Re-imagining Libraries
Summary Report
January 2013

Re-imagining Libraries 2012-2016 is the next collaborative strategic plan of National & State Libraries Australasia (NSLA), endorsed in May 2012. The first Re-imagining Libraries Strategic Plan 2008-2012 reshaped services, developed skills and capabilities, and built a trusted collaborative framework. The new plan extends this program of work and sets out shared principles on behalf of Australians and New Zealanders.

Vision
In collaboration, the National, State and Territory Libraries of Australia and New Zealand will lead in enabling people to access, use and share local and global knowledge and ideas.

Re-imagining Libraries in 2012
During 2012, NSLA made the transition to the second Re-imagining Libraries strategic plan. Re-imagining Libraries 2012-2016 emphasises enabling library users not only to access information, but also to transform it into knowledge and ideas which can be shared locally and globally. The fifteen NSLA projects fit within the three strands of this new strategic plan.

One Library Projects
- Digital Collecting
- Digital Preservation
- Collaborative Collections
- eResources Consortium
- Open Borders

Enabling People Projects
- Communications and Marketing
- Copyright
- Community-Created Content
- Indigenous
- Literacy and Learning

Accessible Content Projects
- Archival Collections
- Delivery
- Large Pictorial Collections
- Maps
- Storage Management

Details of NSLA project work undertaken in 2012 can be found on Page 2 and on the NSLA website.

Below are two case studies of projects that commenced in 2012.

DIGITAL COLLECTING
With a full-time project officer from the State Library of Queensland guiding this project over six months, the Digital Collecting group has:
- Completed a born digital collecting audit
- Established an agreed set of terms defining born digital items and collections
- Established agreed principles for digital collecting in NSLA libraries
- Drawn up a digital collecting framework
- Established guidelines for donors of digital collections, including an instructional video

DIGITAL PRESERVATION
This project is led by the State Library of Victoria and the National Library of Australia, with sub-projects led by other libraries including the National Library of New Zealand. The group has commenced five major pieces of collaborative work. These are:
- Positioning paper defining digital preservation and its importance for libraries
- Matrix outlining necessary components for successful digital preservation practice
- Analysis of staff capability required for successful digital preservation
- Modelling for a technical registry of formats
- Analysis of national and international opportunities for collaboration

In 2013, NSLA projects will focus on establishing practices and principles for digital collecting and preservation; developing libraries as learning organisations; and continuing to work towards best practices for collection management.

Resourcing and Communication
NSLA is funded by member libraries. In 2012, NSLA funded a number of project roles including a project officer to lead Digital Collecting, a consultant researcher to look at literacy and learning in NSLA libraries, and contracted a NZ company to begin Stage 1 of the technical registry of formats for digital preservation. NSLA also contributed to a joint project with the Australian Bureau of Statistics to review public library statistics, and is a partner in the ARC Grey Literature project.

Over 140 people from across the ten member libraries were directly involved in NSLA project work, with 74 project meetings held in 2012 by web conference or in person. NSLA hosted the Disaster Preparedness Seminar in Brisbane in March and the Information Services Forum in Sydney in December, and was represented at the ALIA Biennial conference and Grey Literature conference.

Program Management
The NSLA Re-imagining Libraries program is managed by the NSLA Office, based at the State Library of Victoria. The NSLA Office reports to the NSLA Chairman, Ms Margaret Allen (2013-2014), and to the CEOs of the NSLA libraries as the Program Governance Committee. Success of the program is a shared responsibility.

More Information: www.nsla.org.au, nsla@slv.vic.gov.au
| Speaking with one voice | Submissions to inquiries and consultations, including ALRC Inquiry into Copyright and the Digital Economy, Extension of Legal Deposit consultation, Australian Heritage Strategy consultation  
Joint strategic planning, representation on external groups, submissions to government inquiries, hosting seminars and events, negotiating with vendors  
Disaster Preparedness Seminar held in Brisbane, March 2012  
Representation on the Australian Libraries Copyright Committee and Australian Digital Alliance  
Negotiation of subscriptions to e-resources products by the NSLA Consortium |
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| Shared principles | Position statements on use of public domain works held in NSLA Libraries; and on Libraries, Literacy and Learning  
Memorandum of Understanding supporting the redistribution of low-use materials in NSLA libraries based on subject strengths (The Australian Libraries Collaborative Collection) |
| Benchmarking and best practice | Audits of maps and pictures collections in NSLA libraries (formats, storage, cataloguing, digitising), including developing shared glossaries  
Benchmarking report assessing document delivery systems and resourcing  
Audits of education and learning partnerships and advocacy activities across libraries  
Testing archival collections acquisition costing tool  
Piloting home delivery of library materials |
| ‘Do it once’ projects | Investigative work on digital collecting – agreed principles, definitions and guidelines for donors  
Scoping and modelling a technical format registry for digital preservation, listing all digital format types and preservation guidelines  
List of suppliers and standards for storage equipment |
| Common infrastructure | Exploring shared infrastructure options for digital preservation, building on Libraries Australia and Trove  
Indigenous Group joint project to commemorate fifty years since the 1967 Referendum (online exhibition, oral histories and national collecting focus)  
Investigating the opportunities of common Reftracker infrastructure across member libraries |
| Experimenting and research | Google Adwords campaign to advertise e-resources available in all NSLA libraries  
Research reports investigating international directions in storage management and delivery services, linking to Australian and New Zealand audits and issues. |