

**29<sup>th</sup> General Conference of Directors of National Libraries in Asia and Oceania  
1-2 November 2023, Wednesday & Thursday  
Doha, Qatar**

**Country Report  
1 July 2022 – 30 June 2023**

**Name of Country** : **Australia**  
**Name of Library** : **National Library of Australia**  
**Name(s) of National Librarian, Director-General and/or Director** : **Dr Marie-Louise Ayres, FAHA**  
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**1 Facts and Figures**

<b>Sn</b>	<b>Item Description</b>	<b>Figures</b>
a	Operating Budget i. Government ii. External Sources	\$60, 989M AUD \$20, 698M AUD
b	Total Staff (FTE) i. Graduate or Post Graduate with library qualifications ii. Other Qualifications	Total Staff: 341 Unknown – in the Australian Public Service (APS) there are no professional streams. When recruiting, the APS seeks to engage people with the required skills and experience rather than a specific qualification.
c	Collection Size i. Physical collection ii. Digital collection preserved	Approx 10.4m – 273 shelf kilometres 2.96 petabytes
d	Visitorship (Annual) i. Physical visits to reading rooms	184, 097

	ii. Digital visits to websites	21.7M to NLA online 12.9M to Trove
e	Inter Library Loans provided (Annual)	We are transitioning to digital first ILL. ILL copies supplied - 2,104 and inter library physical loans supplied – 56.

## 2 Overview of Major or New Developments in Library Buildings, Collections, Access or Services [Please provide a maximum of 5 highlights]

**Building works program:** We have continued to deliver a significant building works program during the reporting period including: replacement of our heritage listed copper roof which was severely damaged during a January 2020 hailstorm; refurbishment of our heritage listed windows – all of which leaked during a recent rain event; and upgrades to our heating, ventilation and cooling (HVAC) systems. The extensive work program has required the Library to close access to some collection material, temporarily relocate some collection material and to temporarily relocate staff. We anticipate that work on our windows and HVAC will continue until at least 2025. **Note:** the roof replacement program was completed in October 2023.

**Replacement of our Library Management System:** We have replaced our 20 year old library management system and catalogue (Voyager and VuFind) with FOLIO and Blacklight. This work has addressed a significant risk to our ability to provide core library services to our users into the future. The transition to Blacklight for our catalogue services and FOLIO for our collection management work has been remarkably smooth for library users and for staff.

**Enhancing our services to all Australians:** The Federal Government's is investing in ensuring that Australia's cultural collections are accessible by all Australian's, regardless of their postcodes. The NLA has been provided ongoing funding to maintain its online library, Trove. The Library also received a substantial and ongoing funding uplift to ensure services and the Library building can be maintained. The increased funding will allow the Library to continue to provide the Trove service, enrich it with new content, and to stabilise and secure Trove's underlying platform.

**Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property Protocols:** We have developed and are implementing Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property (ICIP) Protocols to ensure that the rights that Indigenous Australians have to protect their traditional arts and culture, are considered in our everyday work.

## 3 Collaborations with Libraries, Archives and Museums in your Country [Please provide a maximum of 5 highlights]

**National eDeposit (NED):** NED is a collaboration between the National Library and all state and territory libraries and is a single service for the deposit, management, storage, preservation, discovery and deliver of published electronic material across Australia. NED is now operating as 'business as usual'. NED partners will continue to invest in ongoing enhancements to ensure the system keeps up with changes in publication formats, publisher

needs, accessibility requirements and available technologies. A large proportion of Australian imprints are now collected digitally.

**Assisting a fair and free democracy:** We are collaborating with the Museum of Australian Democracy, the Federal Government Department of Home Affairs, the Australian Library and Information Association and a large number of academic institutions on an initiative that is exploring opportunities to safeguard and sustain Australia's democratic resilience, in the near term and for the long term.

#### **4 International Collaborations such as Formal Arrangements for Cooperation with National Libraries [Please provide a maximum of 5 highlights]**

**Conference of Directors of National Libraries:** The Director-General of the National Library of Australia, Dr Marie-Louise Ayres, is Chair of the Conference of Directors of National Libraries (CDNL). Dr Ayres worked in collaboration with CDNL Deputy Chairs, Janne Andresoo, (then) Director General of the National Library of Estonia and Leslie Weir, Director of the National Libraries and Archives Canada to deliver an online CDNL meeting in February 2023 that discussed co-designing library facilities and Services.

The CDNL Chair and Deputy Chairs also worked collaboratively with the Director General of the National Library of the Netherlands, Ms Lily Knibbeler, on arrangements for the 2023 CDNL face to face meeting in Rotterdam during the 2023 IFLA World Library and Information Congress in August. The August meeting discussed Artificial Intelligence and implications for national library leaders.

**Pacific Virtual Museum:** The NLA's collaboration with Te Puna Mātauranga Aotearoa, the National Library of New Zealand on the Pacific Virtual Museum (PVM) continues. The NLA continues to provide digitised Pacific content for access via a platform which provided by the NL NZ and has been co-designed with Pacific communities. The PVM is funded by the Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

**Arrangement on Cooperation with NL NZ:** The NLA signed an Arrangement on Cooperation with Te Puna Mātauranga Aotearoa, the National Library of New Zealand. The two libraries are exploring potential collaboration arrangements to deliver under the Arrangement.

**Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the National Library Board (NLB) Singapore:** The Director-General of the NLA and the Chief Executive Officer of the NLB continue to explore opportunities to collaborate on matters of mutual interest and benefit under the MOU.