

TAFE LIBRARIES SUBSCRIPTION MODEL

Background

This paper provides a further progress report on the implementation of the new subscription model for TAFE libraries. The previous report was provided in 2008¹.

All subscription modelling has been based on a parameter of “intrinsic size” of the member library. The parameter will vary between sectors. Libraries Australia has already applied such a model to the university library sector (using total library budget as the measure of size), to the state, territory and public library sector (using population served as the measure of size), and to special libraries (offering a choice between total budget and full-time equivalent staff numbers).

The background for this change is that usage-based charging (which was used prior to July 2005) creates a disincentive for libraries to increase their use of the service. The Libraries Australia team would like all members of Libraries Australia to use the service to the maximum extent in accordance with their needs.

The new subscription model was announced in principle in 2005. As an interim measure, prior to moving to the new model, libraries have been charged according to the average of their payments in 2003 and 2004, with CPI adjustments in some years. For all sectors, the impact of transitioning has been reduced by phasing it in over several years. This will be done whenever the change in charges is significant, and whether the change involves an increase or a decrease.

Development of the TAFE library sector model

In 2008, the federal Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) published a table listing 59 registered TAFEs, but it has been difficult to confirm recent figures. Not all TAFEs in Australia have their own libraries. TAFE library membership of Libraries Australia sits at 60 libraries. ALIA has established a new advisory committee to improve statistics collection and other issues concerning TAFE libraries.²

WA TAFE Libraries belong to a consortium, which has been operating effectively for many years. NSW TAFEs are served by a central office which manages all acquisitions and cataloguing for all of their libraries. The South Australian TAFE libraries are currently in the process of forming a consortium.

¹ New subscription model for special libraries – progress report. [LAAC/2008/1/5]
www.nla.gov.au/librariesaustralia/documents/New_subscription_model_for_special_libraries.pdf

² ALIA TAFE Libraries Advisory Committee
www.alia.org.au/governance/committees/tafe.libraries/terms.of.reference.html

The need to establish subscription tiers under a new model for the TAFE sector was recognised by the Libraries Australia Advisory Committee in April 2009. It was agreed that this work should be completed in time for the July 2010 invoices.³

The TAFE library sector represents a modest proportion of Libraries Australia revenue (2.6 %). An enquiry seeking total budget information for each TAFE library confirmed that this data is not uniformly available, due to confidentiality requirements in some states.

This was followed by a survey of the TAFE libraries which already subscribe to Libraries Australia in January 2010. It outlined the need for a new subscription model and sought information about their total full time equivalent staff and the total number of student contact hours in 2008.

The initial response rate of 40% was not sufficient to develop a complete model but based on data received, a draft tiered model was provided as part of a further request to non-responding libraries. This tiered model will be refined when final figures are received:

Tier	Student Contact Hours	Subscription (ex GST)
Tier 1	<500,001	\$350.00
Tier 2	500,001 – 1,000,000	\$800.00
Tier 3	1,000,001 – 4,000,000	\$1,500.00
Tier 4	4,000,001 – 10,000,000	\$3,500.00
Tier 5	10,000,001 +	\$6,000.00

Proposed tiered model for TAFE library subscriptions

The final subscription model will be published on the Libraries Australia web site as part of the charging schedule.⁴

Recommendation

The Libraries Australia Advisory Committee to approve the model.

Contact: Warwick Cathro
Assistant Director-General Resource Sharing & Innovation
wcathro@nla.gov.au
02 6262 1390

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³ New subscription models for Special, TAFE, and School library sectors. [LAAC/2009/1/5]
www.nla.gov.au/librariesaustralia/about/documents/laac-paper-2009-1-05-new-subscription-for-special-tafe-school.pdf.

⁴ Libraries Australia Fees and charges are at www.nla.gov.au/librariesaustralia/charges.html.