LIBRARIES AUSTRALIA SEARCH REDEVELOPMENT: UPDATE

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

Delivery of new service
At the last meeting it was reported that the project was on schedule to be completed by or shortly after the end of June 2013, in line with the original 12 month project estimate. However, detailed analysis of the functionality required in Stages 3 and 4 revealed that tasks were more complex than had originally been thought, and that more time would be needed to deliver the best possible service to meet member needs.

It is now expected that the new Search Service will be delivered by the end of March 2014.

Project plan and progress
The project is divided into four stages, with the first three stages now complete.

Stage 1 commenced in May 2012 and concluded on 10 September. The update report of October 2012 detailed the key deliverables of Stage 1: research findings based on the Libraries Australia business review, specific surveys and site visits; and development and prioritisation of requirements.

Stage 2 commenced 10 September 2012, and testing was concluded on 23 January, with the exception of a small number of issues which were carried over into Stage 3. Stage 2 deliverables included: the Search database; the Z39.50 interface; the Loader; a set of user interface wireframes; and infrastructure for the development, Test 1 and Test 2 environments.

Stage 3 commenced in January, and was concluded in June with the release of an Alpha version of the Libraries Australia Search user interface.

This Alpha v 0.1 was released to members for comment over a 3 week period during May and June. This version included: authentication; simple and advanced search screens; search results (including external databases); full record view screens (both label and MARC views); statefulness; and search term highlighting.

Members were encouraged to test the user interface and provide feedback on the user design decisions (core functionality), changes made to indexes in Stage 2, and implementation of search term highlighting using Solr (identified as a risk; Solr does
not provide the same level of out of the box highlighting support as Teratext). 60 feedback submissions were received during this time, with many positive comments on the interface resulting in several adjustments being made and an indication that the project is on track to deliver a new search service to meet user needs.

Robust testing of the Z39.50 interface by a select group of external libraries was also undertaken in Stage 3.

Stage 4 is well underway and is expected to be completed by the end of March 2014. This stage will see 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.

An Alpha v 0.2 of the new Libraries Australia Search interface will be made available to members for comment over a two week period before, during and after the Libraries Australia Forum (LAF). A demonstration and update will also be provided to members at the LAF on 31 October.

This version includes two new pieces of functionality which were developed in response to 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 also includes: fixes to the advanced search identified in stage 3; additional search features, browse, search history, personal accounts, and command search. This version will be the last one to be released to members before the final production release version is implemented.

**Recommendation**

The Committee to note the report.

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