

Report on the Strategic Advisory Forum 2011-2012

(Prepared for ITP Libraries Forum, 3 July 2012)

SAF Meetings held: 8 September, 15 December 2011, 24 February, 18 May 2012.

Sector Representatives: Bill Macnaught (CE and National Librarian), Jane Hill (LIANZA), Leslie Clague/Ian Littleworth (APLM), Anne Paton (NZLLA), Senga White/Fiona Mackie (SLANZA), Carol Davison/Sharon Cornwall (HealthSIG), Anahera Morehu (TRW), Gillian Oliver (Education providers), Hilary Rendell (GIG), Sarah-Jane Saravani (ITP), Sue Roberts/Ross Hallett (CONZUL), Moira Fraser/Barbara McPhee (Parliamentary Library), Sue Sutherland (2011) (Deputy CE, National Library - facilitator), Winston Roberts (Adviser, National Library - Secretariat).

Issues:

National Library

- developments in the public service / in DIA/KIRT
- Briefing to new Minister
- return to Molesworth St building
- Integrated Service Development

Bill Macnaught noted that the pace of change was increasing and due to financial pressures would continue to increase over the next few years.

Within the space of one year, the heads of the NL, the KIRT branch and DIA had changed: the Department had a new CE, Colin MacDonald (commenced April) and Acting DCE. The Dept also had a new Minister, Hon Amy Adams, this time inside Cabinet and also holder of the ICT portfolio. The new Minister had noted with approval that Molesworth St costs were on track. She had also expressed interest in the Public Libraries Strategic Framework.

Move of the Treaty of Waitangi - "I am delighted to let you know that the Minister has issued the following media release. This is an early benefit of the close partnership that has been building between National Library and Archives New Zealand since we joined the DIA team. The move of the Treaty and other important documents of nationhood has been made possible by the major refurbishment of the National Library building in Molesworth Street. The Chief Archivist continues to be responsible for the documents and together we will ensure that public access is improved. I believe that this development will lead, in due course, to even greater awareness of the treasures held by the Alexander Turnbull Library as well as Archives New Zealand."

The National Librarian is leading a process to assist the Minister in the choice of an appropriate new name for the Molesworth Street building to reflect its new role. Further details of that process will be shared with you in the very near future."

It seems likely that the proposed new Constitution Room in the National Library's Molesworth Street building would get Cabinet approval; and if so it might open in early 2013, ie sometime after the official re-opening.

It was hoped to add refurbishment of the auditorium to the capital spend – DIA had agreed that this supported the Library's core business; however the Minister's approval was still awaited.

Within KIRT the National Library was discussing with GTS how it might support the review of NDHA and digital preservation. The National Library was also in discussions with the Port Nicholson Block Trust. The DIA had already formalised its whole-of-Department relationship with iwi, but the Library still needed to decide its position on matters raised in the WAI262 Report.

The change to the National Library's new structure and staffing arrangements were made effective late in 2011. There were a number of changes at senior level in all core areas: in particular there was no online library directorate, but NDHA and APNK were now within Content Services, and the NL would work closely with Archives in the development of online services. Further attention would be paid to the question of staff resources needed to help the NL respond to the WAI262 report.

In the new year the NL would begin the process of moving back into Molesworth St., the actual timetable of the move would be partly dependent on further decisions by the Department's Executive Leadership Team (ELT) on the revised Integrated Services proposal, and in particular on the question whether a Constitution Room should be built in the Molesworth St building. The Library and Archives were looking at shared services (particularly online) and the benefits that could flow from a strategic partnership. New shared online services would have implications for collections storage.

The National Librarian noted that Cabinet had just taken the decision to fold the portfolio for Responsibility for the National Library into Internal Affairs: there were no longer separate Votes for the NL and the Archives, but one Minister and one budget.

The National Librarian drew to SAF's attention to his speech to the LIANZA conference, in which he emphasised the significant changes taking place but also the elements of continuity in the provision of services. Regarding the National Library's regional centres, options are being looked at for a shared presence at these centres, particularly for frontline services shared with Archives. Just as with the Molesworth St building, shared online services could be a separate issue from the location of collections.

There are 3 reviews due to be carried out: a joint review with Archives on digital preservation, a review of Services to Schools, and the review of APNK. Regarding APNK, it was important that the public library and local government sectors express their support and make clear the value of APNK which was not 'just' a managed network but was essentially about content and services. The relationship between EPIC and APNK would be a factor. The NL would emphasise to GTS (Government Technology Services) that APNK was a core service. Local authorities would be consulted on the terms of reference of the review. With all the reviews there was an assumption that savings might be able to be identified.

National Year of Reading, 2013

The suggestion had been made that a national Year of Reading could be held, perhaps in 2013. Discussions with various library and book sector organisations were at an early stage and further information would be provided in due course.

The National Librarian has raised the question of a Year of Reading with the DIA Minister who has expressed interest. Links might be established with the NZ presence at the Frankfurt Book Fair. The National Librarian cautioned that the Year of Reading was an ambitious proposal still at the concept stage, so it should remain confidential for the present.

National Library Services to Schools

The review of NL Services to Schools will cover not just digital (e.g. the use of UFB) but generally all aspects of the current operational model of Services to Schools. The review will also look at links between school libraries and public libraries.

Christchurch update

The National Library centre was now operational at Cavendish Park, on a 6-year lease. The NL was continuing conversations with the University and Christchurch City Libraries about shared services, particularly digital. In respect of preservation and access to heritage material, the NL continued to be involved in supporting CEISMIC. Digital NZ was also supporting CEISMIC.

Sector updates:

SLANZA: significant cuts were being made in the sector: the implications were a cause for concern.

NZLLA was studying the requirements for professional education in its sector, as a priority issue for 2012.

LIANZA was calling on the profession to send in material for the advocacy portal. In discussion, the benefits of using the services of Strategic Pay were highlighted (with Auckland Libraries as an example). The results of the survey on 'Strengthening the Profession' would be used for advocacy work.

CONZUL: it was noted that Prof S. Knight had left the University of Canterbury. Sue Roberts would be leaving her position at VUW: SAF members congratulated her on her appointment to the position of State Librarian of Victoria, in Melbourne.

HealthSIG: the DHBs have been instructed to make savings, and this also impacts their libraries. Libraries are increasingly delivering information online to health practitioners. They are also beginning to reply on medical students obtaining e-books from university libraries.

ITPNZ: some libraries are being restructured into 'learning centres': the issues are now how to run such centres, and what the effect on the professional sector will be.

Education sector: Gillian Oliver informed SAF members of changes in senior teaching and research positions at VUW SIM, particularly that Brenda Chawner would be the new Programme Director. The opinions of students would be canvassed in the new year. Sue Roberts noted with pleasure that the Programme Advisory Committee (PAC) was going to be reactivated.

GIG: there was concern about the future existence of government department libraries.

TRW: action would be taken to strengthen the governing committee of Maori Subject Headings. There was great concern across the whole library sector in New Zealand about attempts to enforce foreign interests in the IP in Koha (the software, but also the use of the word), by a US trademark application. Organisations in New Zealand were hoping to mount a legal challenge.

APLM: Ian Littleworth informed the meeting that:

- Sue Sutherland had been commissioned to produce a draft renewed Public Libraries Strategic Framework. She would undertake consultations, which it was hoped to complete by the end of March.
- Regarding the 'Keep Libraries Free' campaign, confirmation was being sought from Grant Robertson MP about next steps with the draft Public Libraries Bill.
- Public libraries were showing increasing interest in Kotui (with 5 libraries in the system, others had expressed interest in joining). (In discussion, Bill Macnaught noted that DIA GISMO [government procurement] had expressed approval of the rigorous procurement process followed in setting up Kotui.)

'Libraries NZ' roundtable

It had been planned to consult with the library sector on issues for the future. The NL has had good conversations with LIAC members, and with Australian colleagues in NSLA; however it was important for SAF members to offer strategic ideas and advice on the repositioning of the National Library. The senior teams of the NL and Archives had recently met, and considered whether professional 'unchallengeable truths' would in fact be the same in ten years' time.

Jane Hill noted that the Wellington City Council vision for 2040 could well be relevant to national cultural institutions; and noted the huge financial implications of bringing buildings all over NZ up to code in the wake of the Christchurch earthquakes.

Several members noted that local government amalgamation was actively on the agenda in many areas.

A key question was the role of the National Library, and the definition of core services, in the context of budget pressures. It was noted that the NL provided services to the country which would cost other libraries much more if they had to provide them for themselves.

It was also noted that spending more in one area to make greater savings elsewhere was an argument that would carry weight. It was suggested that EPIC should be helped to fulfil its potential, e.g. through making best use of UFB in schools, and improved national licencing arrangements.

SLANZA observed that in addition to UFB infrastructure, schools would also still need the services of professionals trained in information content delivery.

The DIA sees the National Library as having a leadership role in information/ICT matters; however the first step should be to formulate a vision, and then aim to persuade government. Voices had been heard asking why the NL needed to provide physical books. SAF members could express views on whether the NL's options might include moving to digital, or concentrating on advice, or further developing collaboration with public and school libraries, or a mix of those.

Some members observed that other parts of the wider library sector had the skills to respond to such a challenge, but perhaps not yet the will.

Action areas proposed during this discussion included:

- sending advocacy materials and best practice information to school principals
- advocacy to the new Minister of Education Hon Hekia Parata (and other Ministers – Local Government, Tertiary Education, State Services,...)
- promote family literacy, in communities including marae
- emphasise the theme of “turning knowledge into value” (cf Bill Macnaught’s speech to LIANZA)
- find the evidence of the economic value of information (cf. the research done by the British Library): find equivalent NZ research evidence (quantitative & qualitative)
- try to win the argument on value, bearing in mind current preoccupation with outcomes and impacts – and reducing costs
- push the EPIC model as far it can go
- consider options for sponsorship
- raising fees (or is that just shifting the problem?)
- the NL will look for tangible benefits from its bilateral Arrangement with the NLB Singapore
- extend collaboration with public libraries
- in general, consider ideas for income-generation

Research on the impact of reading on academic success

NZCER research

The New Zealand research conducted by the NZ Council for Educational Research (NZCER) into 500 students from before they started school, to age 20, provides evidence of the importance of competency in reading and literacy from an early age, and its impact on later schooling and beyond.

The Ministry of Education has published the findings, which are available as print versions as well as online.

NZCER’s Competent Learners longitudinal study – the latest being [Competent Learners@ 20](#), by Cathie Wylie. Published by the MoE, September 2011.

Teachers and parents can make a difference

The competencies measured included reading comprehension, vocabulary, writing, mathematics and logical problem solving. Earlier work in the Study showed how important it is for teachers to weave together “the learning of reading, writing and mathematics with development of attitudes such as perseverance, communication and self-management. The New Zealand Curriculum, which schools now use to frame their programmes, encourages this productive interweaving.”

The study identified a number of key risks to achieving a “satisfying pathway from school into early adulthood, a pathway into study or employment that yields interest and reward.” Poor reading levels feature prominently here as identifiable risks

- Low levels of reading and writing at age 5 and onwards
- Low levels of reading enjoyment – in one’s own time as well as in school

Competent learners @16: competency levels and development over time. C.Wylie and E.Hodgen. MoE, 2007.

The ways in which the cognitive and attitudinal competencies are related and support one another also indicate the importance of both in ongoing learning. Gaining some mastery and skills in literacy and numeracy at an early age is particularly important, since this underpins the likely ongoing path through school. The importance of making early progress in literacy and numeracy is evident when we compare the competency scores of those who had left school by age 16, and those who remained. Those who had left school had lower average cognitive scores from age 5, and the gap grew wider with time. They had much the same average attitudinal scores at age 5: the differences in these scores started later, probably reflecting their growing discomfort in the central role of literacy and numeracy in school work. But because of the ‘feedback loops’ between attitudinal and cognitive performance, their decreasing attitudinal scores would indicate that making progress in or enjoyment of the academic aspects of learning would be even harder. (p.23)

This study concludes that where students become disengaged with learning, they tend to do so before age 12, and this escalates throughout adolescence.

Arnold, R & Colburn, N. (Nov 2006). [Really Good Research](#): School Library Journal

OECD Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) survey 2009

See the PISA survey (2009) of 15-year-old students in OECD countries, including NZ:

PISA [<http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/34/50/48624701.pdf>]

UK National Literacy Trust:

<http://www.literacytrust.org.uk/>

"As our [recent research](#) has proven, young people who use their public library are nearly twice as likely to be above average readers than peers who don't visit their library"

Link to UK National Literacy reports: http://www.literacytrust.org.uk/research/nlt_research

Report from the National Year of Reading UK

<http://www.readathon.org/docs/literacychangeslives.pdf>

OECD report analysing PISA results in 2000 <http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/43/54/33690904.pdf>

2011 Summary Report on the Re-imagining Libraries programme of NSLA (National and State Libraries of Australasia)

This was distributed in March to NSLA members, with a covering letter from the Chair of NSLA, Alan Smith (Director of the State Library of South Australia).

In 2011, the highlights of the Re-imagining Libraries program included:

- 1) Libraryhack Mashup Competition, with associated events and professional development;
- 2) Agreement on a distributed repository for the relocation of low-use

- collection materials;
- 3) Releasing guidelines for assisting donors in preparing archives for deposit;
 - 4) Negotiating a common core set of eResources through the NSLA Consortium; and
 - 5) Publishing a comprehensive report on international digitisation funding strategies.

In addition, progress has been made towards new models for web archiving and copy requests; the development of a shared approach to literacy and learning services; and scoped projects on digital collecting, digital preservation and improved access to maps and large pictorial collections. More information on NSLA activities is at www.nsla.org.au.

Prison libraries –discussions have been held between the NL and Dept of Corrections

Key strategic issues for the wider library sector

APLM was still uncertain whether the Bill on public libraries would go into the ballot for private members' bills. The availability of e-books was at once a threat and an opportunity for public libraries. Work was progressing on the Strategic Framework. A number of changes were underway in the local government sector driven by the political and fiscal environment, and would come up at the LGNZ conference in April.

CONZUL was concerned about the issue of open access repositories. Further views would be reported at the next SAF meeting.

HealthSIG reported extensive budget and resource cuts throughout the sector. The cost of licences for online journals was a major issue for DHB libraries.

GIG reported a movement of government department libraries to Koha, increasing budget pressures affecting ability to acquire and supply content, and staff reductions.

The Parliamentary Library had recently entered a consortium with 17 government libraries to acquire information from an overseas provider. Recruitment of a new Parliamentary Librarian was under way.

In the Education sector, VUW SIM would review its programmes this year: submissions were invited from across the library sector: information on how to make a submission was on the website.

SIM was also planning to arrange 12-15-week placements for students in various areas/topics.

NZLLA and SLANZA both commented on difficulties with online journal licensing. A particular problem was the restriction on number of users: in that respect law libraries had the same issue as DHB libraries already mentioned; in the case of schools classroom use was handicapped.

SLANZA also noted the issues of: closure of some school libraries, lack of qualified library staff, and even disestablishment meaning that staff could not be reappointed.

LIANZA reported that it had allocated significant funds to project work that had been identified as desirable by a survey of members.

Public Libraries Refresh of the Strategic Framework

Consultations have been undertaken by Sue Sutherland and an 'outcomes map' produced on the theme of 'turning knowledge into value' (as proposed by Bill Macnaught in his speech to the 2011 LIANZA conference).

The strategic aims were to:

- position libraries in the minds of stakeholders

- identify what has changed
- provide a range of strategies to manage and go beyond the changes

SAF members queried the intended audience of the Strategic Framework, and suggested that the outcomes map be made less complex. Discussion took place on the role of e-books in the new scheme of things in public libraries, and the use that should be made of them. It was also questioned whether libraries had really done research on the fundamentals, ie what was really new? It was noted that users had not been surveyed.

Members' comments reflected conflicting trends: use of e-readers by young people is high, but libraries note hardcopy readership remains strong: it is difficult to predict developments. Members agreed that libraries are a physical space serving the community, with not only books but information. The focus should be on outcomes for users, who should determine what the 'value' of the library experience is. The most important thing is a document that works for senior decision-makers (mayors, Council CEs, Ministers). The document should also address the question of why library services should be free, not just take it as a given. This might raise issues (eg in respect of APNK), but local authorities would make their own decisions.

Update on NfL discussions with Ministry of Education

Central agencies have held a meeting on the Network for Learning (NfL). The National Library's paper for SAF in 2009 had been noted again (it had been forwarded to the Ministry of Education at the time) and Marg Mcleod of the Ministry had spoken positively on the paper. The Ministry had agreed to an informal programme of work. Since the agencies' meeting, Bill Macnaught and Sue Powell (Deputy Chief Executive of the KIRT branch of DIA) had held a discussion with Ann Jackson (Dep Sec at the Ministry). DIA/National Library had made a proposal to the Ministry for the two departments to work together to ensure the success of the NfL, to get it up and running by 2018-19. The challenges should not be underestimated: there were great disparities among schools. The National Library would carry out a survey of all school libraries, to benchmark the NL's services to them, and to obtain current data about school libraries (numbers, staffing, resources, Internet access, etc) for NL internal purposes.

There are three partners in meeting the needs of young New Zealanders: school libraries (close to students), public libraries (close to families and communities) and the National Library (nationally accessible service, specialist knowledge, expertise and resources for literacy and learning). Discussions have been held with principals on ways to enhance learning outcomes through future-focussed school libraries. It was noted that a national Year of Reading as suggested could be used to provide impetus for the further development of school libraries.