

LIBRARIES AUSTRALIA DIRECTIONS FOR 2007

Introduction

This paper outlines intended directions for Libraries Australia in 2007. The National Library of Australia plans to disseminate this document after the April meeting of the LAAC and seek feedback from the library community as an input to the 2007-2010 strategic plan to be developed later in the year.

There have been many changes to our Australian National Bibliographic Database (ANBD) service over recent years, including the Kinetica Redevelopment Project from 2003-2005, introduction of a new subscription model in July 2005 encouraging increased usage, the re-branding of the service as Libraries Australia and the launch of the free Libraries Australia Search service in 2006.

Business relationships

In 2002, the National Library negotiated a “small libraries agreement” that allowed Australian libraries, excluding NSLA and CAUL members, to access WorldCat for a per search cost through Libraries Australia. In 2007 a new agreement covering all subscribers to Libraries Australia was negotiated that provides unlimited access to WorldCat.

Key points of the Agreement are:

- All Australian libraries who subscribe to Libraries Australia would have unlimited search and cataloguing access to OCLC’s WorldCat;
- Libraries must be Libraries Australia subscribers to get access to WorldCat through this Agreement;
- FirstSearch and OCLC ILL access are not included in the Agreement;
- The Agreement includes access to RLG Union Catalogue and SCIPPIO data which will be migrated to WorldCat by mid 2007;
- The Agreement includes cross-synchronisation of records: provision of in-scope ANBD records with Australian library holdings from the ANBD to WorldCat and provision of WorldCat records with Australian library holdings from WorldCat to the ANBD;
- Exposure of ANBD bibliographic and holdings records in search engines through the Open WorldCat program and on the web through WorldCat.org is included in the Agreement; and
- Australian libraries who contribute all of their current cataloguing and holdings to the ANBD and WorldCat will become governing members of OCLC.

The National Library believes that the contribution of Australian library holdings to WorldCat will be of benefit to Australian libraries by increasing the visibility of our collections worldwide. The Agreement will also streamline retrospective cataloguing by Australian libraries through improved access to WorldCat.

The National Library is working with Serial Solutions to improve the mechanism for provision of MARC records for electronic resources to Australian libraries. Serial Solutions has become a commercial member of Libraries Australia and is obtaining Australian serial records for inclusion in its e-sets for both Australian and international libraries. Through an Agreement between the National Library and Serial Solutions,

MARC records are provided to five state and territory libraries as well as to the National Library. A copy of these records, together with holdings, are provided to the ANBD as part of the Agreement. It is expected that all state and territory libraries will become party to this Agreement. Serials Solutions have also agreed that CAUL libraries that are obtaining MARC records from them may opt to have a copy of these records supplied to the ANBD. The National Library plans to seek similar arrangements with other e-resource management services.

The National Library has been working with Google to expose bibliographic records from the ANBD to various Google services. To date about 1.2 million ANBD records have been matched to records in Google Scholar and all ANBD records have been added to Google Book Search. This provides a new discovery pathway for users of these services who can link directly from Google results to Libraries Australia. ANBD records are now also starting to appear in the main google.com service and Google have made a commitment that all records will be accessible by the middle of 2007. With the implementation of the OCLC agreement, this work is of a lower priority as records will be made available to Google, Yahoo!, Windows Live Academic and several bibliographic and bookselling sites via the Open WorldCat program¹.

To date 57 booksellers (50 Australian and seven international) can be linked to through Libraries Australia Search. For seven of these booksellers which have an open API (Application Programming Interface), Libraries Australia Search can check their databases to see if an item is in stock. The National Library would like to extend this feature to other booksellers.

There is a need for ongoing evaluation of potential new targets to be added to the Libraries Australia Search service. Examples under consideration include: AGIS (the Attorney-Generals Information Service) and MediText from RMIT Publishing and die Deutsche Bibliothek Database. As far as possible Libraries Australia will attempt to negotiate site licences for new database targets so they can be rolled into the base subscription and made available to all Libraries Australia customers.

Dialogue will continue with the Curriculum Corporation about the possibility of access to SCIS (Schools Catalogue Information Service) as a target through Libraries Australia or the loading of schools data into the ANBD.

The National Library is exploring ways to improve access to Australian journal literature. The advent of services such as Google Scholar has raised user expectations that at least the discovery part of the information seeking equation will be free. The Library is developing a model for the national pooling of metadata for Australian journal articles to support free discovery and shared indexing. The relationship between any new journal article metadata discovery service and Libraries Australia is under discussion, including whether article level information should be stored in the ANBD.

Products

The Products service will be further enhanced by:

- Identifying further Australian datasets for the Electronic Collections Datasets service (eg Australian standards, Parliamentary papers); and
- Investigating an agreement with Serial Solutions to provide access to RMIT Publishing Informit records supplied from the ANBD on an updated basis.

¹ Open WorldCat program. OCLC. <http://www.oclc.org/worldcat/open/>

Marketing

The free Libraries Australia Search service was seen by some as a potential threat to the Libraries Australia business model as for some libraries who use Libraries Australia only for resource discovery, the free service may be sufficient to meet their needs. To date there has been no significant loss of subscribers to Libraries Australia and in fact the number of subscribers has increased over the last twelve months.

Our marketing focus over the coming period will aim to retain current customers, encourage more customer libraries to provide end user access to the subscription Libraries Australia Search service, increase promotion of the free Libraries Australia Search service, and target existing customers to use the full functionality of Libraries Australia Search. Data quality, currency and completeness are more critical issues now that we have a free Libraries Australia Search service and the contents of the ANBD are more widely exposed. Existing search customers will be targeted to contribute or update data (for example public library holdings) and to use services like Libraries Australia Document Delivery.

A web site refresh for the information pages pertaining to Libraries Australia will also be undertaken. Much older information will be archived. In addition, the NSP-L, Kinetica-List and KDD-L discussion lists will be archived. The National Library will be encouraging more participants to subscribe to the [librariesaustralia-l](#) and [librariesaustraliadocdel-l](#)

Libraries Australia Cataloguing

Development of the ANBD is an ongoing process with improvements in coverage, currency and quality of the data held being a priority. The following areas have been identified as work priorities during 2007:

1. Implement a new version of CBS (version 3.2) containing a number of important enhancements including: a simplified signon procedure for users of the web cataloguing interface, automated de-duplication, and improved keyword indexing of CJK script.
2. Continue to refine the CBS matching and merging algorithms.
3. Review online and batch processes for cataloguing. In the Kinetica system, there were a number of advantages for batch record contribution over online cataloguing. In the Libraries Australia system these no longer apply and libraries should be encouraged to adopt the most efficient cataloguing workflow for their organisation.
4. Create cataloguing guidelines for non-roman, non-CJK records. Guidelines have been released for the cataloguing of Cyrillic, Greek, Tamil and Thai data in the ANBD. Guidelines will be developed for the cataloguing of Arabic and Hebrew data once testing of these scripts has been completed.
5. Improve data quality, especially by implementing duplicate detection and removal processes, with a focus on Australian materials.
6. Remove unused records: remove records without holdings, Australian content indicator or Table of Contents that have not been changed for more than five years.
7. Improve the data coverage of the ANBD:
 - Complete loading of data from the Australian Parliamentary Library. Target contributions from State Parliamentary libraries;
 - Improve coverage of community language materials from public libraries particularly in large metropolitan centres like Sydney and Melbourne;
 - Improve coverage of government publications;
 - Increase coverage of theses; and

- Improve coverage of public library holdings which are especially important now that there is a free Libraries Australia Search service
8. Develop the Record Import Service (RIS) to support import, matching and evaluation of authority records.
 9. Investigate SRU Update², a standard supported by CBS 3.2, and apply it initially for cross-updating of WorldCat. If successful, offer SRU Update as a service for Libraries Australia customers which would provide a new way to supply data to the ANBD.
 10. Develop a link checking service to advise the publisher or record contributor when a broken links are found in ANBD records.

Libraries Australia Search

In late 2006, the Library undertook a review of its IT architecture (LAAC/2007/2/6) for digital library and resource discovery services. The review recommended adoption of a service oriented architecture and migration of the Library's resource discovery services, including Libraries Australia, to a new software platform. During 2007 there will be several maintenance releases of Libraries Australia Search on the existing software platform (Teratext) and preparations for the migration of the search service to the new software platform (Lucene) will commence.

The following areas have been identified as work priorities during 2007:

1. Implement improvements to Libraries Australia Search relevance ranking to boost in results lists: works *by* relative to works *about* an author, and works with more holdings.
2. Deep link from Libraries Australia to more local library catalogues especially for special and public libraries.
3. Implement new targets for searching including, but not limited to, Deutsche Bibliothek, RMIT Publishing's AGIS and Meditext databases.
4. Investigate mechanisms for improved "getting" services including extension of end user requesting and home delivery.
5. Investigate applying personalisation to the free Libraries Australia Search service.
6. Commence specifications for migration of Libraries Australia Search from TeraText to Lucene.
7. Test Z39.50 interface to Lucene.
8. Test implementation of results clustering and faceted browse using Lucene.
9. Test use of OCLC work identifiers to produce work clusters (FRBR) in search results.
10. Investigate links to value added information, eg:
 - a. Links to full text (eg Google Book Search);
 - b. Links to book reviews (eg Amazon reviews); and
 - c. Links to search inside the book services (eg Amazon).

Libraries Australia Administration

The following areas have been identified as work priorities during 2007:

1. Re-develop Australian Libraries Gateway (ALG) interface and brand it as part of Libraries Australia.

² SRU Record Update. Draft Updated November 2, 2006, Library of Congress Standards.
<http://www.loc.gov/standards/sru/record-update/>

2. Directory integration project: consolidate information held in the Libraries Australia Administration LDAP directory, ILRS and ALG directories. All information should be stored in the Libraries Australia Administration directory.

Libraries Australia Document Delivery

The following areas have been identified as work priorities during 2007:

1. Implement ISO interoperability with NLA (VDX to Relais) and other Australian and overseas libraries.
2. Negotiate and implement links to new commercial suppliers, eg British Library Document Supply Service.

Recommendation

That the Libraries Australia Advisory Committee note the report.

Assistant Director-General, Resource Sharing
Contact: Tony Boston
(02) 6262 1143

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