



# 2008 CDNLAO COUNTRY REPORT NATIONAL LIBRARY OF AUSTRALIA

## 16<sup>th</sup> CDNLAO Meeting, 20-22 October 2008 National Diet Library, Tokyo, Japan

### 1. GENERAL OVERVIEW

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 in 1960. The Library moved into its current building on the shores of Lake Burley Griffin in 1968.

The Library’s desired strategic outcomes for the current planning period are:

- to ensure that a significant record of Australia and Australians is collected and safeguarded,*
- to meet the needs of our users for rapid and easy access to our collections and other resources*
- to foster enjoyment and understanding of the Library and its collections*
- to provide a leadership role in Australia and work collaboratively with Australian libraries to achieve shared goals*
- to participate in new online communities and develop our relevance in the online world*

### 2 THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF AUSTRALIA

#### 2.1 Organisational structure in September 2008

| Director-General       |  |                               |                        |                    |                             |
|------------------------|--|-------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| Collections Management | Australian Collections & Reader Services | Resource Sharing & Innovation | Information Technology | Corporate Services | Executive & Public Programs |

#### 2.3 Vision, activity, evaluation

The National Library of Australia issues a strategic directions statement every three years outlining its vision and desired outcomes for the period ahead. The most recent is for 2006-2008 ([www.nla.gov.au/library/directions](http://www.nla.gov.au/library/directions)). A new statement is currently being developed.

The Library reports to government annually through its *Annual Report* ([www.nla.gov.au/policy/annual](http://www.nla.gov.au/policy/annual)) and to a broader readership through the *Year in Review* ([www.nla.gov.au/pub/yearinreview](http://www.nla.gov.au/pub/yearinreview))

The Library measures its activities through the Balanced Scorecard management reporting tool.

## 2.4 Human resources / manpower

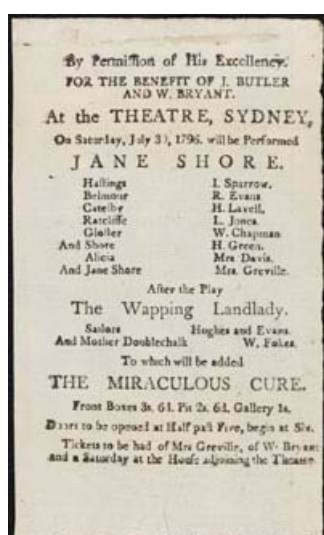
As at June 2008 the Library had 484 full time equivalent staff, of which 30% were male and 70% female.

## 2.5 Library users

More than 550,000 people visited the Library in 2007-08, a rise of 7% over the previous year. Of these, approximately 100,000 visited the Library's onsite exhibitions, events and education activities. In August the Library's highly praised collaborative travelling exhibition, *National Treasures from Australia's Great Libraries*, completed its tour in Perth. Over 417 000 people visited the exhibition, which was managed by the Library on behalf of National and State Libraries Australasia. *National Treasures* considerably raised the profile of libraries and their role in collecting documentary resources in all formats.

## 2.6 Collection

The Library holds more than nine million items including books, journals, newspapers, maps, music, manuscripts, pictures, oral histories, ephemera and electronic resources. As well as a vast collection of Australiana, the Library has considerable collections of general overseas and rare book materials, and world-class Asian and Pacific collections. Each year, the Library receives 120 000 journal issues, 70 000 newspaper issues and 45 000 books through deposit, purchase or donation.



The highlight of the Library's acquisitions during the year was the donation by Library and Archives Canada of a single-sheet broadside playbill advertising a theatrical performance at the Sydney Theatre on 30 July 1796. It is the earliest surviving example of a document printed in Australia and was previously unknown. The playbill was found in a scrapbook in the collection of Library and Archives Canada. It was presented by the Canadian government to the Australian government as a gift to the nation.

## 2.7 Services

The Library places great importance on the core activities of describing and digitising our collections. 88 per cent of the collections are now described in online catalogues. By employing more streamlined ways of describing certain types of collection material, the Library provides access to thousands of items from our pictures, maps and music collections, which previously could not be searched online. For instance, in 2007-08 online catalogue records were created for 400,000 individual aerial maps and 15,000 records were created for an important collection of historic music for theatre and cinema.

In February 2008 the Library launched a new version of its online catalogue based on open-source software. It combines the functionality of a traditional library catalogue with state-of-the-art searching features such as tagging and relevance ranking. The goal is to make our collection resources easier to discover and request. The response from users has been extremely positive and the new catalogue interface has been praised internationally.

While face to face reference enquiry transactions have been declining, the Library's online services experience continued increases in usage. In September 2008 the Library introduced a new authentication system enabling registered Library users to log in and use licensed electronic resources remotely.

The Library is a leading partner of a collaborative online reference initiative known as AskNow. Asknow is an online chat service provided by a consortium of national, state and public libraries in Australia, New Zealand and Singapore. Over 100 operators answer reference questions online from 9am to 7pm, Monday to Friday. The service is heavily used by students but increasingly other clients of conventional library services appreciate the chat technology when they are looking for fast, convenient access to libraries.

## 2.8 Lending

The National Library provides interlibrary loans and copies in accordance with the Australian [National Interlibrary Resource Sharing Code](#) and within the provisions of the Australian Copyright Act 1968.

The Library provides a copying service direct to individuals through [Copies Direct](#), a fee-paid online service which supplies users with copies of articles, chapters of books, pictures, maps, manuscripts, music, transcripts or other material from the National Library of Australia's collections.

Document supply has been slowly declining in Australia due to increased access in the university sector to online journal articles in particular. The National Library of Australia's document supply is declining at around 3% per annum.

## 2.9 National Bibliographic Services

The National Library provides national bibliography agency services through the branded service Libraries Australia. The National Bibliographic Database can be searched free through Libraries Australia Search at <http://librariesaustralia.nla.gov.au/>.

The National Library is also the Australian agency for ISSN and ISMN.

## 2.10 Digital library initiatives

The Library's web archiving and digitisation programs are now regarded as part of its regular operations. In September 2007 we completed a snapshot archive of the entire Australian web domain using the services of the Internet Archive, while continuing to do selective archiving by staff into the Library's Pandora web archive. A further whole domain harvest commenced in August 2008 with the target of one billion pages.



Routine digitisation of pictures, maps and sheet music continues throughout the year with the total number of items digitised now just over 134,000. They can all be searched and viewed online through the catalogue. This image was the 100,000th item digitised – a black and white photograph of an orphan joey (baby kangaroo) snugly wrapped in an overcoat improvised from the sleeve of an old jumper. The photograph was taken in 1968 by well-known Australian photo-journalist Jeff Carter.

## 2.11 Projects

In 2007 the National Library commenced a major project to undertake large-scale digitisation of Australian newspapers. By the end of this four-year project, some four million newspaper pages will be freely available online via a text-searchable database. Beginning with the earliest Australian newspaper, the *Sydney Gazette*, which was first published in 1803, the Library will digitise one major newspaper from each Australian state and territory up to 1954. The search and delivery system was developed in-house and released in beta form in July 2008. Currently some 150,000 pages are publicly available. Feedback received to date indicate users are

already finding the database to be an invaluable resource for education, research, family historians and the general public.

In 2007 the Library convened the Innovative Ideas Forum, providing an opportunity for representatives from a variety of cultural institutions from Australia and overseas to share information about new developments and trends in providing access to information. This biannual gathering focused on user-generated content and ways in which researchers and the general public are contributing information to online services.

The Library also hosted the Resource Sharing Consultation Forum, bringing together librarians representing national and state libraries to discuss resource sharing issues in Australia. A particular focus of the forum was consideration of how to introduce a home delivery service for interlibrary loans, in order to make the use of library collections as convenient as ordering from an online bookshop.

## **2.12 Affiliations, cooperation, membership (local and foreign)**

The National Library is a member of the National and State Libraries Australasia (NSLA) <http://www.nsla.org.au/>, the Council of Australian University Librarians (CAUL) ) <http://www.caul.edu.au/>, several IFLA groups, CDNL and CDNLAO. As part of its role within CDNLAO the National Library maintains the online *Libraries of Asia Pacific* directory which can be found at <http://www.nla.gov.au/lap/>. National libraries in the region are encouraged to ask other libraries in their country to establish entries in the directory, and to keep the entries up to date. CDNLAO libraries and other libraries within the region may contact [lap@nla.gov.au](mailto:lap@nla.gov.au) for assistance or information

## **3. LIBRARIES AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL**

### **3.1 Numbers of libraries**

A range of Library Councils, Associations and Foundations operate in Australia. A full list is provided on the Australian Libraries Gateway at: [www.nla.gov.au/libraries/resource/org.html](http://www.nla.gov.au/libraries/resource/org.html).

The Australian Libraries Gateway (ALG) is a free web-based directory service providing access to current information about Australian libraries, their collections and services at [www.nla.gov.au/libraries/](http://www.nla.gov.au/libraries/). The following breakdown of the number of libraries in Australia by type was obtained from this source. Note that there are other Australian libraries not covered by the following categories which may be accessed via ALG.

|  |       |
|--|-------|
| Public Libraries                       | 1,513 |
| Academic Libraries <sup>1</sup>        | 682   |
| Special/Private Libraries <sup>2</sup> | 3,036 |

---

<sup>1</sup>includes TAFE and branch libraries of Australia's 38 universities

<sup>2</sup> Corporate/business, special, health and law libraries

### 3.2 New libraries being established

Data on new or refurbished libraries is not readily available.

### 3.3 General trends of visitorship and membership

A number of Australian research libraries have reported in recent years that onsite visits are declining, although visits to public libraries remains high, and is increasing in line with population growth. Use of online library resources and services is rising at a rapid rate. Libraries are making more resources available for remote use, so users need not visit libraries in person.

In April 2006 the ABS conducted a survey of children's participation in cultural and leisure activities. For the first time, this survey collected information about children's attendance at cultural venues. Almost two-thirds (65.8%) of children aged 5-14 years (1.8 million children) had attended a public library, museum or art gallery outside school hours in the previous 12 months. Public libraries were visited by 55.1% of children, which was substantially more than the 37.3% who visited museums or art galleries (table 14.23).

At the end of 2006 it was estimated that 60% of Australian households had Internet access. (source: Australian Bureau of Statistics). 59% of home Internet connections are broadband connections.

### 3.4 New features introduced into libraries

The majority of libraries in Australia have internet access and the Australian library sector is exploiting the online delivery of services that the Internet facilitates.

Examples include (*not all libraries offer all services*):

- Access to licensed resources from home
- Access to digitised collection materials
- Federated services, which provide searching across the collections of a number of institutions. Examples include [PictureAustralia](#), [MusicAustralia](#) and [Libraries Australia](#).
- Online loan renewals and reservations of items
- Online reference, chat reference and instant messaging
- Online exhibitions (Example – [the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies library](#))
- Online teaching resources, including teacher / student packages
- Virtual library tours (Example – the [Japan Foundation library](#))
- RSS feeds and BLOGS of library news, as well as electronic newsletters
- Online delivery of items requested through interlibrary loan systems or intracampus systems
- Online delivery of course materials

---

<sup>3</sup> Government and Parliamentary



- Electronic reserve collections (academic libraries)
- Online forms (facilitating activities such as interlibrary loan, reserve collection administration)
- Online tutorials
- Subject guides (Example: [economics guide at Melbourne High School library](#))
- Digital theses repository and access (academic libraries) (Example: [digital thesis repository at University of Tasmania](#))

## 4. INFRASTRUCTURE

### 4.1 Library networks

Libraries Australia, an Internet-based national bibliographic service for Australian libraries and their users, supports resource sharing and library operations for over 1000 Australian and regional libraries. The core of Libraries Australia is the Australian National Bibliographic Database (ANBD), which records the location of over 42 million holdings and contains over 13 million bibliographic records. Librarians use this database for interlibrary lending, reference, collection development and cataloguing, and it is free on the Internet for all Australians to make use of. Through Libraries Australia, libraries have access to other databases, including the USA's *Research Libraries Information Network (RLIN database)*, CURL, Te Puna (New Zealand), the Deutsche Bibliothek Database and OCLCs WorldCat. There is a direct link between the Australian and New Zealand interlending systems through Libraries Australia and Te Puna, allowing users in either country to request items in both services.

In 2007 subscribers to Libraries Australia services were provided with unlimited access to WorldCat—the world's largest bibliographic database with over one billion items from 11,000 libraries worldwide—as a result of an agreement negotiated by the National Library on behalf of Australian libraries. Through this agreement, holdings in Australian library collections are also discoverable internationally through WorldCat.

The Library also led a national initiative to improve access for all Australians to electronic journals and databases. A purchasing consortium—Electronic Resources Australia (ERA)—was established in May 2007 with the aim of providing a means for small to medium libraries to purchase major online resources at discounted prices. ERA commenced its first subscription cycle in October 2007, with an excellent response from the library community. There are now 485 libraries using ERA to purchase electronic resources, with nine products on offer in the areas of health, general reference, and Australian news and business.

## 5. PRESERVATION

Library preservation programs in Australia are generally the responsibility of each individual library and they are resourced by those institutions.

The National Library provides a subject gateway on digital preservation called PADI (Preserving and Accessing Digital Information) at [www.nla.gov.au/padi/](http://www.nla.gov.au/padi/). PADI's objectives are to facilitate the development of strategies and guidelines for the preservation of access to digital information and provide a forum for cross-sectoral cooperation on activities promoting the preservation of access to digital information.

The PADI web site is a subject gateway to digital preservation resources. It has an associated discussion list [padiforum-l](mailto:padiforum-l) for the exchange of news and ideas about digital preservation issues.

## 6. EDUCATION AND TRAINING

### 6.1 Number of professional librarians

The Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA) has over 5000 personal members which is the best indicative data available at this stage on the number of professional librarians working in Australia. It is thought to be a substantial underestimation but more accurate data does not yet exist. There is no requirement for professional librarians to be members of ALIA.

### 6.2 Library training schools

The Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA), publishes a guide to courses in library and information studies on an annual basis. The *Courses in library and information studies* information is available online at [www.alia.org.au/education/courses/](http://www.alia.org.au/education/courses/). Essentially, there are twenty five institutions offering accredited qualifications for professional librarianship and library technicians. The number of graduate level courses has declined in recent years.

## 7. COPYRIGHT

### 7.1 Legal deposit act

Australian legal deposit law is contained in the *Copyright Act 1968*. It is available at <http://www.comlaw.gov.au/comlaw/management.nsf/lookupindexpagesbyid/IP200401428?OpenDocument>

### 7.2 Copyright associations, etc

The main copyright associations in Australia are:

- The Australian Digital Alliance (ADA) [www.digital.org.au/](http://www.digital.org.au/)
- Australian Libraries Copyright Committee (sister organisation to the ADA) [www.digital.org.au/alcc/](http://www.digital.org.au/alcc/)
- Australian Copyright Council (ACC) (Australia Council-funded legal service & advocacy body) [www.copyright.org.au/](http://www.copyright.org.au/)

There are also a number of copyright collecting societies which collectively administer their members' copyrights:



- Australasian Performing Rights Association ([APRA](#)), which administers musical copyrights.
- Australasian Mechanical Copyright Owners Society ([AMCOS](#)), which administers a different type of musical copyright)
- Copyright Agency Limited ([CAL](#)), which administers largely text-based copyright
- Audio-Visual Copyright Society Limited ([Screenrights](#)), which administers copyright in audio-visual material such as films)
- Phonograph Performance Company of Australia ([PPCA](#)), which administers music copyright owned by record companies)
- Visual Arts Copyright Collecting Society ([Viscopy](#)), which administers copyright in visual arts such as paintings

### **7.3 Public Lending Right scheme**

The Australian Government Public Lending Right (PLR) scheme makes payments to eligible Australian book creators and publishers on the basis that income is lost as a result of the availability of their books for loan in public lending libraries. Some 8,866 book creators and publishers received PLR payments in 2006-07, totalling \$7.1m. Educational Lending Right (ELR) complements PLR and makes payment to eligible Australian book creators and publishers whose books are held in educational lending libraries. An annual survey of the book stock of a representative sample of these libraries (including school, technical and further education, and university libraries) is used to determine payments. In 2006-07, 10,438 book creators and publishers received ELR payments totalling \$10.4m. Further information on the two lending right schemes can be obtained from the Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts website (

### **7.4 Major changes in the Copyright / IPR laws impacting libraries**

In the last three years there have been a number of significant changes to copyright law in Australia, most as a result of the Australia-United States Free Trade Agreement. The most recent, the Copyright Amendment Act 2006 included changes relating to fair dealing, format shifting, the making of preservation copies, the definition of a library and introduced new criminal offence provisions.

AMcK050908