

Re-imagining Libraries

Summary Report

January 2011

Re-imagining Libraries is the 5-year strategic plan of National & State Libraries Australasia. This program of work is accelerating the transformation of our libraries by tackling challenges collaboratively. We are taking a system-wide view of the impact of the changing networked and online environment, unbundling our activities and exploring new services and approaches.



NATIONAL & STATE LIBRARIES
AUSTRALASIA

Vision

In collaboration, the National, State and Territory Libraries of Australia and New Zealand will become leaders in empowering people to create, discover, use and transform our collections, content and global information resources.

Re-imagining Libraries 2009 – 2013

NSLA has completed two years of the *Re-imagining Libraries* program. The progress of our collaboration has moved from:

- 1) agreement and investigation in 2007-2008;
- 2) through start-up of joint projects in 2009;
- 3) to the delivery and evaluation phases now underway, and planned, for 2010-2013.

One project closed in 2010 (Project 6: Changing Capability and Culture) and two others are scheduled for completion early in 2011 (these are Project 1: Do it Now and Project 3: Virtual Reference). The agreed outcomes from these projects will now be implemented through member libraries.

The commitment to *Re-imagining Libraries* by all the NSLA member libraries remains very strong. The program is generating trust in collaborative solutions and networked services; cross-fertilisation of ideas and expertise; and promoting new thinking and skills for addressing the challenges for libraries.

New services

For people using our libraries, the outcomes of *Re-imagining Libraries* will be:

- More of our collections fully available online and easily able to be found, used, adapted and transformed
- Deep linking and improved discoverability of our collections
- Faster digital delivery of images and full-text
- Seamless access to articles and databases
- Common experience and similar services across our libraries
- Our collection knowledge and research expertise available when it is needed

Achievements in 2010

1. Copyright best practice and standards

NSLA has endorsed recommendations developed by Project 1 on the following areas. Implementation is underway.

- Standard copyright information for NSLA websites
- Creative Commons
- Deeds of Gift
- Works in the Public Domain
- Orphan Works (TBC)

2. Research Service Guidelines and Principles

- Standard reference and research services have been agreed and will begin implementation in 2011.
- Guidelines for common online research guides have been established
- Nine of the ten NSLA members will have moved to a common enquiry management system by 2012 to enable easy referral and collaboration.

3. Expansion and enhancement of Trove

Trove was developed by the National Library of Australia as the central portal for access to Australian collections. NSLA is contributing through Project 2: Open Borders, particularly:

- Digitised newspapers and Australian Womens Weekly (available from Nov 2010);
- Identification of options for making descriptive lists available through Trove to enhance access to heritage collections;
- Investigation of seamless authentication for databases.

Other achievements in 2010 are listed on Page 2.

Priorities for 2011

- Endorsed national set of e-resources costed; implementation initiated
- Framework established for NSLA distributed print repository
- Endorsed guidelines for making archival collections available
- LibraryHack competition, May 2011
- Home delivery pilot

Other priorities for 2011-2013 are listed on Page 2.

Resourcing and Communication

Re-imagining Libraries is funded through a combination of levies contributed by member libraries to a central NSLA budget, plus provision of staff and other resourcing within organisational budgets. In 2010, NSLA directed funding towards additional project-specific positions, including three 3-month positions to work on: the Lists Project (P8); authentication issues (P2); and LibraryHack (P5).

The Project Managers (senior staff from across member libraries taking on this additional work since late 2008) have made a critical contribution to the program.

The NSLA Marketing Working Group has begun to focus on communicating the outcomes of each project, with members now working closely with the Project Teams to plan internal and external communication.

In 2010:

- 135 staff participated in project groups;
- 64 teleconferences, web-conferences and face-to-face project meetings were held;
- 14 conference and seminar papers were presented;
- 45 papers were published on the NSLA website, including 8 position statements, 5 standards or operational guidelines, and 18 discussion papers.

Program Management

Re-imagining Libraries continues to be expertly managed by Ms Wendy Quihampton, based at the State Library of Victoria, reporting 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/projects/rls
nsla@slv.vic.gov.au

Achievements to January 2011

