

# MEMORANDUM



DATE 10 November 2009  
REF NLA07/1529  
TO ANPLAN  
FROM Rose Holley – Manager Newspaper Digitisation Program  
SUBJECT **Progress Report on the Australian Newspapers Digitisation Program February 2009 – November 2009**

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## **Purpose**

This report summarises progress on the Australian Newspapers Digitisation Program (ANDP) over the last nine months from February – November 2009 and outlines operational work to be completed in the future. The ANDP project phase March 2007- October 2009 is now finished.

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## **1. Work progress February – November 2009**

- The ANDP team started working with the new panel of scanning and OCR contractors. Two new scanning companies (Scan Conversion Services and DataComIT) successfully each completed a work order, in addition to the ongoing work being done by W &F Pascoe's Ltd. The existing OCR contractor (Apex) completed a work order and a new OCR contractor (Planman) began work on samples prior to signing a contract. New work orders have just been given for the next few months.
- 850,000 newspaper pages were digitised (scanned) and quality assured in the period. The number of pages scanned to date is 2.7 million. Titles scanned in the period include the Queenslander and the Advertiser series.
- 490,426 newspaper pages were OCR processed and delivered to the public in the Australian Newspapers service in the period. The total number of pages available to the public is 858,077. The first 30 years (1831 – 1860) of the Sydney Morning Herald were made publicly available by 10 November 2009. The Melbourne Argus 1846 -1945 was completed and made publicly available.
- Development work was undertaken on the Newspapers Content Management System to support more flexible ingest and management of content, so that the Library can work with multiple panel contractors and contributors.

- Contribution of content from the State Library of Victoria's newspapers digitisation activities was tested.
- Missing and poor quality pages of the Sydney Morning Herald (7,500) were sourced in hard copy from the NLA collection.
- Development was undertaken on the Australian Newspapers beta service. The 'correct text function' was improved, which was the highest priority for users. User testing was undertaken with the top 20 text correctors before the upgrade was implemented. Australian Newspapers was then released as version 1 in mid August and the name 'beta' removed.
- The Australian Newspapers service continued to be heavily used by the public. More members of the public registered and more text correction was undertaken. To date 6000 users are registered and 7 million lines of text have been corrected. Cumulative statistics for the service were created and are available at:  
[http://www.nla.gov.au/ndp/project\\_details/documents/ANDP\\_StatofANserviceusage\\_v1.pdf](http://www.nla.gov.au/ndp/project_details/documents/ANDP_StatofANserviceusage_v1.pdf)
- Presentations on the ANDP were given to NLA visitors including the Prime Ministers Cabinet, the Gov 2.0 Taskforce, and the National Library of New Zealand.
- The ANDP public website <http://www.nla.gov.au/ndp> was updated and revised.
- An application was prepared and submitted to the Digital Regions Initiative (DRI) Office, Dept of Broad band in October 2009 for \$6 million to digitise regional newspapers, which will then be made available in the Australian Newspapers service.  
[http://www.dbcde.gov.au/funding\\_and\\_programs/digital\\_regions\\_initiative](http://www.dbcde.gov.au/funding_and_programs/digital_regions_initiative)
- The ANDP project phase was completed on time (March 2007- October 2009). The Newspaper Content Management System and the public search and delivery system are now both in Version 1. All further IT work will be treated as enhancements rather than development. New digitisation contractors are in place and operating. Operational plans for ongoing digitisation and staffing have been agreed. With the ending of the project phase Rose Holley the Project Manager of ANDP will move to a new position at NLA (Manager of Trove) in January 2009.

## **2. Ongoing operational work November 2009 onwards**

- The Australian Newspapers public search service will be fully integrated into Trove <http://trove.nla.gov.au>, and enhancements to the service as suggested by the public (2008 beta feedback) will be undertaken. This will include a forum for Australian Newspaper users to communicate with each other and the ANDP team.
- Ongoing scanning and OCR work with contractors to complete the targeted 4.4 million pages, plus any additional funded titles.
- Completion of the Sydney Morning Herald (including digitising the hard copy missing pages and issues).
- Contribution of content from State Library of Victoria and others.
- If the Digital Regions Initiative application is successful digitisation of regional titles will commence.