LIBRARIES AUSTRALIA STATUS REPORT
November 2012 – February 2013

Summary

This report summarises Libraries Australia activities over the four month timeframe since the last briefing provided at the Libraries Australia Annual Forum on 25 October 2012 at the National Library¹.

The key activities have been:

- work on Libraries Australia and Trove for the introduction of the Resource Description and Access (RDA) standard has continued, and a new compatible minimum record standard called Required Data Elements was released²,
- the completion of a review of the Libraries Australia Document Delivery costs (a separate paper is provided),
- completion of Stages 1 and 2 of the Libraries Australia Search Redevelopment project (separate paper provided at LAAC/2013/1/06). This included confirmation of the indexes, character normalisation, and Z39.50 support to be provided in the new Libraries Australia Search platform currently under development. Testing of the new pusher/loader mechanism which pushes new and updated records from the Libraries Australia Cataloguing System to the new Lucene database was also completed,
- the opening of a new Twitter account in November at twitter.com/LibrariesAust which gained almost 300 followers in its first two months of operation, and
- the addition of a new blog which describes some of the activities of the Libraries Australia Search Redevelopment (LASR) project, at nla.gov.au/librariesaustralia/category/search-redevelopment/project-blog/.

Libraries Australia Cataloguing Service

Libraries Australia Cataloguing (CBS)

At the end of 2012, contribution of bibliographic records (632,000) was 34% lower than in the same period last year, but 52% over target. Holdings added (2.2m) were 83% of last year, but nearly three times the target for financial year 2012/13.

The Cataloguing service was upgraded to version 6.0 of the CBS software in mid-October.

¹ Refer to the separate LAAC paper in this set for a summary of the Annual Forum.
RDA (Resource Description and Access) implementation

Web page
A web page which provides detailed information about system and cataloguing policy changes relating to the implementation of RDA was made available at www.nla.gov.au/librariesaustralia/services/cataloguing/resource-description-and-access-rda/.

System changes
A number of changes will be made to the Libraries Australia Cataloguing (CBS) service to support RDA. These include:

- support for new MARC field 264 which will replace field 260 in RDA records;
- a new version of the Cataloguing Client containing RDA cataloguing templates;
- changes to the Record Import Service (RIS) matching and merging to give preference to RDA records over records created according to Anglo American Cataloging Rules 2nd edition (AACR2) and older standards; and
- addition of RDA fields 336, 337 and 338 to the LA Search WebCat input form.

Testing of this Configuration Release is well advanced and it will be implemented in production during March.

The Libraries Australia Search and Document Delivery services were updated in early March to support the searching and display of RDA data elements.

Cataloguing Policy changes
With the introduction of RDA, Libraries Australia is replacing the current Minimum Record Standard with a new standard called Required Data Elements. In addition to the RDA changes, the new standard includes a small number of additional codes and fields that will make matching and merging more accurate and result in fewer duplicate records. Most records sent to Libraries Australia already meet the new standard, except for the new RDA data elements, and we hope that the new requirements will not be onerous for contributing libraries.

From March onwards RDA will be the standard for new records added to Libraries Australia. However, we realise that in the coming year libraries will be at different stages of their RDA implementations therefore AACR2 records will continue to be accepted for at least the next year.

From March onwards when Cataloguers use an existing non-RDA record for copy cataloguing they may choose to upgrade it to RDA; however, this is not compulsory. If upgrading a record, the entire record must be examined and upgraded before changing the coding to RDA. Cataloguers may choose to add selected RDA data
elements to existing non-RDA records. However, the coding of the record should not be changed to RDA unless the entire record has been examined and upgraded. Standards and system documentation on the Libraries Australia web site is being updated.

Data changes

Libraries Australia is already in the process of changing selected Authority records to reflect RDA practice. These include headings for the Bible and Koran, and spelling out abbreviations for musical terms and “Dept.”. These changes will appear in the Cataloguing service as soon as they are made. However, some will not appear in Libraries Australia Search until the new Search service is delivered, later in the year.

We will also investigate opportunities for global changes to selected bibliographic records so that they more closely reflect RDA practice. These may include addition of 33X fields (where there is no ambiguity) and the spelling out of abbreviations in some fields.

Improving the Australian National Bibliographic Database

The Relate software linking authority and bibliographic records completed its second pass over the NBD (National Bibliographic Database) on 15 November. Relate is now in maintenance mode, with a nightly run linking new and updated records plus a run each quarter across the entire database. The software matches headings in bibliographic records with the corresponding authority record. When a matching authority record is found, the preferred heading and authority record control number are inserted in the bibliographic record. This process improves the quality of bibliographic records by replacing non-preferred headings with the preferred form. At this stage the software has been configured to process Name, Name-Title, Uniform Title and Topical Subject headings. In the future we aim to configure the linking of the remaining subject headings.

As a result, a new Libraries Australia product, Linked Authorities, is now available. It provides a customised file of authority records tailored to the requesting library’s own collection (i.e. containing only authority records linked to bibliographic records with the requesting library’s holding). The charges for this new product are included in the Fees and Charges schedule at www.nla.gov.au/librariesaustralia/about/fees-charges/#additional-services.

The duplicate detection and resolution (DDR) software removed 227,768 duplicate bibliographic records from the NBD between 1 July 2012 and 28 February 2013. This brings the total number of duplicate records removed by DDR to over 1.4 million.
Libraries Australia Document Delivery Service

LADD Development

An agreement to allow requests to be sent to the British Library Document Supply Centre (BLDSC) was signed in 2011 but could not be implemented because of system issues. That agreement expired and the BLDSC subsequently made significant changes to the document supply services that it offers to libraries outside the United Kingdom. The British Library closed its Library Privileges Service (LPS) under pressure from STM publishers, and replaced it with two services: the International Non-Commercial Document Supply Service (INCD); and the Copyright Fee Paid service (CFP). The INCD service imposed onerous record keeping and reporting responsibilities on libraries opting to use the service, resulting in a dramatic collapse in the number of INCD requests compared to previous LPS requests. From 2013, no government libraries are eligible to use the INCD service. As a result, Libraries Australia has signed a new agreement with BLSDC for its Copyright Fee Paid service only. Testing of interoperability is underway and it is hoped that the service can be implemented later in the year.

ISO ILL Protocol

OCLC Melbourne closed its hosted Queensland Health VDX system, where the Queensland Health libraries had been interoperating with LADD via the ISO ILL protocol. Almost all Queensland Health libraries elected to return to LADD as standard users. Australian Catholic University Electronic Resources, a member of UNILINC using the Aleph interlibrary loan system, successfully completed testing to interoperate with LADD via the ISO ILL protocol. There are now 102 libraries using their own ISO ILL compliant systems to interoperate with LADD.

Libraries Australia Search

Searches between July 2012 and February 2013 were 11% higher than target and 12% higher than last year.

Work to replace the search platform continued as part of the Libraries Australia Search Redevelopment (LASR) project, and a separate briefing will be provided.
Relations with the Libraries Australia Membership

Memberships

There are 1,283 current members of Libraries Australia, a decrease from 1,288 in February 2012 (-0.4%). The number of user-ids decreased by 0.2%:

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contributing libraries</td>
<td>6,188</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-contributing libraries</td>
<td>1,479</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total this year (last year 7,683)</td>
<td>7,667</td>
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Between November 2012 and February 2013 there were 16 cancellations, including eight special library closures and four individual accounts. In the same timeframe, there were three new registrations.

Enquiries

Enquiries from November to February were 1% higher than for the same period in 2011-12. Approximately 80% of all enquiries are received through the Libraries Australia Reftracker web form:

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Telephone</td>
<td>372</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Web form</td>
<td>2,051</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Email direct</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>2,448</td>
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Enquiry topics range from requests relating to the Cataloguing Client (including requests to download the software); new bookshops interested in deep linking and LADD issues such as logging in, passwords, suspensions, requests, Docstore, admin statements and alert subscriptions. Duplicate records continue to be reported. Requests relating to the Australian Libraries Gateway (including the addition of new accounts and information currency) indicate the ongoing utility of the Gateway.

A significant outage of the Record Import Service and Record Export Service in late February resulted in a noticeable increase in the number of telephone calls received.

Training courses

A panel for the provision of both face-to-face and online training services was established, and marks the first of a number of small but significant changes to update training offerings and to ensure training is available Australia-wide. For example, the panel agreed to support a new arrangement to provide the Document Delivery course for remote users, see [www.nla.gov.au/librariesaustralia/training-support/online-training/](http://www.nla.gov.au/librariesaustralia/training-support/online-training/). The trainers have worked closely with the Libraries Australia team to ensure that information about their services is current on the
Libraries Australia website\(^3\). A total of four courses were delivered during the reporting period.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th># courses</th>
<th>#trainees</th>
<th>Venue</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LA Document Delivery</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>NSW, Vic</td>
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<tr>
<td>LADD online</td>
<td>1</td>
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<td>WA</td>
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<tr>
<td>LA Search</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LA Cataloguing Client</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>ACT</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Outreach activity**

A newsletter was issued in December 2012 and featured the small booklet which was made available at the Libraries Australia Forum in October: *Enhancing and Maintaining the Quality of the Australian National Bibliographic Database*\(^4\). The booklet describes discrete actions which, together with close management by the Libraries Australia team, make a huge difference to the discovery, cataloguing and interlending experience.

Libraries Australia staff attended several User Group meetings in Canberra, Hobart and Brisbane. Planning for the 2013 Libraries Australia Forum commenced. It will be held at the University of Melbourne on 31 October, in conjunction with an Australian Committee on Cataloguing forum, and the end-of-year Libraries Australia Advisory Committee meeting.

Email lists continue to be an important communication tool, with 1,497 subscribers to the Libraries Australia discussion list and 787 subscribers to the Libraries Australia Document Delivery discussion list. This complements the new Libraries Australia Twitter account, which now has 324 followers.

**Libraries Australia Advisory Committee**

At its October 2012 meeting, the Libraries Australia Advisory Committee farewelled Ms Anne Horn, who made an extensive contribution to the governance of Libraries Australia, especially through her chairmanship of the Committee since 2010. The Council of Australian University Librarians nominated Ms JoAnne Sparks, University Librarian at Macquarie University, as their new representative in Anne’s place.

In February 2013 Ms Monika Szunejko, a previous representative of National and State Libraries Australasia (NSLA), joined the Libraries Australia team as Manager, National Bibliographic Database after moving from Perth to take up the position. Monika is a very welcome addition to the team.

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\(^3\) www.nla.gov.au/librariesaustralia/training-support/

Recommendation

The Committee to note the report.

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