CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE ANBD - ENGAGEMENT WITH SYSTEM COMMUNITIES OF PRACTICE

PURPOSE
1. To update the Libraries Australia Advisory Committee (LAAC) on the Library’s engagement with library system communities of practice to improve data flows to the Australian National Bibliographic Database (ANBD).

BACKGROUND
2. Over the last two to three years Libraries Australia has successfully engaged with a number of library management system vendors and their Australian customers to develop what we are referring to as ‘communities of practice’, to share information and seek improvements to their local systems. The Library has worked with several library system communities to learn more about their environments and gather local expertise about data management and export. In all cases the aim is to streamline the way Australian libraries contribute their bibliographic records and holdings data to the national union catalogue.

3. Libraries Australia has approximately 1,200 member libraries. Each library uses a library system, and to develop effective data engagement strategies with members it is vital that the Library knows more about the system and data environment used in each member library.

KNOWLEDGE OF LIBRARY SYSTEMS INTERACTING WITH LIBRARIES AUSTRALIA
4. Details of library systems used by member libraries are obtained from libraries at the time bibliographical and holdings data are supplied via the Record Import Service (RIS). Profiles are developed for the ingest of records and holdings data and Libraries Australia staff have developed local expertise at the point of ingest to the ANBD.

5. Information relating to library systems can also be found in the Australian Libraries Gateway (ALG) directory. However, these details are often out of date or incomplete, as the onus is on libraries to maintain their own directory entries. It is difficult to gain an accurate snapshot of the systems that Libraries Australia members use.

6. Being able to identify which libraries use which systems; which libraries within those system clusters are actively contributing to the ANBD; and where there may be similar issues relating to content, audience, and resources to improve the baseline of contribution would allow the Library to provide support or direct focus to where it is needed most. The Library’s Directory Redevelopment Project will improve these aspects of capturing business information alongside improvements to the facility for Australian libraries to update their own information on the directories.

ADVOCACY FOR AUSTRALIAN LIBRARIES
7. The Library has held discussions with Ex Libris and the Alma community, OCLC and WMS libraries, Libero libraries, Innovative Millennium and Sierra libraries regarding ways to streamline data contributions to the ANBD. The Library has recently opened discussions with SirsiDynix libraries across Australia.

8. Working with each library system and vendor is different. The ‘Alma experience’ highlighted the role the Library plays in advocating for Australian libraries. Prior to the Library’s intervention Ex Libris had not made it possible for contributions to be made to the ANBD. OCLC already had a strong connection with Libraries Australia and insists that WMS libraries maintain a subscription to Libraries Australia that enables cost effective
Access to WorldCat (via the Collaborative Agreement the Library has on behalf of all member libraries with OCLC).

Following work with these two major vendors, the Library approached Innovative and the Australasian Innovative User Group (AIUG) Committee to discuss streamlining their contributions. The State Library of Western Australia piloted a project to streamline contributions to Libraries Australia and has subsequently shared its procedure with the community through AIUG. The AIUG community has not actively engaged with this work.

The Library gathered several libraries from the Libero system community to share their processes and procedures to improve data flows. This improved the data contributions of two libraries.

In September 2016, the Library gathered interested SirsiDynix libraries to share information, processes and procedures to get a picture of the barriers to simple contribution to the ANBD. This community of practice is already shedding light on the processes causing the most problems for SirsiDynix libraries.

In late September, the Library was approached by Civica to initiate a conversation about assisting public libraries using the Spydus system who are keen to see an easier way for them to update Libraries Australia holdings.

This growth in engagement demonstrates the power of ‘peer pressure’ or ‘vendor competition’ to respond to market needs for functional change in systems.

Libraries are not always in a position to advocate for functional systems changes that help them engage with third parties. Ideally, user groups take on this role but competing priorities and the perception of a limited voice can prevent action.

The Library (through its advocacy and value proposition of global reach) delivers a coherent voice for Australian libraries to gain better value from their system vendors.

**BUSINESS IMPACT**

Working with member libraries either directly, via their vendor, in conjunction with their vendor or with their consortium representatives has provided Libraries Australia with various avenues of engagement. Member libraries have benefitted from improved workflows and efficiencies in their data flows to Libraries Australia and Trove, more up-to-date holdings on the ANBD with flow-on effects to more efficient ILL requests, and more tangible value of their Libraries Australia subscription through personalised and collaborative service.

**RECOMMENDATION**

1. The Libraries Australia Advisory Committee notes the report.

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27/10/2016