LIBRARIES AUSTRALIA SEARCH REDEVELOPMENT: UPDATE

PURPOSE
1  To advise the Libraries Australia Advisory Committee (LAAC) members on the progress of the Libraries Australia Search Redevelopment (LASR) project.

DELIVERY OF NEW SERVICE
2  At the last LAAC meeting it was reported that the Libraries Australia Search Redevelopment (LASR) project was due for completion by the end of March 2014. Work is progressing very well, but unfortunately, this timetable has now pushed back to the end of June 2014. Our March timeframe was contingent on adding an additional developer to the team, and this has not proven possible in the current environment. This delay has been communicated to Libraries Australia members.

PROJECT BOARD
3  The LASR project is governed by a Project Board comprising Mark Corbould (Assistant Director-General, Information Technology) as Chair, and Marie-Louise Ayres and Amelia McKenzie. The Board meets monthly with the Project Manager, Sue Collier.

PROJECT PLAN AND PROGRESS
4  The project is divided into four stages, with the first three stages now complete. Stage 4 is well underway and is now expected to be completed by the end of June 2014. This stage includes the completion of remaining functionality for the user interface: modifications to associated systems; development of online help; updating of the manual, website and other documentation; establishment of a training environment; and deployment of the new service into production.

5  As part of this process, the Libraries Australia Search Redevelopment Project team has released early, although incomplete, versions of the new system to Libraries Australia users so that any issues can be addressed prior to the production release and to ensure that it meets user needs.

6  The first release of the new Search interface, Alpha v 0.1, was released to members for comment over a 3 week period during May and June 2013, and a second release, Alpha v 0.2, was released for a two week period in October 2013. A demonstration and update was also provided to LAAC members at their October meeting and the Libraries Australia members at the Libraries Australia Forum on 31 October 2013.

7  21 feedback submissions were received from Libraries Australia members in response to the Alpha v 0.2 release, as well as positive feedback received at the Libraries Australia Forum.

8  Positive feedback has been received about the site in general, and a number of adjustments were made based on suggestions from this release. Members particularly like the new functionality that has been developed based on user feedback and requirements:
- Compare records and report duplicates (allows users to select and compare 2-4 records side by side (in full or MARC view), and report duplicates using a pre-populated form); and
- Favourite Libraries (available to all users to enable them to select any number of favourite libraries to recognise reciprocal libraries, preferred libraries or libraries that they are affiliated with).

This version was the last one to be released to members before the final production release version is implemented.

COMMUNICATION AND USER SUPPORT

Communication about the final release into production will continue via email, news items, twitter, blog and the Libraries Australia newsletter. To assist members in the transition to the new service, the Search manual is being updated (in consultation with LA trainers) and documentation that highlights the changes will be provided. Support via training courses and the Libraries Australia Helpdesk will also be available. After release, feedback will continue to be solicited for two months using the feedback mechanism used for the Alpha releases.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

1. The Libraries Australia Advisory Committee notes the report.

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