NATIONAL RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE ROADMAP CAPABILITY ISSUES PAPER

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Submission	
Submission No:	
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National and State Libraries Australasia (NSLA) welcomes the opportunity to respond to the National Research Infrastructure Capability Issues Paper. We support the content and direction of the paper, and the coordinated and collaborative approach to developing Australia's research infrastructure capability.

This submission primarily addresses the *Understanding Cultures and Communities* Capability Issues, while noting that libraries, and the social, cultural and historical knowledge they provide, underpin national capability in education, environment, national resource management, health sciences and many of the STEM areas.

Research is increasingly cross-disciplinary and NSLA libraries collect the published outputs of research across sectors, preserve this for the future, and make resources and data from many fields available for study, analysis and repurposing.

National and State Libraries Australasia represents the ten national, state and territory libraries of Australia and New Zealand. The nine Australian members, which includes the National Library of Australia, are major developers, content contributors and collaborators in the national information environment.

Trove is the public discovery platform for Australia's core research infrastructure, drawing from the Libraries Australia metadata service, PANDORA web archiving service, ANPLAN newspaper digitisation collaboration and other content aggregations. Trove brings together the collections of more than 1400 Australian collecting institutions.

The National Library of Australia hosts and manages this national infrastructure. NSLA libraries have collaborated in the development and growth of these services over many decades. As an example, of the depth of the collaboration, the state and territory libraries have contributed 32% of the newspapers that have been digitised and made available through Trove, and they have selected web sites for collection by PANDORA for more than ten years. We work in partnership, with governance structures and a resourcing framework that is changing in response to internal and external factors.

Together NSLA libraries are deeply engaged in establishing the infrastructure, skills and processes to support mass digital ingest, effective access and long-term preservation of the digital record of Australia.

Australia's future research capability should build on and out from existing national investments in information systems and infrastructure, leveraging and transforming world-leading services such as Trove.

NSLA fully endorses the submission from the **National Library of Australia** in response to the NCRIS Issues Paper.

Since July 2015, NSLA has been actively collaborating with the peak bodies of the galleries, libraries, archives and museums sector, as well as national collecting institutions and representatives of the humanities academy, through the **GLAM Peak** initiative (glampeak.org.au). NSLA co-chairs GLAM Peak with Museums Australia.

This is developing as an important forum for consultation, collaboration and consensus across the sector. The focus is on digital access to cultural collections. The 11 peak bodies and other representatives are jointly developing a national framework with pathways for small and large organisations to more effectively contribute to the national digital content and research corpus.

The **Australian Academy of the Humanities** (AHA) is a member of GLAM Peak. The AHA submission in response to the NCRIS Issues Paper outlines the humanities and social sciences research infrastructure needs for the future, and highlights the critical role of cultural and collecting institutions.

The AHA notes the great unmet demand for research infrastructure in the humanities and social sciences sector. The supply of existing data, the expectation of future data creation, and the challenges of storage, preservation, discovery and connectivity need to be addressed through collaborative national infrastructure. Big data is transforming research practice and infrastructure requirements. Making this content available, discoverable and researchable is a national responsibility.

NSLA supports the strategic position outlined in the Australian Academy of Humanities response to the NCRIS Issues Paper.

Understanding Cultures and Communities

Question 24:   Are the identified emerging directions and research infrastructure capabilities for Understanding Cultures and Communities right? Are there any missing or additional needed?

NSLA agrees with the emerging directions and research infrastructure capability requirements outlined in the discussion paper, particularly supporting eResearch and the development of scaled-up digital humanities capability.

To deliver an open infrastructure program for the future, four main areas need to be addressed:

- Content – digitising analogue collections to meet researcher priorities;
- Connections – extend high capacity networks and access authentication infrastructure to collecting institutions;
- Tools – build and share tools to meet new researcher needs; and
- Citizen researchers – leverage community interest to support researcher needs.

Trove successfully provides humanities infrastructure at scale, and it has the capability to scale-up and transform, to link with other 'supply-side' infrastructure and to meet the new open infrastructure requirements, building on investment and expertise.

As well as new investment, governance mechanisms must be put in place that are consultative and collaborative across the stakeholder communities. NSLA libraries would welcome this expanded engagement.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the NCRIS Issues Paper.

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About NSLA

National & State Libraries Australasia (NSLA) is the active collaboration between the ten National, State and Territory libraries across Australia and New Zealand. We achieve more by working together, delivering greater value to our jurisdictions through collaboration.

NSLA Member Libraries:

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

During the 2014-2015 financial year:

- 12.3 million people visited our library buildings
- 24.4 million people visited our websites
- 12.6 million people visited our online catalogues
- 25.5 million people visited Trove
- 4,756 terabytes of digital collections were stored
- $36 million was the total spend on collections
- $4.9 billion was the asset value of our collections
- $992 million was the asset value of our buildings/sites

Please note: Each of the ten NSLA member libraries works within different government jurisdictions. The National Library of New Zealand is part of the Department of Internal Affairs, a New Zealand government department. The views expressed in this letter should not be taken to reflect the views of the National Library of New Zealand nor of the New Zealand Government.

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