LIBRARIES AUSTRALIA STATUS REPORT
November 2013-March 2014

PURPOSE

1 This report provides highlights of Libraries Australia activities over the five month timeframe since the last briefing was provided at the Libraries Australia Advisory Committee meeting. In previous years this report also included detailed statistical tables relating to the period covered by the report; this and future reports will only provide this information on an exceptions basis.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND MILESTONES

2 The major achievements during this period have been:

- Thanks to the contribution of member libraries, the milestone of 25 million bibliographic records in the Australian National Bibliographic Databases (ANBD) was achieved in January 2014.
- In March 2014, the CJM software was implemented which will give the Libraries Australia team greater autonomy in performing data management tasks in CBS.
- Strong planning and attention to detail resulted in a successful upgrade in March to the VDX system which supports the Libraries Australia Document Delivery (LADD) system.

LIBRARIES AUSTRALIA STAFFING AND CAPABILITY

3 As reported at the October 2013 LAAC meeting the National Library has developed a Library Leadership Capability Model; copies of the related resource kit will be made available to LAAC members at the April 2014 meeting. The purpose of this kit is to help the Library to focus on leadership development. The capabilities identified in the model (vision, stewardship, collaboration, discovery) are those necessary to meet the current and future business needs of the Library.

4 Changes to staffing have provided an additional impetus for Libraries Australia to develop staff capability and the opportunity to review workflows and practices. Libraries Australia farewelled two long-serving members of the team in November and December 2013. In November 2013, the Australian Public Service Commissioner issued interim recruitment guidelines aimed at assisting the Commonwealth Government to achieve significant reductions in the number of Australian Public Service employees. The guidelines set out steps that must be taken when filling ongoing vacancies, with advertising outside the Australian Public Service intended to be a rare occurrence. The practical implications of the guidelines are that the Library has been trying to fill ongoing positions through a combination of higher duties arrangements, recruitment from the APS redeployment register and, occasionally, non-ongoing appointments for 12 months (these cannot be extended under any circumstances).

5 While there are processes by which agencies can seek permission to advertise first within the APS and, if no suitable candidates are found, outside the APS, all recruitment processes have been slowed to a significant degree. There are five permanent and one temporary vacancy (i.e. 25% of all positions) in the Libraries Australia team, four of which are presently filled on a temporary basis and one of which is under recruitment as an internal expression of interest. The Library will proceed with requests to advertise a number of these positions inside the APS in the first instance. Knowledge transfer and skills development has been a
focus recently, with new staff members attending Libraries Australia Cataloguing and Document Delivery training in March, and ten staff members attending User Acceptance Testing training in April 2014.

**LIBRARIES AUSTRALIA VALUE STATEMENT REVIEW**

A review of the Libraries Australia value statements, originally published in 2007, is underway. A single new statement will be developed to reflect the ongoing value of Libraries Australia to Australian libraries, along with some supporting material tailored to different sectors. The value statement will now include reference to the additional value members gain through having their collections exposed via Trove.

**LIBRARIES AUSTRALIA CATALOGUING SERVICE**

The Libraries Australia team is pioneering work to include bibliographic records created in two new cloud-based Library management Systems in the ANBD. The Database Services branch is working with OCLC to load records and holdings loaded to WorldCat from Australian libraries using WorldShare Management Services (WMS), and with Ex Libris to establish the most efficient data flow from Alma to Libraries Australia. This is a significant workflow change for member libraries and the Database Services branch, and has the potential to improve currency and coverage of Australian library holdings. With a large number of libraries moving to these systems in the next 6-12 months, ensuring effective data flows will be a major preoccupation for the Libraries Australian team.

**LIBRARIES AUSTRALIA CATALOGUING (CBS)**

As reported at the October 2013 meeting, the 2013 visit by the Director of Database Services to a European meeting of OCLC customers has yielded fruit. A software project (the CBS Job Manager) in which the Library and other European national agencies had invested, had languished without OCLC delivering a useable product. Thanks to the intervention of Libraries Australia, OCLC recommenced work on the project. As of March 2014, the Library has now implemented the CJM software which will give the Libraries Australia team greater autonomy for scheduling more complex data management tasks in CBS, improving global data quality improvement capability, reducing reliance on OCLC and accelerating task completion.

**LIBRARIES AUSTRALIA PRODUCTS**

Following the discussion of Libraries Australia Products at the October 2013 meeting, the number of member libraries seeking products has remained constant. The SIALS products (generating the most significant revenue from Products delivery) have recommenced, ensuring $35,000 revenue for this financial year. The promotional booklet outlining ten scenarios where a Libraries Australia Product could assist libraries did not translate into increased demand for the Products service. However, a small number of recent enquiries from libraries seeking information about the status of their collections (uniqueness, number of holdings on the ANBD, etc.) have confirmed the use and value of data products derived from the ANBD and the need to re-imagine the products service. These enquiries related to collection analysis snapshots of special library collections (at the point of considering library closures) and a request from an NSLA library for an overlap analysis of the collection to support decision making relating to print and eBook acquisition. A brief survey seeking information on knowledge and use of Libraries Australia Products was distributed to members in mid-April 2014.
RDA (Resource Description and Access) Implementation

The uptake of RDA by Australian libraries began as a trickle of records into the national database, but has begun to flow with 394,545 RDA records now on the ANBD. In April 2013, the first month since configuring the Libraries Australia system to support RDA data, the database was surveyed to see how many RDA records had been contributed. At that time there were approximately 88,000 RDA records, 80% sourced from Library of Congress and 11% from the National Library of Australia and the British National Bibliography. Of records locally produced over half were from the NLA together with a strong representation from library vendors, and one or two State libraries and a couple of university libraries. Now 9 months later in Jan 2014, the number of RDA records has rocketed by 450% to 394,545 records. This is roughly a climb from 0.3% of total database records to 1.6%. The general pattern is the same, with most records sourced from the Library of Congress and the NLA. However the quick take up by Australian library suppliers has now been joined by the bulk of the State libraries and several more universities. There are also a large number of educational and local governmental institutions that have contributed smaller numbers of RDA records and which are obviously testing the RDA waters.

Libraries Australia Document Delivery Service

Strong planning and attention to detail resulted in a successful upgrade to the VDX system which supports the Libraries Australia Document Delivery (LADD) system. Moving from VDX4.1.4 to VDX6.1, the upgrade project took 12 months to complete (longer than anticipated due to two significant periods when LADD staff were unavailable). Staff from three Divisions of the Library worked together to ensure that LADD’s 700 regular users were without this key resource sharing system for only half of one business day. During the project the LADD team assisted a number of LADD members to test their own upgrades to VDX 7.3 on hosted services. Libraries Australia was one of the last VDX sites to move to version 6.3.

Libraries Australia Search

Work to replace the search platform continued as part of the Libraries Australia Search Redevelopment (LASR) project, and a separate paper on this has been provided.

Libraries Australia Memberships

Between November 2013 and February 2014 there were 12 cancellations, including five special library closures. In the same timeframe, there were 14 new registrations, including six from the education sector.

Member Communication

The major outreach activity in this period was the 2013 Libraries Australia Forum, and a separate paper evaluating this has been provided.

Other outreach activities included the Libraries Australia newsletters which were produced in December 2013 and March 2014, and the attendance of Deirdre Kiorgaard at a User Group meeting in Brisbane in November 2013.

The milestone of 25 million bibliographic records in the ANBD and other milestones are now more prominent on the Libraries Australia website in a re-vamped About us page http://www.nla.gov.au/librariesaustralia/about/. Member Services staff are also investigating using infographics to present statistics about the ANBD.
RECOMMENDATION(S)

1. The Libraries Australia Advisory Committee notes the report.

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9/04/2014