CHANGES TO PUBLIC STATISTICS

Background

In 2010, the Libraries Australia office provided a range of new statistics to indicate activity with Libraries Australia services including searching, document requesting and supplying, and coverage represented as quantity of holdings on the Australian National Bibliographic Database. These were analysed by sector with individual contributions of holdings further quantified, and their availability made for a very interesting presentation by Libraries Australia Forum speaker Constance Malpas in 2010.

In the same year there was extensive commentary from the public regarding out-of-date information in Trove regarding library holdings, and the issue was highlighted in a Libraries Australia newsletter:

“Lack of currency of holdings
A bigger problem has been the frustration caused by holdings which remain on the ANBD for works that are no longer held by libraries. The records for these works have been deleted from the local catalogue, but delete files have not been generated for the ANBD. Of course, when a user of Trove finds such a holding and attempts to reserve or borrow the work, or find it in the local catalogue, that user will find that the holdings information is wrong. This may undermine their confidence in Trove, in their own searching, or in the local library service, and may well lead to time-consuming enquires for both services. The problem is particularly critical for public libraries that undertake regular de-selection of their collection based on usage information. The Libraries Australia team is now aiming to work together with member libraries to find better and more efficient mechanisms to obtain routine delete files.”

Since that time, the Libraries Australia Database Services team has continued to encourage and support the updating of holdings through a variety of mechanisms.

To gauge the ongoing extent of the issue, a new set of statistics has been produced and these have been made available on the Libraries Australia website.

Summary of contributing members

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>Count</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>within previous 12 months</td>
<td>508</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>previous 18 months</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt; 18 months</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>&gt; 60 months</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>7%</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>635</td>
<td>100%</td>
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</tbody>
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Recommendation

The Committee to note the report.

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