

Report on the Strategic Advisory Forum 2010-2011

(Prepared for ITP Libraries Forum, 27 June 2011)

SAF Meetings held: 31 August, 17 November 2010, 26 May 2011.

Sector Representatives: Penny Carnaby/Bill Macnaught (CE and National Librarian), Carolyn Robertson (LIANZA), Leslie Clague (APLM), Anne Paton (NZLLA), Senga White (SLANZA), Carol Davison (HealthSIG), Anahera Morehu (TRW), Gillian Oliver (Education providers), Hilary Rendell (GIG), Sarah-Jane Saravani (ITP), John Redmayne/Sue Roberts (CONZUL), Moira Fraser (Parliamentary Library), Sue Sutherland (Deputy CE, National Library - facilitator), Winston Roberts (Adviser, National Library - Secretariat).

Issues:

DIA integration

The National Library and the new integrated structure:

- Penny Carnaby commented on progress with planning for integration of the National Library into the Department of Internal Affairs. She noted that the new arrangements could provide opportunities for the National Library and help it gain traction for the whole library sector. There would be new mechanisms: e.g. the new Government CIO would be the CE of DIA, who might then delegate some tasks to the head of KIRT (the branch in which the National Library would be located); therefore the library sector would await the announcement of the new branch head with keen interest. The Department and the branch would have a good understanding of RS&T. Some things could not have been better given the environment.

Change of National Librarian

- It was noted that this would be the last meeting for Penny Carnaby, who would leave the National Library with its integration into the Department of Internal Affairs.
- Bill Macnaught, the new National Librarian, welcomed members to the meeting. He spoke of his vision of the National Library as the leading institution of 'Libraries New Zealand', taking New Zealand's knowledge to the world, and connecting New Zealand to the world's knowledge.
- SAF concluded by saluting the contribution made by Sue Sutherland during her time as Deputy Chief Executive of the National Library, Director of the National Digital Library, and more recently as Acting National Librarian. SAF wishes her all the best for the future.
- The National Library will undertake a strategic review of its activities, in time for the move back into its refurbished main building in Molesworth Street in 2012. The Library will actively seek new opportunities for collaboration with other community institutions during the rebuilding of Christchurch, for services for children and young people, and for information services for business.

Role of the National Library

- SAF members and the National Librarian held a productive conversation on the type of services the sector wished the National Library to provide to libraries and to the national community over the next few years, and the leadership role of the National Library. (See Annex 1 below)
- SAF is concerned at the present threats to library services: it believes that the value of services and ROI is not always well understood by authorities. This needs to be better articulated and supported by a stronger body of evidence. The sector will work with the National Library to research and develop the concept of 'Libraries New Zealand': this is seen as having a strong digital focus based on shared services.

Canterbury earthquakes

- SAF members expressed sympathy, admiration and support for their colleagues in Christchurch, who are working to restore services in very difficult conditions. SAF will pursue investigation of engineering issues raised by damage to library buildings and fittings due to the earthquakes.
- SAF congratulates Christchurch City Libraries on its efforts to build a historical record of the impact of the earthquakes on the community, with the support of the National Library.
- SAF approved the Report on the impact of the earthquake on libraries, and agreed that it should be made available via nz-libs.
- The major issue requiring follow-up concerned the design and construction of shelving: engineering assessments would be required. Library managers in Canterbury would also need to provide input. The SAF Secretariat would make enquiries about the process for assessments – ACTION.
- Penny Carnaby commented that the library sector should maintain its efforts to document the impact, and that should take into account the effects on individuals and the community.
- The minutes of the 31 August meeting and the Report of the 9 September emergency meeting were approved. The Report on the impact of the September earthquake on Canterbury libraries was also noted

Copyright issues

- SAF is concerned that the new legislation on infringing file sharing will have serious implications for library services, and in particular the Aotearoa People's Network: the impact will be closely monitored.

School Library sector

- SAF welcomes the present discussions between the National Library and the Ministry of Education on models for school libraries: SAF believes there is great potential for a UFB network to enable information services in support of future education outcomes, and school librarians have a vital role in delivering these.

- SAF agreed to continue working with IFLA to have the concept of indigenous knowledge included in the library profession's body of professional knowledge at international level.

2011 Conferences

- SAF members noted the forthcoming annual conferences within the wider library sector: the SLANZA conference in July, the NZLLA conference in August, and the LIANZA conference in October in Wellington.

Reports from library sectors:

- a. LIANZA update and discussion:
 - i. The advocacy document 'Libraries Count' had been updated. It was agreed that the reference to 'special purpose' libraries should be amended to "specialist" and figures added. Carolyn Robertson thanked all SAF members for their input, and requested any further input urgently so the document could be issued in the new year. She commented that the document could be used as a template by each part of the library sector to suit its own purposes.
 - ii. The LIANZA centenary book launch at Parliament had been a success. Carolyn Robertson and Jane Hill for LIANZA had held useful discussions with the Minister Responsible for the National Library on the library sector's response to challenges.
 - iii. Penny Carnaby observed that the Minister was effectively the 'Minister for libraries', he was interested in digital matters, and the library sector should respond to him accordingly.
 - iv. The centenary conference in Dunedin was shaping up to be a major event with excellent speakers and a high number of registrations. Consideration should be given to the messages to be communicated to the Minister.

- b. TRW update and discussion:
 - i. Anahera Morehu clarified the reference to 'trainees' mentioned in the previous report (an activity with Tuhoē), saying this new role would be applied in Auckland, perhaps from February 2011.
 - ii. TRW and the Ministry of Education had been discussing how to make books in te reo more widely available in school libraries. Anahera gratefully acknowledged the assistance of Alice Heather (National Library).
 - iii. The TRW strategic plan would be finalised as soon as possible: it would include the website redevelopment essential for the communication of mātauranga Māori. TRW was also keen to support the Pacific information management network, and the literacy petition to defend the place of Pacific languages in New Zealand.

- c. Education providers:
 - Regarding the content of the MIS at VUW SIM, it was agreed that LIANZA would write to the School and seek a resolution of the issue with the help of the School's Programme Advisory Committee (PAC). Penny Carnaby suggested this be reported back to the next SAF meeting in 2011.
 - The question of the MIS at Victoria was added to the agenda as 'other business'.

- Gillian Oliver reported that TWOR was developing two new degree programmes, a Bachelor's (Poutuārongo Puna Maumahara) and a Master's (Tāhuhu Puna Maumahara). She advised that Open Polytechnic qualifications were now formally recognised by LIANZA. At VUW the School of Information Management had moved to Rutherford House on the Pipitea campus.
- d. **Parliamentary Library:**
The report from Government Technology Services was still not available. The Library was concerned about budget cuts leading to job cuts. The AtoJs digitisation project would require further funding support, and it was hoped the library sector might be able to help. The Parliamentary Library is undergoing a major round of redundancies and redirection of core services.
 - e. **SLANZA:**
Senga White reported that she had attended the conference of the International Association of School Libraries (IASL) in Brisbane. Planning was underway for the SLANZA conference in Auckland in late 2011.
 - f. **GIG:**
There was some lack of clarity about the purpose of 'Government information services' in the new DIA structure.
 - g. **APLM:**
Leslie Clague drew SAF members' attention to two items in the APLM written update, concerning legislation in support of public libraries. These were a Private Member's Bill in support of public libraries, which Grant Robertson (MP for Wellington) had put into a ballot for discussion in the House, and Supplementary Order Paper proposed by Gareth Hughes MP relating to the Local Government Act 2002 Amendment Bill. Support from LIANZA and APLM would be very helpful.
 - h. **ITP:**
Sarah-Jane Saravani referred to her interim sector update which had been circulated. She pointed out that some reports were still awaited and would be forwarded to SAF when received.

Discussions with the Ministry of Education (November 2010)

- a. Attendance by Marg McLeod (Ministry of Education). SAF was looking forward to progressing discussions with the Ministry on questions raised by the School Libraries report prepared for SAF in 2009.
- b. Senga White observed that what was needed was to identify exactly what made a good school library and apply that best practice more widely.
- c. Marg McLeod noted that the key question was how to position school libraries to support delivery of the curriculum: she agreed that librarians were key staff in schools in that context.

- d. There was discussion about the need to link school libraries and public libraries, and how broadband to schools might provide access to APNK. Marg informed SAF that that Government had just agreed to issue a RFI the following week for proposals for a managed network for schools. She was committed to working with the National Library on the issues, and hoped for a strong working relationship.
- e. Penny Carnaby suggested SAF as the peak sector body could provide a link, perhaps through a small working group. Marg McLeod was unsure whether to work with SAF as the wider sector or with the National Library, however Penny Carnaby affirmed that it was not a matter just for the National Library. SAF members agreed that the question was relevant also to public libraries.
- f. Marg McLeod noted that on the one hand the Ministry was mandated to deal with schools, and on the other hand it was important to communicate between local government and central government.
- g. Elizabeth Jones noted that previous contacts with the Ministry had considered multiple ways of addressing literacy issues: school libraries were at the centre of a nexus, and discussions now should aim to draw the threads together.
- h. Geraldine Howell agreed that the issue should be progressed in an integrated way, with all stakeholders (as had been done with the public libraries summit). Other stakeholders would include school principals and parents representatives. The process should be set up to succeed.
- i. Marg McLeod observed that it was important to convince school leaders. In order to convince all schools, professional conversations should be started with stakeholders on a wide range of school library and literacy issues.
- j. Elizabeth Jones observed that the most powerful argument might be to look at desired student achievement outcomes and work back from there.
- k. In closing the discussion, Penny Carnaby noted that discussions around school libraries would continue actively, and Marg McLeod was invited to maintain contact with relevant National Library staff and the Secretariat of SAF.

Annex 1:

Comments noted during the roundtable 'brainstorm' discussion:

In the past, the library sector had seen the National Library as having a clear role in:

- content agenda
- national frameworks
- leadership of the sector (but through consultation and respect of the wishes of the sector)

Existing National Library services and activities that were highly valued:

- Te Puna
- Driving APNK
- Kotui / NL role in leading shared procurement consortia

Activities that should be continued in future:

- long-term security of collections (print and digital)
- leadership for the library sector
- Leading innovation in information services
- Shaping service development
- Collaboration across the library sector
- Maintaining a critical role in cultural heritage matters

- Fostering professional and specialist skills of librarians
- NL services to schools
- Relationships that the NL has developed in the course of collaboration with other government departments
- Input to whole-of-government strategy and policy
- The ability to work nationally and internationally
- Promoting freedom of access to information

Annex 2:

In December 2010 the National Library provided the following information as part of a briefing to the Minister:

“The Strategic Advisory Forum (peak body representing the wider library sector nationally) met at the National Library on 17 November 2010.

SAF members recorded their pleasure that the Minister had attended the event at Parliament to celebrate the centenary of the LIANZA. They discussed preparations for the forthcoming centenary conference in Dunedin, and noted that libraries across the sector were rising to the current economic and technological challenges. They noted a report indicating that library services in Canterbury were mostly back in operation after the earthquake, but expressed continuing concern about the situation of Kaiapoi public library and Canterbury University library, and associated engineering issues.

SAF discussed with a Ministry of Education representative how the potential of school libraries could be leveraged and best practice generalised across all schools. The Ministry of Education had identified the work of school librarians as important for the delivery of the NZ curriculum. It was agreed actively to pursue discussions between the Ministry, school leaders and library sector leaders (including staff of the Literacy, Learning and Public Programmes division of the National Library) on strengthening literacy outcomes.”