papers (1901-2012) and selected maps collections.

– The Library has also made excellent progress with the digitisation of the Australian Joint Copying Project (AJCP), a massive collection of manuscript material relating to Australia from 1560 to 1984 and held in UK Archives. The AJCP project is already delivering major breakthroughs with digitised, linked finding aids that takes users directly to individual items in the collection. This technology promises to transform the discovery experience within large archival collections and there are plans to extend it to the Library's other digitised collections.

### Fellowships

– The Fellowships and Scholarships program (www.nla.gov.au/awards-and-grants/fellowships-and-scholarships) continues to grow, providing unprecedented levels of support for the research community and extending the reach of the collections through new interpretations and presentations. The program now supports eight funded Fellowships plus two Honorary Fellowships, five Summer Scholarships for PhD students, two Creative Arts Fellowships and a National Folk Fellowship. The Japan Study Grants has been relaunched as the Asia Study Grants to include studies across any of the Asian language areas represented in the collection and the number of grants has doubled from five to ten.

## 6.    NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN OTHER SERVICES:

**Marble Façade Project**
-    Since September 2017, the Library has been undertaking the refurbishment and replacement of its marble façade.  The project has restored the classic architectural lines of the building and has been recognised as a world leading example of working with marble restoration.

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

**National edeposit (NED)**
-    National edeposit (formerly known as the National Digital Deposit Network proposal) is a partnership initiative of Australia's nine national, state and territory libraries to build on the success of the Library's edeposit service by extending it to other jurisdictions.  In late 2017, all CEOs signed the National edeposit Deed and agreed to move to the Build and Implementation stage.  A cross-institutional Steering Committee has been formed to oversee the build phase and the launch is scheduled for late 2018.

**Digital Business Project**
The Library is working with key stakeholders to develop a new membership agreement, governance model and fee structure aimed at keeping the Library's digital services, particularly Trove, sustainable into the future.  Since its inception in 2008, Trove has grown exponentially and now provides access to over 500 million resources held in libraries and cultural collecting institutions across the country. It is now apparent that the size and scale of the infrastructure supporting the services and digital content accessible through Trove requires long-term investment for appropriate storage, management, preservation, delivery and discovery.

To ensure Trove remains sustainable, the Library is seeking to establish a co-investment strategy that bundles services under a single membership fee and offers partners more formal mechanisms to influence future service directions. The new business model both recognises the increasing convergence of the technical infrastructure underpinning all online services and the economies of scale to be realised by managing digital collections collaboratively. As the pricing model and membership agreement takes shape, the Library is engaging in significant consultation and negotiation with key partners such as the State and Territory libraries, universities and cultural collecting institutions across Australia.

**Libraries Australia**
-    More than 1,150 Australian libraries collaborate to develop and maintain the national union catalogue and resource sharing service through the Libraries Australia service. The service manages and support the

Australian National Bibliographic Database and conducts large scale data processing.

In 2016-17 the traditional annual Libraries Australia Forum meeting was replaced with a series of six one-hour professional development webinars, delivered by national and international speakers. The new-look forum attracted the highest number of participants in its ten year history. It provided access to high-quality, free professional development for many people working in single-person libraries and libraries in rural areas, and reached record numbers of first-time participants.

### Right Wrongs website

- In May 2017, the Library participated in a National and State Libraries Australasia (NSLA) collaboration with the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) and the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS) to mark the 50th anniversary of the 1967 referendum. The referendum empowered the Commonwealth to make laws in relation to Aboriginal people and their inclusion in the Census and considered a landmark event in the recognition of Indigenous people.

- The Right Wrongs website (www.abc.net.au/rightwrongs) tells the stories of the referendum, using digitised content from all partners and taking its name from the referendum slogan 'Right Wrongs, Write Yes'. The Library contributed extracts from oral history interviews, newspaper articles from Trove, photographs and ephemera, and copies from the personal papers of referendum campaigners. The website, hosted on the ABC Open platform, displays content contributed by the public, particularly through the ABC Indigenous and ABC Regional networks.

8. **NOTES ON INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION:**

- In 2017 the National Library joined the Rightstatements.org, working with Europeana, the Digital Public Library of America and other national institutions. Rightsstatements.org provides 12 standard statements that can be used by cultural heritage institutions to communicate to the public the copyright and reuse status of digital objects.

- In June 2017, the National Library participated in the IFLA Global Vision Regional Workshop in Singapore. The Global Vision initiative aims to bring librarians together to explore how the sector can address the challenges of the future. After participating in the Regional Workshop, a Canberra workshop was convened to consider series of focused questions. Thirty staff participated in the workshop, provided detailed feedback and voted on what they consider to be the highest priorities for the library sector.