



What Is Our Future ? National Libraries In 2040

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Singapore

Country Report

[Period Coverage: 1 January 2018 – 31 December 2018]

Name of Country : Australia
Name of Library : National Library of Australia
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1 Facts and Figures

Sn	Item Description	Figures (based on 2017-18 financial year)
a	Operating Budget i. Government ii. External Sources	\$52.7 million \$14.7 million
b	Total Staff (FTE) i. Graduate or Post Graduate with library qualifications ii. Other Qualifications	The full time equivalent staffing average for 2017-18 was 382. Education data not available.

c	Collection Size i. Physical collection ii. Digital collection preserved	The Library's physical collections span 259 shelf kilometres with approximately 10 million collection items. The Library's digital collections comprise 5 petabytes of digital storage.
d	Visitorship (Annual) i. Physical visits to reading rooms ii. Digital visits to websites	270,967 visitors to the Library's three Reading Rooms. There were 36.08 million visits to the NLA website, including 27.45 million visits to the Trove platform.
e	Inter Library Loans provided (Annual)	18,561 items provided through the Interlibrary Loan program

2 Overview of Major or New Developments in Library Buildings, Collections, Access or Services [Please provide a maximum of 5 highlights]

50th Anniversary program

The Library celebrated fifty years since the opening of its building in 1968, with a lively event program that successfully engaged with new and diverse audiences across Australia. The program commenced in February with the exhibition *1968: Changing Times*, which explored this remarkable year through the prism of the Library's collections. Fifteen onsite events related to the anniversary were delivered, including Library Up Late, our first ever adults only event. Library staff also held the inaugural National Library Parliamentary Showcase, taking a selection of extraordinary collection items to Federal Parliament House, inviting Federal Members and Senators to meet with staff, discover the collection, and learn more about the Library.

The program concluded in August with the National Library Open Day, the first since 2001. The Library opened its doors to 8,500 visitors who enjoyed staff talks, screenings, collection viewing and a cake-cutting ceremony. Staff and volunteers also delivered 60 tours throughout the building, all booked to capacity.

Complementing the onsite events, were a number of innovative social media initiatives including [NLA50ppl on Instagram](#) and the [Trove 50 Favourite Things blog](#). The Library established its first National Library Ambassadors Program, which engaged five high-profile Australian writers with strong links to the Library, to participate in events, write on their connections to the Library and amplify Library content to their social media connections.

Web Archive

The Library has been finalising the development of the Australian Web Archive (AWA). The AWA will be the largest publically accessible fully text searchable web archive in the world, providing Australians with access to twenty-two years of Australian websites and preserving

our history for future generations. Accessible via Trove, the AWA will enhance understanding of the last 20 years of our nation's history, making a huge body of previously inaccessible content readily available, and closing the 'digital gap' that exists in the documentary record of Australia through the nineties and the early 21st Century.

This year, the Library has been completing the technical build, search functions and user testing. It has also undertaken major risk assessments on privacy considerations and managing potentially offensive material. Following consultation and endorsement from key stakeholders, the Library is preparing to publicly release the AWA in March 2019.

Marble Façade Replacement Program

The Library's Marble Façade Replacement Program was completed in May 2018 following nine months of major construction works. The Library's iconic building is known for its classical columns and distinctive marble facade. However, since the building opened in 1968, the marble cladding on the Library's fascia had begun to show signs of wear.

The heritage-listed site demanded a replacement program that honoured the building's national significance and aesthetic values while ensuring its longevity and functionality. Drawing on local and international expertise, the project team investigated and tested various kinds of marble, finally selecting marble from a Carrara quarry in Italy. The team also undertook extensive overseas research into a suitable system for fixing the cladding in place. The result was an innovative hybrid solution. Made with high-quality German components, it is the first example in the world to allow natural movement in the Carrara marble to prevent bowing.

Indigenous Engagement Activities

The Library was delighted that Ms Rebecca Bateman was appointed as the Library's first Indigenous Curator in January 2018. As Indigenous Curator, Ms Bateman has been building networks with Indigenous communities, colleagues, and galleries, libraries, archives and museums across Australia.

The Library commenced the two year First Nations Consultation project in July 2018. The project seeks to provide greater access to Library collections which are known to be rich in language and other cultural information. Focus collections for the project include the Pitjantjatjara photographic collections; the Robert Hamilton Mathews collection (19-20th century personal archive documenting language content); and related Indigenous published works. The Library is working towards a proper dialogue that instates appropriate rights and attribution, seeks advice from the relevant communities regarding prioritisation and descriptive practices, and consults where applicable on access and use. The project will build on existing relationships with the relevant communities.

In 2018, the Library convened an internal working group to begin the process of developing a Reconciliation Action Plan, a workplace framework for Australian organisations to support the national reconciliation movement between Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and nonindigenous people.

Fundraising Strategy

The Library has embarked on an exciting new direction for its fundraising and philanthropy activities. In early 2018, an independent review was undertaken which recommended the Library develop a long term fundraising strategy aimed at securing significant major gifts that can be channelled into focused projects to unlock the Library's collections.

The Library accepted the recommendations and has been laying the foundations for implementation in early 2019. This includes developing a Case for Support that presents a compelling argument to donors, recruiting an experienced fundraising professional and investigating new governance arrangements to support the ambitious targets.

3 Collaborations with Libraries, Archives and Museums in your Country [Please provide a maximum of 5 highlights]

National edeposit

The Library has been continuing to work with members of National and State Libraries Australia (NSLA) on the National edeposit (NED) system, which extends the Library's edeposit system under combined Commonwealth and state legal deposit frameworks. Known as NED, the new system provides a shared and unified infrastructure for collecting, preserving and providing access to Australia's digital publications. Throughout 2018, the Library has been working on the technical build and liaising closely with publishers to encourage participation in the scheme. A cross-institutional steering group has also developed supporting policies and procedures to ensure the service is fully operational by early 2019.

Pacific Digital Archives

The National Library has been collaborating with the Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the National Library of New Zealand (NLNZ) to develop the Pacific Digital Archive: a portal to make digitised Pacific content more accessible to Pacific island nations. Under the proposal, the NLNZ will host the service and the archive would commence with aggregation of digital Pacific content that is already available via Trove and the NLNZ's Digital NZ services. In the future, the portal will potentially expand to include digitised or born digital Pacific cultural heritage from international institutions and services.

Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies

In 2018, the Library worked with colleagues from the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islands Studies (AIATSIS) to propose the addition of over 200 endorsed indigenous language codes (the 'Austlang' list) to the Library of Congress MARC Codes list - a proposal that was immediately accepted. This means that a full and appropriate list of MARC codes for over 200 First Nations languages will be available to any holding library, in Australia or the world, significantly improving access to this unique part of Australian culture.

4 International Collaborations such as Formal Arrangements for Cooperation with National Libraries [Please provide a maximum of 5 highlights]

Memorandum of Understanding with the National Library Board of Singapore

In January 2018, the National Library entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the National Library Board of Singapore to explore collaborative activities in four target areas: Singaporean culture and heritage; Australian culture and heritage; professional exchanges and peer reviews and exploring the scope for collaborative projects.

Regional relationships and the Sustainable Development Goals

A number of the Library's international regional relationships have been strengthened through regional initiatives in 2018. The Library was a contributor and supporter of the International Network of Emerging Library Innovators (INELI) Oceania program, which with support from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation delivered two programs aiming to nurture and develop library leaders in Australia, New Zealand and the South Pacific. INELI Oceania wound up this highly successful program with a Pacific Libraries Summit in Fiji in June 2018, which brought together Australian, New Zealand and Pacific library stakeholders and practitioners. The meeting developed a clear statement of intent setting out the practical goals and actions needed to strengthen the impact of Pacific libraries.

The Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA) made the explicit connection between libraries and the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by hosting *Our Global Future*, a Summit for library leaders on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) on the Gold Coast in late July. Fifty delegates from Australia and the Asia-Pacific region, including the Director-General and three CEOs from Australian state and territory libraries, gathered for the meeting. Nearly a third of the audience were from the region, including Fiji, India, Indonesia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Sri Lanka and Timor-Leste. The full day meeting built a shared understanding of how libraries contribute to the SDGs. Participants also agreed on 34 actions ranging from mapping the SDGs in corporate plans, developing case studies to demonstrate the impact of libraries on the SDGs and assisting Pacific island libraries to prepare and advocate for library legislation in their own countries.

Senior executive visits to national libraries

During 2018, the Library's senior executive staff visited national libraries in the region, helping to strengthen our working relationships.

In August 2018, Ms Amelia McKenzie, Assistant Director-General Collections Management, visited the Library's Jakarta Office, located with the Australian Embassy in Jakarta and met with Embassy staff. Ms McKenzie also visited the National Library of Indonesia and met with the Deputy Director.

Ms Maureen Dupree, Assistant Director-General Corporate Group, was a guest at the National Library of New Zealand in November, to discuss resource allocation and organisational structures.

International loans

A major new exhibition, *Cook and the Pacific*, was opened in September to mark the 250th anniversary of James Cook's three remarkable Pacific voyages, and explore this spectacular region through the eyes of the British voyagers and the First Nations peoples they met. A highlight of the exhibition is the large number of significant objects that have been loaned from overseas institutions, bringing a truly international perspective to the exhibition. Contributing institutions include the British Library, The National Archives (UK), the Natural History Museum (UK), Victoria & Albert Museum (UK), the Royal Society (UK), Captain Cook Memorial Museum (Whitby) Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum (Hawaii), Te Papa Tongarewa Museum of New Zealand and the Alexander Turnbull Library (New Zealand).

Soft power submission

In October 2018, the Library made a submission to the Soft Power Review undertaken by the Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. The Library has long been aware of the contribution it makes to strengthening relations and building goodwill with other countries; from working with Canberra based embassies, collaborating with counterparts and hosting international delegations. The Asian collections are a particularly strong drawcard for international scholars and holds unique material that can no longer be found in home countries. The Library's submission detailed these activities and made the argument that the Library's goodwill ambassador role could be further expanded.