

**ACTION PLAN RESULTING FROM THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL
BIBLIOGRAPHIC DATABASE: COVERAGE SURVEY**

Introduction

As reported at the October 2008 meeting, 215 valid responses to the ANBD Survey were received up to the formal closing date of 10 October (LAAC/2008/2/6). Libraries Australia subsequently contacted all Council of Australian University Libraries (CAUL) and National & State Libraries Australasia (NSLA) members who had not responded to encourage them to respond. In January Libraries Australia also contacted all libraries that provided incomplete responses and encouraged them to at least complete those questions relating to the number of items (titles) and the percentage of their collection that is not recorded in the Australian National Bibliographic Database (ANBD).

The survey form continued to be available on the web until 16 March 2009. The last response was received on 24 February. A total of 221 valid responses were received. While the survey has now formally closed and the online questionnaire has been taken down, Libraries Australia would be pleased to provide a Word version of the questionnaire to any library that would still like to participate in the survey.

Reports summarising the responses of NSLA and CAUL member libraries have been provided to the respective organisations.

The primary objective of the survey was to obtain data that could be used by Libraries Australia to develop strategies to improve overall coverage of the ANBD and in particular to contact libraries with important special collections to attempt to facilitate addition of records for these collections to the ANBD.

In 2008/2009 Libraries Australia will give priority to addressing gaps in the coverage of state and university library holdings and to the other initiatives described in this paper.

This paper reports on the actions planned by Libraries Australia in response to the ANBD Coverage Survey.

Current Projects

State/Territory Libraries

Seven state or territory libraries responded to the survey. They indicated that while contribution of records for some specific types of material (e.g. online) is problematic, the main reason for gaps in ANBD coverage is the fact that MARC (or other electronic) records have never been created for substantial parts of the collections of some state libraries.

The survey indicated that most state/territory libraries are contributing all of the records in their library management systems to the ANBD. The reported exceptions were:

- New South Wales: Original materials (pictures, manuscripts and oral history) that are in a separate non-MARC database have not been contributed.
- Queensland: Records in ENCompass databases for manuscripts, Picture Queensland records and digital stories. Test MARC records for manuscripts are with Libraries Australia awaiting evaluation prior to loading on ANBD. Supply of records for digital stories has been postponed until the records are migrated to a new management system.
- South Australia: 40,000 records for South Australian books and pamphlets were catalogued in their library management system to a low standard as part of a card conversion project. The library hasn't had resources to upgrade them and they haven't been contributed to the ANBD.
- Tasmania: Doesn't contribute records for lending resources.
- Western Australia: Archival materials have not previously been contributed but there are plans to do so in the future.

Libraries Australia will follow-up ANBD Survey responses with each of the state and territory libraries during visits in the next year. Discussion will focus on:

- Gaps in ANBD coverage and identification of solutions;
- Confirmation of whether gaps are due to lack of existing machine readable data, library policies or limitations in Libraries Australia; and
- Encourage ongoing contribution especially of records for electronic resources.

State Library of New South Wales: E-record project

This three-year project will create MARC records for original materials and for pre-1980 monographs in the General Reference Collection. It is expected that around 500,000 bibliographic records will be produced and added to the ANBD. Libraries Australia met with State Library staff in October 2008 and March 2009 to facilitate the contribution of these records to the ANBD.

State Library of New South Wales: Pictures Manuscripts and Oral History

Libraries Australia visited the State Library in March 2009 to discuss the loading of data from their Manuscripts, Oral History and Pictures catalogue. The use of OAI harvesting is being investigated. Later in the year Libraries Australia plans to integrate harvester functionality with the ANBD data loading software.

Reimagining Library Services. Project 8: Flexible Cataloguing

Libraries Australia is monitoring the progress of this project. The project is likely to initially focus on picture and newspaper collections. It is likely to result in improved ANBD coverage of state library collections.

University Libraries

Thirty-one university libraries responded to the survey. Most university libraries reported that high percentages of their collections have been added to the ANBD. Most also reported that they plan to make ongoing contributions and that they are happy with their current contribution mechanisms. Five libraries said that they would prefer to contribute using SRU Record Update, OAI harvest or through material vendors.

Most gaps in ANBD coverage were due to lack of MARC records for the resources, assumptions that the data was not of a sufficient standard for contribution, or library policies relating to the availability of the resource to non-members or for interlibrary loan. Many libraries reported that they do not add records for e-resources to the ANBD although several said that they add records for most e-resources.

Libraries Australia will follow-up ANBD survey responses with each of the university libraries during visits in the next year. Discussion will focus on:

- Gaps in ANBD coverage and identification of solutions;
- Confirmation of whether gaps are due to lack of existing machine readable data, library policies or limitations in Libraries Australia; and
- Encourage ongoing contribution especially of records for electronic resources.

Libraries Australia visited the five Sydney-based university libraries in March. Melbourne universities will be visited in April and May.

Libraries Australia provided input to a presentation by the LAAC CAUL representatives for the CAUL meeting in early April. The presentation discussed the various services that Libraries Australia provides to support contribution to the ANBD.

Map Collections

The survey identified ten libraries holding more than 500 maps that have not been recorded in the ANBD. These include national, state, university, public and special libraries. In some cases records do not exist however several libraries responded that records were in systems other than their library management system. Martin Woods, National Library of Australia Map Curator, also identified another four libraries that may have a significant number of maps that aren't recorded in the ANBD.

Libraries Australia contacted these libraries in February and March to attempt to find ways to improve the ANBD coverage of these collections. As a number of the organisations also reported gaps in the coverage of other special materials these resources were also included in the discussion.

Three of the state libraries contacted and one public library confirmed that they have strategies in place to contribute map records to the ANBD. One university responded that the map collection identified was in fact held by a university department and not the library. The Western Australia Department of Environment and Conservation Library has sent a test file of map records to Libraries Australia. Discussions are continuing with the other libraries.

Contribute to the ANBD in some other way

Thirty-five libraries indicated that they would like to contribute to the ANBD using a mechanism that is different from the one that they are currently using. Most of these libraries said that they intend to use another existing Libraries Australia service instead of, or in addition to, the service they are currently using. Libraries Australia will contact these libraries to provide information about these services.

Six libraries said that they would like to contribute using mechanisms that aren't currently available. These are:

- SRU Record Update (2)
- Open Archives Initiative – Protocol for Metadata Harvesting (2)

- Smartport (1)
- Creation of full bibliographic records via the WebCat interface (1).

Libraries Australia is implementing support for ANBD contribution via SRU Record Update and OAI harvesting. We will encourage libraries to ask their system vendors to develop support for SRU Record Update.

NB. Smartport is the brand name for the Sirsi Unicorn Z39.50 search and record import functionality.

Planned Projects

Electronic resources

Many libraries, especially university libraries, do not contribute records for electronic resources to the ANBD. 73 responses identified one or more E-resource collections that have not been contributed to the ANBD.

The following is a representative sample of the reasons for non-contribution of electronic resources records:

- Licensing restrictions that prevent interlending and document delivery;
- Electronic resources are not added due to licensing and firewall issues;
- Will not be adding digital resources as they are very fluid with titles coming and going all the time with packages, datasets, etc;
- There is no automated process for adding records for ejournals. Many of the records for websites are brief and therefore not standard;
- The majority of records not contributed are electronic monographs - our records link only to external URLs and issues of link integrity have always meant a reluctance to add these to the ANBD;
- We don't add our electronic resources to the library catalogue. They are organised and accessed via SFX, MetaLib, Digitool instead;
- Principally we do not contribute our holdings for digital resources on account of the fact that the holdings are continually updated, or the URLs in the records only allow [our library's] users to avail themselves of the resources. Many publishers place such restriction on their ebooks that even photocopying more than a page cannot be done in one sitting.

Interestingly, several libraries reported contributing records for most of their electronic resources to the ANBD.

Libraries Australia would like to seek the advice of the Advisory Committee to ascertain where the value lies in including this volatile data and what strategies could be used for sourcing it and encouraging its contribution.

Libraries Australia will increase marketing of its current agreement that allows Australian libraries that purchase MARC records from Serials Solutions to opt to have a copy of the records added to the ANBD. It will also endeavour to implement similar arrangements with other vendors of Electronic Resource Management services.

Libraries Australia will work with Electronic Resources Australia (ERA) and NSLA to add holdings to the ANBD for resources purchased through these consortia.

Formed Collections

Seventy-seven responses identified “formed collections” that have not been contributed to the ANBD. While the survey did not specifically ask why these collections have not been added to the ANBD, responses to other questions suggest the following reasons:

- The collections have not been catalogued;
- The collections are catalogued only in card catalogues; or
- Libraries believe that the cataloguing is not of a sufficient standard to be contributed.

The National Library, each of the state libraries and nine university libraries identified “formed collections” that have not been contributed to the ANBD. Libraries Australia will discuss these collections when it meets with state and university libraries during the next year.

Special, TAFE and public libraries also reported “formed collections”. Most “formed collections” reported by public libraries were local history collections.

Some libraries reported that plans are already in place to create and add records for these collections to the ANBD. These include:

- Planned retrospective cataloguing projects;
- A volunteer is searching Libraries Australia (ANBD and OCLC) for bibliographic records for the 8,000 sales catalogues and printing them out for a future retrospective cataloguing project;
- If the Library was to make use of the planned Libraries Australia local service then we would have to reconsider adding this material to the ANBD;
- In time, as technical reports and microfiche are catalogued, records will be sent to ANBD; and
- This collection of rare music scores/mss is being catalogued slowly as we are able, or as project work.

Microform Collections

Thirty-three libraries reported that they have not contributed records for important microform collections. Most of these are microfilmed local newspapers, local history resources or, in one case, confidential corporate technical reports. Five libraries reported large microform “collections” that have not been added to the ANBD. These are:

- Early English books 1641 – 1700;
- English books 1475 – 1640;
- ERIC (Educational Resources Information Center) reports;
- History of education microfiche - (work in progress);
- International Atomic Energy Agency Technical reports;
- Irish political and radical newspapers;
- Nineteenth Century. General collection
- U.S. Dept of Energy. Technical Information Center. Scientific and technical reports;
- U.S. National Technical Information Service. Selected research in microfiche (SRIM) programme: technical reports; and

- Women advising women Pt. 2.

Bibliographic data sets for some of these collections are already available in the ANBD. Libraries Australia will contact the relevant libraries to confirm the scope of their holdings with the aim of adding these holdings to the ANBD. Libraries Australia will also consult the libraries about the other collections and investigate the availability of data sets.

Non-members of Libraries Australia

Ten libraries responded to the survey by saying that they did not contribute to the ANBD because they are not members of Libraries Australia. This group was comprised of four theological libraries and six special libraries. One of the special libraries, Royal Geographical Society of South Australia, has now joined Libraries Australia. Libraries Australia marketing will contact the other libraries.

Existing machine-readable metadata that has not been contributed

Libraries Australia will review all survey responses to identify libraries holding significant numbers of machine-readable records that have not been contributed to the ANBD and that have not been followed-up through other projects in this plan. We will contact these libraries to identify options for obtaining these records.

Recommendation

The Libraries Australia Advisory Committee to note the plan, and provide advice on future strategies to increase contribution.

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