

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.



NATIONAL & STATE LIBRARIES
AUSTRALASIA

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

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

Details of NSLA project work undertaken in 2012 can be found on Page 2 and on the [NSLA](http://www.nsla.org.au) website.

NSLA achievements in 2012

NSLA project work falls into six categories. Examples of project work commenced, continued or completed in 2012 are as follows:

<p>Speaking with one voice</p> <p>Joint strategic planning, representation on external groups, submissions to government inquiries, hosting seminars and events, negotiating with vendors</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submissions to inquiries and consultations, including ALRC Inquiry into Copyright and the Digital Economy, Extension of Legal Deposit consultation, Australian Heritage Strategy consultation • Disaster Preparedness Seminar held in Brisbane, March 2012 • Representation on the Australian Libraries Copyright Committee and Australian Digital Alliance • Negotiation of subscriptions to eresources products by the NSLA Consortium
<p>Shared principles</p> <p>Providing clear agreed public statements outlining where we stand as a group on various issues challenging libraries</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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)
<p>Benchmarking and best practice</p> <p>Sharing and standardising practices and metrics, developing guidelines for best practice</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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
<p>'Do it once' projects</p> <p>Work that can be done once in collaboration, rather than being repeated in individual libraries</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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
<p>Common infrastructure</p> <p>Investment by all libraries in a common infrastructure, program or service</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 Refracker infrastructure across member libraries
<p>Experimenting and research</p> <p>Sharing cost and effort to research the efficacy of programs and services relevant to all</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Google Adwords campaign to advertise eresources 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.