Dear Minister

Statement of Intent 2018-19 – National Library of Australia

Thank you for your letter of 3 August 2018, setting out your expectations for the National Library of Australia in 2018-19. The Library is pleased to respond with this Statement of Intent.

Introduction

The National Library of Australia was established by the National Library Act 1960. In accordance with the Act, the Library collects documentary resources relating to Australia and the Australian people so that the Australian community – now and into the future – can discover, learn and create new knowledge.

The Corporate Plan 2018-19 is the principal planning document for the Library, which sets out the purposes and activities that it intends to pursue and the results it expects to achieve. This includes an explanation of the environment and context in which it operates, risk profile, and capabilities. In 2018-19, the Library has three strategic priorities.

COLLECT – we collect today what will be important tomorrow

CONNECT – we connect with communities, and connect communities with their national collections

COLLABORATE – we collaborate with others to maximise the national impact of cultural institutions

In pursuing these priorities, the Library will:

Strengthen collections to reflect Indigenous and culturally and linguistic diverse communities

Engagement with Indigenous peoples and Australians from diverse cultural backgrounds and connecting these communities with their national collections is a priority for the Library. In 2019,
the Library will be an active participant in the International Year of Indigenous Languages. Across the 2018-19 financial year the Library will:

- Develop and implement a Reconciliation Action Plan at the Innovate level.
- Utilising Modernisation funding, provided by the Australian Government for the 2016-2020 period, provide greater access to Library collections which are known to be rich in language and other cultural information. Focus collections include Pitjantjatjara photographic collections and the Robert Hamilton Mathews collection which documents Indigenous language content.
- Collaborate with the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies to improve the discoverability of Indigenous collections, through use of AUSTLANG, a definitive thesaurus of Australian Indigenous languages. By providing enhanced collection descriptions, particularly for the names of indigenous peoples and languages, previously hidden content will be visible to users for the first time.
- Participate in an Australian Research Council Linkage Project with RMIT University developing a new methodology for evaluating multicultural collections, and new policies and strategies to develop and provide access to these collections. The project will enable Australian libraries to better document the histories and lived experience of Australians from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

Continue to develop Trove and other services

Utilising Modernisation funding, the Library will continue to transform Trove by redesigning the user interface; implementing a new brand that better reflects the collaborative nature of Trove; and significantly increasing the volume and diversity of digital content available. By June 2019, the Library will have significantly improved its Application Programming Interface (API) as well as the Trove search infrastructure, enabling Australians to engage more deeply with cultural collections contributed by more than 1200 libraries, universities, museums and other organisations.

In addition, and again utilising Modernisation funding, the Library will digitise and deliver via Trove:

- *Parliamentary Papers* from 1901 to 2012, significantly increasing access to a core record of the Australian government
- Australian Joint Copying Project content containing millions of documents relating to Australia held by cultural institutions and private individuals in the United Kingdom.
- Indigenous publications and unpublished material relating to the lived experience of Indigenous Australians, their language and culture
- 2000 maps from the Library’s formed collections.

By December 2018, the Library’s entire oral history collection will be digitally preserved. Almost one quarter of this collection (12,000 hours) is available for listening through Trove.
Work cooperatively on commemorations for the 250th anniversary of Captain Cook’s voyage to Australia

The Library is grateful for Australian Government funding that will allow us to fulfil our aim of marking Cook’s Pacific voyages. In partnership with Australian National Maritime Museum and the National Museum of Australia:

- The Library will present the *Cook and the Pacific* exhibition. Focusing on place, the exhibition follows Cook’s three Pacific voyages and presents a series of meetings anchored on Pacific coastlines: Tahiti, New Zealand, the east coast of Australia, Hawaii and more. The voices of First Nations Peoples are presented alongside those of the European voyagers. The exhibition content is drawn from the Library’s own collection and from Australian and international cultural institutions, and includes manuscripts and rare books, watercolours by voyage artists, objects collected on the voyage and Indigenous responses to Cook. The exhibition opened on 22 September 2018 and is accompanied by a vibrant public program of speaker events, curator talks, exhibition tours, late-night openings and family activities.

- The Library will lead development of the 250 Digital Platform that will enable all Australians to enhance their understanding of the history, context and impact of Cook’s Pacific Voyages, disseminating national stories of contact, encounter, science, exploration and transformation. The Platform will draw together the content, collections and related activities of the three institutions and communicate the perspectives of both Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians.

- The Library will participate in the Cultural Connections Initiative, led by the National Museum of Australia, supporting professional development, employment and capacity strengthening projects for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural workers.

Provide leadership in delivery of collection management, education and public programs

In collaboration with National and State Libraries Australia (NSLA), the Library will develop a joint digital platform to share investment in and responsibility for developing, preserving and providing access to Australian digital publishing output. The National edeposit (NED) initiative offers benefits and efficiencies to participating libraries as well as the Australian publishing community. The shared approach to building the software, policy framework and collecting infrastructure will generate economies of scale as well as greatly expand the depth, breadth and pace at which Australian digital content becomes available to members of the public.

The Library reaches students across Australia through programs of curriculum-relevant digital resources. Using the Library’s collection, the *Digital Classroom* online education resource adopts an inquiry approach, allowing students to analyse sources, develop historical skills and draw their own conclusions about the Australian story. In 2018-19 the Digital Classroom will expand to include modules for senior secondary students and move beyond the History and English curriculum:

- Indigenous responses to Cook and his voyages (Senior Secondary - Modern History)
• Science and Strategy: the Enlightenment (Senior Secondary - Modern History)
• Feminism (Senior Secondary - Modern History)
• The Second World War (Year 10 - History)
• Science as a Human Endeavour (Year 9 - Science)
• Participation and Protests (Year 8 - Civics & Citizenship)

The Library works actively to reach a broad national and international audience through its public programs. In 2018-2019 the Library will podcast and live stream events, as well as make high definition videos of these events available through the Library's Youtube channel. The public programs suite is supported by other digital resources including blogs and social media. By providing digital access as live and on demand content the Library can significantly grow audiences and reach all regions of Australia.

Explore Opportunities to increase own source revenue and grow private sector support

In 2018-19 the Library will continue to focus on increasing own-source revenue to support a sustainable future. This will include:

• Transitioning to an ambitious new approach to philanthropy, focussing on the Library’s unique value proposition: its ability to deliver high-quality digital content to all Australians, conveniently, reliably and at scale. Working together with Council, a strong philanthropic culture will be embedded across the Library and governance and business operations will be implemented to support and scale growth.

• Implementing a governance and business model that aims to better sustain Trove and other digital services. The National Digital Services Collaboration framework will extend existing relationships with libraries to include the infrastructure, expertise and policy framework required to support Trove. A new digital services membership model will shift the focus of national collaboration beyond the exchange of metadata to large-scale aggregation of digitised and born-digital content. This holistic approach to bringing services together both leverages the role of Trove as the hub of Australia’s national digital collections and allows existing service models to evolve more sustainably.

Contribute data on the Library’s performance

The Library is a Corporate Commonwealth Entity and an agency within the Arts Portfolio. The Library will keep the Minister informed with accurate and timely advice on significant issues relating to its activities and operation. The Library will engage constructively and cooperatively with the Minister, the Department of Communications and the Arts and other national collecting institutions in contributing to national arts and culture outcomes.

The Library reports against the Corporate Plan in the annual performance statements that form part of the Library’s Annual Report, tabled in the Parliament in October each year by the Minister for the Arts.
The Library has developed a suite of qualitative and quantitative measures to enable assessment of its impact and achievement, and that provides Government, Council, Audit Committee, stakeholders and staff with a sound overview of the Library's performance against its strategic priorities.

Identify and implement operational efficiencies

The Library has efficient and automated collecting systems. We continuously refine workflows to fulfil our collecting mandate in a complex environment of physical and digital, published and unpublished collections. In 2018-19 the Library will:

- Collaborate with National and State Libraries Australia (NSLA) to launch the National edeposit (NED) system. NED is a significant and tangible national-state collaboration that will lower compliance costs for publishers, avoid duplication of complex digital collection and management systems, and build a better collection for all Australians. It will ensure that Australian publications are captured and preserved and extend access to digital publications to all parts of regional and rural Australia. The intergovernmental cooperation and coordination required to develop and manage the NED service is a significant example of cross-jurisdictional efficiencies, digital transformation and capacity building. The end result will be an Australian service that is both innovative and world-leading.

- Integrate and streamline description of published and unpublished collections to reduce processing time and improve access. Activities include locating and describing digital content co-located with traditional format collection materials and the use of encoded finding aids for delivering digitised maps and manuscripts.

Contribute to cultural diplomacy

Anchored by its long history of collecting from the Asia and the Pacific, the Library's engagement with the region is multi-faceted. In 2018-19 the Library will:

- Continue to develop and build a unique set of collection materials documenting the Asian and Pacific region at a seminal period of modern history, creating lasting value for learning, research and study by Australians and many others. This includes through the Jakarta Office, based in the Australian Embassy in Indonesia, which will continue to acquire an unparalleled record of modern Indonesia from its earliest days, including much collection material that is not easily available in Indonesia itself.

- Maintain a professional profile as a centre of expertise in digital library matters and digital innovation internationally as well as regionally through information sharing including with National Library Board of Singapore's Digital Strategy Office, which is exploring new structures for metadata management, and with the University of Hawaii over metadata enrichment practices for Indigenous and Pacific language collections.

- Participate in the Pacific Libraries Network, a cooperative network for the advancement of Pacific libraries, and in the Oceania RDA Community, part of the international network governing collection description standards.
• Work with the Department of Foreign Affairs and the National Library of New Zealand on the development of a Pacific Digital Archive commencing with the aggregation of existing digitised content from the two national libraries.
• Actively participate in the Conference of Directors of National Libraries Asia Oceania (CDNL AO) - the peak body for national libraries of the region, which will held in Singapore in February 2019.

The Library has no activities planned that would support cultural diplomacy outcomes in India or Germany, but will of course engage with colleagues from their national libraries as opportunities arise.

Conclusion

The Library will continue to be a high performing and responsive institution that delivers on priorities and actions as set out in the Corporate Plan 2018-19.

The Hon. Dr Brett Mason
Chair of Council

Dr Marie-Louise Ayres
Director-General