

TROVE STATUS REPORT

Introduction

Trove, the National Library's premier national discovery service, has now been in operation for more than a year. Since the last report to the Libraries Australia Advisory Committee in October 2010, the following enhancements have been implemented:

- the integration of functions from the separate digitised Australian newspaper service;
- the integration of the Australasian Digital Theses program (ADT) and the Australian Research Online service;
- the addition of the Australian Women's Weekly from 1933 to 1982 as digitised articles in the *Digitised newspapers and more* zone;
- two new releases of Trove software which fixed bugs and implemented user enhancements (v3.02 on 10 December and v3.03 on 25 January). Users are now able to be alerted to new content with keywords of interest and newspaper article alerting is improved. In addition work was undertaken in conjunction with the ALG to make library access visible and to enable searching by library in the advanced search screens; and
- a method to expedite the addition of collection lists described in MARC and submitted to Trove via the National Bibliographic Database. The lists are important for bringing awareness to unique and special collections.

In addition, preparations for the integration of the separate Picture Australia and Music Australia services have commenced and an Application Programming Interface (API) was scoped. To assist with the latter, a requirements survey was circulated and resulted in significant interest from a diverse range of service providers.

New contributors which have not participated in any National Library services before were invited to join Trove, and several significant collections are being mapped and tested, including from the National Film and Sound Archive, the Australian Broadcasting Commission, as well as the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS).

The amount of new content in Trove has increased significantly as follows:

Zone Name	Work Count
All view (as at February 2011)	120,102,080
Australian Newspapers	45,313,730

Books, journals, magazines, articles	31,347,699
Pictures and photos	4,266,993
Archived websites	35,981,716
Music sound and video	1,453,639
People and organisations	882,820
Diaries, letters, archives	513,361
Maps	342,122

Stage 4 development

Authorised access to licensed ejournals is in development as the fourth and final stage of the Trove project. The National, State and Territory Libraries (NSLA group) has assisted via its Reimagining Libraries project Open Borders, by providing details about different authentication options such as EZproxy servers and recognition of barcodes printed on library cards. Six university libraries also participated by including their OpenURL resolvers.

The Australian Libraries Gateway was expanded to store information about and support the maintenance of the authentication mechanisms.

Two vendors, Cengage Gale and RMIT Publishing, have worked with the National Library to make more than 40 million articles accessible via Trove. As this is expected to increase during 2011, interface design for a new zone has been completed and changes will be made to the Trove homepage to reflect this.


Usage

By February, the number of registered users in Trove was 27,500.

The last six months have also seen the Trove Communications and Marketing Plan come to fruition, with a particular emphasis on growing the social engagement response to Trove through Twitter and the blog in the Trove User Forum at <http://trove.nla.gov.au/forum/>. By March, the number of Twitter followers registered with @TroveAustralia was 500 and included several media outlets. The Trove team has set up a roster to add entries to the Twitter feed and the Trove blog on a daily basis. A Facebook account has been less successful.

Several members of the public have their own blogs which feature Trove content, including:

-  *Now and then Snippets of Australian social history from newspapers and other sources* <<http://lynnwalsh.wordpress.com/>>
-  *Historian at work* <<http://historianatwork.wordpress.com/2011/01/07/a-dose-of-troveaustralia-love/>>, and

 *The McWhirters Project* <<http://themcwhirtersproject.blogspot.com/p/behind-pages-of-mcwhirters-project.html>>.

Searching activity in Trove continues to increase steadily, with more than 30,000 visits per day, reaching almost three million unique visitors during 2010. They executed 22 million searches between February and December 2010. This compares to 2.7 million searches of Libraries Australia during 2009, when it offered the equivalent free searching of Libraries Australia. This target will be surpassed in 2011, as more than 12 million searches, have occurred in January and February alone. This is partly due to the integration of the digitised newspaper content. The number of pageviews, which illustrate the stickiness of the site, reached 126,715,445.

The number and types of enquiries received were:

Enquiry type	Nov # enquiries	Dec/Jan # enquiries	Feb # enquiries
Change Trove records	7	6	8
Digitised newspapers and more	75	103	73
Get a Trove item	6	5	12
Trove feedback	3	20	4
Trove functionality	207	52	116
Trove technical problem	1	1	2
Trove username	0	1	7
Totals	299	188	222

Other types of use during 2010 were:

Trove user engagement	Total
Lines of text corrected in Newspapers	26,259,688
Tags added	685,258
Images added by the public via Flickr	88,951
Users registered	24,619
Comments added	16,040
Records Merged	9,297
Lists created	2,090
Records split	1,936
Messages in User Forum	546
Use of mobile devices (iPhone, iPad, iPod)	49,218

Impact

The 2011 floods in Queensland generated a lot of interest in details about comparative floods, particularly in 1973 and 1894. The Rockhampton Heritage Collections Officer at the Rockhampton Regional Council Library advised the Trove team in January that a small group of volunteers known as the Treasure Trovers were aiming to ensure that Rockhampton newspapers would "be the first newspaper on the Trove site that's as near to 100% corrected as possible. I've been surprised how invested and how much ownership the group has taken of our paper - we are meeting even in the middle of the flood crisis!"

As mentioned in the October report¹, Trove has also been chosen by several strategic academic projects as a research tool, centred on the newspaper content. Its integration into Trove in November 2010 resulted in additional media coverage:

Papers chart climate's Georgian era

BY SALLY PRYOR, CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS REPORTER
10 Feb, 2011 08:22 AM



When a vast lake bed begins to fill with water after being dry for a decade, chances are the local newspaper will run a story on it.

Lake George is no exception, with its rising and falling water levels acting as a natural rain gauge and source of fascination for locals for the past 200 years.

The National Library is hoping to turn this fact to its advantage as part of a larger research project on climate history in Australia.

It's asking the public to help by trawling through old newspapers, now digitised on the Trove newspaper database, and "tag" articles relating to Lake George and the weather.

And there is plenty of material; a preliminary check by researchers has already confirmed that the lake has a long recorded history, with reports on its varying size dating back to 1816.

And, much like today, rainfall, long dry spells and abundant wildlife were newsworthy back in the 19th century.

For example, the Maitland Mercury & Hunter River General Advertiser carried an account in 1893 of a visit to the lake, describing it as a "sheet of water" where "good fishing may be had, but not at the Collector end, while no better place could be found for a shooting exercise". A story in the Queanbeyan Age in 1915 announced that "Lake George has come back", with "more water in it than has been seen in the



PhD student Claire Fenby and reference librarian Colin Sweett hope people will help "tag" newspaper articles about Lake George. Photo: KARLEEN MINNEY



<<http://www.canberratimes.com.au/news/local/news/general/papers-chart-climates-georgian-era/2072081.aspx?storypage=0#>> [10 February 2011]

¹ Trove report 2010

www.nla.gov.au/librariesaustralia/laac/documents/laac-paper-2010-2-08-trove-report.pdf

Volunteers with an eagle-eye on the news

Conrad Walters
February 7, 2011



Leading the way ... Rose Holley makes old newspapers available online. Photo: Vikky Wilkes

ANN MANLEY is addicted to correcting typos.

Manley is among thousands of volunteers who correct transcripts of old newspapers for the National Library of Australia. The practice of recruiting strangers for such work is called crowd sourcing and the library has quietly built an international reputation as a pioneer in it.

The idea has paid off. In the past few weeks the library recorded the biggest-ever use of its online newspaper archives as people sought reports on Brisbane's 1974 floods.

Advertisement: Story continues below

Manley, of Sydney's northern beaches, volunteers about 60 hours a week helping on Trove, the library's online resource. "It's very addictive," the amateur genealogist said.

The confessed "pernickety fanatic" mostly tidies family notices, but she also cleans reports about the odd shipwreck, shark attack and death from bubonic plague. All up, she regularly corrects 30,000 lines of text a month, enough to earn the top place in Trove's "hall of fame".

Another big contributor, Julie Hempenstall, of Victoria, recently corrected an article from 1880 about Ned Kelly's murder trial.

Such volunteers are the mainstay of the library's goal of making the nation's old newspapers available online and searchable, said Trove's manager, Rose Holley.

www.smh.com.au/technology/technology-news/volunteers-with-an-eagleeye-on-the-news-20110206-1aifk.html [7 February 2011]

The Trove team continued to receive extraordinary feedback via the Contact form, and a recent example was as follows:

"I have just discovered your site....having googled the name of my great grandfather who was a well known Queenslander in the late 1800s/early 1900s I have come across hundreds of references to him, letters written by him to newspapers and all sorts of things.

I knew something about him but was lacking much of this minutae, I am absolutely transfixed by what you have provided and suddenly feel that I know him so much better.

Thank you! This is a brilliant concept and very well executed."

Resources

A video describing Trove was prepared as an introduction to the service, and is highly recommended for use by the schools sector. It is complemented by several screencasts which focus on specific functions of the service such as how to register for a personal account, creating a list of selected items, tagging and correcting newspaper text. They are available at:

-  general introduction <www.youtube.com/watch?v=DDOY5gun1mY> and
-  screencasts <<http://www.youtube.com/user/TroveNLA>>.

Some supporting documents have also been made available:

- authorised access to licensed journals (Stage 4 of Trove)
<www.nla.gov.au/trove/marketing/Public_Trove_Stage_4_scope_2010.pdf>
- *Adding context to resources – the 'List' feature in Trove* September 2010
<<http://trove.nla.gov.au/general/marketing#documents>>
- *Ideas for how Volunteers at Cultural Heritage Institutions can help, using Trove as a Tool*
<<http://trove.nla.gov.au/general/marketing#documents>>
- *How to arrange for finding aids, transcripts and lists to be indexed into Trove*
<www.nla.gov.au/librariesaustralia/search/get-via-trove.html>.

The latter document was a product of the work of the Reimagining Libraries' *Description and Cataloguing* project².

Marketing

Trove marketing items have included a notebook and a USB flash drive, distributed to professional conferences in the library sector and family history societies; posters and bookmarks distributed to 11,000 schools and music libraries; and more modest numbers of T-shirts and mousemats which are available for purchase in the Library's online bookshop.



Paper-based items will be updated with a new Trove logo which is currently being registered with IP Australia, and new promotional items will be considered.

A detailed report of Trove's first year, including presentations, was prepared by the Trove Manager - <www.nla.gov.au/openpublish/index.php/nlasp/article/view/1882>.

² www.nsla.org.au/publications/papers/2010/pdf/NSLA.Discussion-Paper-20101208-The.Lists.Project.pdf

