



National & State Libraries Australasia

Re-imagining Libraries 2012–2016

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.

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1. Introduction

Re-imagining Libraries 2012-2016 builds on and extends the strategic directions and program of work begun by National & State Libraries Australasia (NSLA) in 2008 with *Re-imagining Libraries*. The first plan reshaped services, developed skills and capabilities, established shared strategic directions, and built a trusted framework for collaborative work.

What is influencing our collaborative planning?

- We are part of an increasingly joined-up digital world. There are new and emerging publishing practices and platforms; changing models for the purchase, delivery and re-use of information; new mechanisms for capturing community knowledge and sharing curatorial responsibility; and increasing pressure against duplication of services and collections.
- Our key role in preserving culture in reusable forms is more important than ever in a world of transitory digital media, but we cannot find the solutions to contemporary challenges in isolation, as individual libraries or as an industry.
- The central role of libraries in enabling people to learn – developing the skills to engage with knowledge and ideas and to participate actively in the digital society – is sharpening in focus.
- Drives for greater efficiency and effectiveness across all public institutions are pushing towards increased collaboration, leading to convergence and mergers in some jurisdictions.
- Commercial partnership arrangements especially for digitisation and digital preservation are challenging libraries' principles of free access and open licensing.
- As digital information services, libraries must respond to the rising expectations of a global cultural and commercial environment where service development is adventurous and agile.

2. Principles

This strategic plan is informed by our shared principles on behalf of Australians and New Zealanders:

- People have a right to information, current and past, and to the opportunity to develop the information and digital literacy skills which are vital to leading full and successful personal and professional lives, regardless of their location.
- People have a right to participate in the shaping of the cultural, civic and intellectual life of their community and to contribute ideas as global citizens.
- People have a right to enjoy their documentary and cultural heritage knowing that its collection, preservation and transmission are secure.
- People have a right to explore and engage with the world's cultures and knowledge and to reflect on their place in the world from a position of knowledge.

3. Strategies

a) One Library

Digital services break down the boundaries of jurisdiction and constituency. Central portals that are destinations for searching and are harvested by search engines are beginning to replace local systems. *Trove* in Australia and *Beta* in New Zealand are exploring options for global and local services, customised access, and deep partnerships through information, cultural and education sectors.

Libraries, as civic institutions, have a broad mandate that embraces digital opportunities. The increasing numbers of people who visit libraries value the welcoming public spaces, the interaction with each other and with experts, and the opportunity to learn and to connect in new ways in the digital world.

NSLA libraries work together in a mature and practical collaborative partnership with an ongoing program of work and common strategic goals. We advocate to governments, stakeholders and others, in support of the shared principles we espouse.

We consider what can benefit from a collaborative approach; we identify and fund priority work; we share expertise and ideas; we build communities of practice and experimentation; and we explore partnership opportunities. This collaboration works to minimise duplication of collections and services as well as systems. It streamlines library services so that people can be confident in using their library.

All NSLA libraries benefit from the expertise and best practice of each. We will position digital services, systems and collecting in a collaborative context, so that people will experience our digital information services as seamless, within and across libraries.

Projects in 2012-2013 focusing on One Library strategy objectives:

Projects	Lead libraries
Digital Collecting	State Library of Queensland
Digital Preservation	National Library of Australia State Library of Victoria
The Australian Libraries Collaborative Collection	State Library of New South Wales
eResources Consortium	National Library of Australia
Open Borders (Trove)	National Library of Australia
Web Archiving	National Library of Australia

b) Enabling People

Libraries are centres of learning. They are online places and physical locations where everyone can engage with knowledge and ideas and learn the essential literacy skills needed to participate fully in society. Libraries are also actively-connected agencies, building partnerships, linking and referring people to other education providers, experts, communities, collections and services. Libraries are for everyone. Australian and New Zealand communities are multi-cultural, multi-lingual, metropolitan, remote, mainstream and eclectic.

“Literacy” is a continuum of learning that allows people to find and use information, digital tools and research data confidently and critically. Libraries are places to read, create, experiment, play, test new skills and explore ideas. In libraries, outcomes and achievements are not measured or judged. All learning is valid and valued.

People are experts and creators, contributors and interpreters; they are the authorities on their business, their culture, their profession, their stories and their environment. We collect and make available their content as it is published in print or distributed online, and we harness people’s knowledge to enrich information in all its forms.

Our collections will reflect the diversity in our community. We will provide opportunities for people to co-curate their online and documentary heritage and to contribute their knowledge and expertise. We will support our communities in learning the skills they need to find and use information effectively.

Projects in 2012-2013 focusing on Enabling People strategy objectives:

Projects	Lead libraries
Communications & Marketing	State Library of New South Wales
Community Created Content	State Library of Queensland
Copyright	State Library of South Australia State Library of Victoria
Indigenous	State Library of Western Australia
Literacy & Learning	State Library of Victoria State Library of Western Australia

c) Accessible Content

Personal messages and electronic files are the archival record of the 21st Century; CAD drawings are our architectural plans; photographic groups on picture sharing sites are today's family albums; research data is on a server or a laptop or in a data archive; a vital scientific report will be published online; political commentary is on a blog or in the comments-stream of a media website; party invitations are sent via social media; maps showing the growth of urban areas are on a GPS device or phone. In ten or even five years, these formats will almost certainly be different. Digital collecting is increasing at a vast rate and a key challenge for libraries.

We are developing systems to collect this digital record, recognising that we must be selective but also capture the story of our lives before the traces disappear. Archiving websites and collecting born-digital materials will record our lives for the future. People expect information to be online. Once collected, it must be preserved and made accessible for the long-term.

NSLA libraries are working together to establish the infrastructure for effective digital preservation so that we will be able to provide useful access to digital archives a century from now. This challenge is coupled with the progressive digitisation of our heritage collections and the continuing conservation of unique print and documentary materials.

Easy information access demands intuitive online systems that take people to the information they require, enable use of the information, stimulate new connections and knowledge, and help people decide what is relevant and what is important.

We will establish connections and processes to effectively collect the digital record of the community, so that people find using libraries increasingly easy and intuitive, and so that digital content is preserved for the future.

Projects in 2012-2013 focusing on Accessible Content strategy objectives:

Projects	Lead libraries
Archival Collections	State Library of Queensland State Library of Western Australia
Large Pictorial Collections	National Library of Australia State Library of Victoria
Maps	National Library of Australia State Library of New South Wales
Delivery	State Library of Western Australia
Storage Management	National Library of Australia

4. About NSLA

Members: Libraries ACT
 LINC Tasmania
 National Library of Australia
 National Library of New Zealand
 Northern Territory Library
 State Library of New South Wales
 State Library of Queensland
 State Library of South Australia
 State Library of Victoria
 State Library of Western Australia

NSLA Libraries work together under a Memorandum of Understanding (March 2012) that includes:

- Commitment to resource the NSLA program of work, to share best practice and expertise, to work together to achieve more than each library can on their own;
- Recognition and respect for differences in legislation across jurisdictions, in local priorities and relationships, in responsibilities, and in circumstances;
- Agreement on shared advocacy objectives, to provide a unified voice to governments, stakeholders and to the wider cultural and education sectors.

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