Libraries Australia Advisory Committee meeting

WEDNESDAY 21 JUNE 2017
NATIONAL LIBRARY OF AUSTRALIA, CANBERRA

The role of the Libraries Australia Advisory Committee (LAAC) is to provide advice on strategic issues which influence the delivery of the Libraries Australia service, the broad direction of service development, and changes in the library community which are likely to affect services.

Key messages

Welcome and congratulations

Welcome: Dr Marie-Louise Ayres, Director-Director, National Library of Australia, attended her first LAAC meeting in her new role.

Congratulations: Long-standing LAAC member Dr Ann Ritchie’s contribution to the library community, exemplified in her contribution to LAAC, was recognised with an ALIA Fellowship.

Welcome: Kevin Bradley attended the LAAC meeting as A/Assistant-Director General, National Collections Access, National Library of Australia following Dr Marie-Louise Ayres’ appointment as Director-General, NLA.

Australian libraries build the Australian National Bibliographic Database (ANBD)

Libraries Australia continues to work with members and library system vendors to establish communities of practice of libraries using the same systems. The Committee was updated on the team’s work with vendors to optimise data contributions to the ANBD. Thanks to this work, member libraries benefit from:

- improved workflows and efficiencies as their data flows to Libraries Australia and Trove
- more up-to-date holdings on the ANBD with flow-on effects to support more efficient ILL requests
- tangible value of their Libraries Australia membership through personalised and collaborative service.

Libraries Australia: The Summer Sessions—evaluation report

Libraries Australia presented an evaluation of the recent professional development webinar series The Summer Sessions as an easy-to-follow infographic. The report captures the facts, figures, images and voices of the participants.

Libraries Australia members can access the report via the Libraries Australia website.

Trans-Tasman resource sharing continues to evolve

The Committee discussed the status of Trans-Tasman resource sharing, the evolving Inter-library Lending market, and the impact on Libraries Australia activities and services. Information about discussions with OCLC and Te Puna has been provided to Libraries Australia members via the Libraries Australia email lists.
Special libraries subscription review

Following a scheduled review of special library subscriptions, membership fees and the tier structure for special libraries for 2017-2018 will remain the same. The review recognised the value and impact of special libraries in the Australian context as they hold unique collections and are a vital element in the research collection infrastructure requested by other library sectors. Despite facing a number of pressures from closures, reduced operating size and budgets, and structural changes in government, special libraries are an important part of the national service and their membership to Libraries Australia enables them to operate with efficiencies and participate in national resource sharing to serve their users.

Impact of UNILINC closure on Libraries Australia members

The UNILINC consortium will wind up by 31 October 2017. UNILINC was formed in 1978 to develop and operate a library network for the benefit of its members, and has played an important role in the Australian library market to support libraries through shared services and training. UNILINC has provided its members with an annual subscription to Libraries Australia. The 21 organisations that were members of the UNILINC consortium will now access Libraries Australia services via a direct Libraries Australia membership from 1 July 2017. Libraries Australia has been working with UNILINC and member libraries to ensure that all 21 organisations experience seamless membership and service transition, and their 1.5 million holdings remain available via the Australian National Bibliographic Database (ANBD).

National Library considers future of national digital services

The National Library sought advice from LAAC members on the development of a new framework for cooperatively managing the suite of Australian collaborative digital services into the future. With the digital infrastructure underpinning Trove and Libraries Australia becoming increasingly integrated, the National Library is proposing a new governance and funding model that enables greater involvement by contributing partners and better ensures the long-term sustainability of our collaborative services. LAAC members provided valuable input on the draft agreement which will inform the next iteration.

Libraries Australia revitalises website and profile

The launch of the new Libraries Australia website is planned for late August 2017.

Libraries Australia is also revitalising other promotional material. The ‘Many services, one tool’ advertisement below appeared in the program for the New Librarians’ Symposium http://nls8.com/. A series of five posters—‘Search’, ‘Share’, ‘Describe’, ‘Expose’ and ‘Analyse’—provide a fresh perspective on Libraries Australia services and their value to members. Versions of these posters and advertisement will also be available as postcards.

Next meeting

The next Libraries Australia Advisory Committee meeting will be held in November 2017.