

Hon Judith Tizard
Minister Responsible for the National Library

Annual Report to the Minister Responsible for the National Library for the period November 2004 – December 2005

Background

1. The Library and Information Commission Ngā Kaiwhakamārama i ngā Kohikohinga Kōrero (LIAC) was established under the National Library of New Zealand (Te Puna Mātauranga o Aotearoa) Act 2003.

Purpose

2. LIAC advises the Minister Responsible for the National Library on:
 - library and information issues in New Zealand, including mātauranga Māori, and access to library and information services;
 - the role of library and information services, including mātauranga Māori, in the cultural and economic life of New Zealand; and
 - any other matters requested by the Minister.

Summary of activities

3. LIAC has spent the year focusing on four strategic areas in order to achieve its vision *Aotearoa – New Zealand: a leading information democracy*.
 - a. mapping (surveying) the existing information landscape;
 - b. imagining the information society;
 - c. contributing to the policy arch of strategies and frameworks; and
 - d. LIAC informing Aotearoa New Zealand.
4. These strategic areas are further articulated in LIAC's work plan (refer to <http://liac.cybernamix.com/cms/imagelibrary/100030.pdf>).



International Reference Group

5. Contact was maintained with the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (UK), LIAC's international reference group. Commissioner Paul Reynolds met with the Chief Executive Chris Batt, in London in November 2005.

NZ Online

6. LIAC advised the Minister that in its view the success of NZ Online is dependent on harnessing the skills, energy and vision that already exist within the New Zealand library network. These have been amply demonstrated through initiatives such as:
 - Electronic Purchasing in Collaboration (*EPIC*) database access provision for the whole nation;
 - *Any Questions* for schools;
 - *Matapihi* as best practice for collaborative digitisation of New Zealand visual content; and
 - Information literacy programmes widely available through all types of library.

Under the umbrella of NZ Online, initiatives like these could be coordinated and extended to reach a far wider community and realise the vision of the National Digital Strategy that:

“New Zealand will be a world leader at using information and technology to realise our economic, social and cultural goals”.

LIAC believes that the New Zealand library community is ready and willing to make this contribution. A presentation on NZ Online was presented to the (previous) Minister Responsible for the National Library and the Hon David Cunliffe in March 2005 (refer to <http://liac.cybernamix.com/cms/imagelibrary/100016.ppt>).

Collaboration

7. LIAC has continued to work jointly with the National Library of New Zealand (Te Puna Mātauranga o Aotearoa) and LIANZA (the Library and Information Association of New Zealand Aotearoa) on initiatives such as the National Digital Strategy, the National Content Strategy and the Strategic Framework for Public Libraries.

Communication

8. LIAC has met its responsibility to inform public debate through:
 - hosting a session at the LIANZA Conference in September 2005;
 - communiqué to LIANZA newsletter, *Library Life*, following each meeting;
 - launching and promoting the LIAC website, www.liac.org.nz; and
 - presentation by the Chair to the students of Victoria University School of Information Management on “The National Digital Strategy and the Knowledge Economy - how we all fit in”, in November 2005 (refer to <http://liac.cybernamix.com/cms/imagelibrary/100036.ppt>).

Consultation

9. LIAC's advice has been well informed by background briefings provided by a wide range of individuals and groups as outlined in the summary of meetings listed below.

Strategies, Protocols

10. LIAC Protocols were developed and signed off by the (previous) Minister. The Strategic Directions for 2005-2006 were also approved by the (previous) Minister, and have guided LIAC activities through the year. A Service Level Agreement with the National Library was signed by both parties.

Position Statements

11. Position statements have been developed by LIAC on:
 - the National Digital Strategy (refer to <http://liac.cybernamix.com/cms/imagelibrary/100033.pdf>);
 - the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) (refer to <http://liac.cybernamix.com/cms/imagelibrary/100039.pdf>); and
 - the National Content Strategy (refer to <http://liac.cybernamix.com/cms/imagelibrary/100032.pdf>).

Summary of meetings

17 February 2005

12. LIAC further developed the concept of NZ Online, suggesting the following model:
 - become a virtual New Zealand for all New Zealanders;
 - link us with the rest of the world, and the world to NZ;
 - facilitate the creation of NZ content via a content and collaboration strategy;
 - fund the expansion of NZ content by establishing a contestable fund used to advance the content, confidence, connection goals of the National Digital Strategy;
 - share and protect NZ content through an intellectual property framework;
 - share and protect mātauranga Māori through an intellectual property framework which acknowledges cultural property;
 - provide citizen's authentication via a NZ intranet with single sign-on;
 - ensure equity of access by using the public library network to complement direct access to digital information;
 - give access to NZ content to all New Zealanders via public libraries or directly from homes and businesses;
 - give access to world information for all New Zealanders via public libraries or directly from homes and businesses;
 - showcase New Zealand Aotearoa to the world and affirm cultural identity;
 - encourage New Zealanders to chat, share and create with each other and the world; and
 - bring the National Digital Strategy to life.
13. The next steps required to develop the NZ Online model were suggested:
 - to develop a content and collaboration strategy;
 - to establish a contestable fund;
 - to develop an intellectual property framework; and
 - to develop citizen's authentication.

29 April 2005

14. LIAC took time out to reflect on the centrality of mātauranga Māori to its purpose. Commissioner Evelyn Tobin opened the discussion by providing a moving and thoughtful perspective on mātauranga Māori weaving an understanding of mātauranga Māori into LIAC's response to the three C's of the National Digital Strategy. She also drew parallels with LIAC's vision Aotearoa – New Zealand: a leading information democracy, and reinterpreted it as for people, by people, with people. It was agreed that LIAC needed to consider how mātauranga Māori fundamentally affected its approach and style.
15. An update was received from Steven Lulich, former President of LIANZA.

16 June 2005

16. LIAC discussed its initial response to the recently launched National Digital Strategy. Support was expressed for the National Content Strategy, which aligns with a LIAC interest in surveying the information landscape.
17. Updates were received from:
 - Winston Roberts, National Library, provided LIAC with an update on the second phase of WSIS;
 - Laurence Zwimpfer, representing UNESCO, presented LIAC with an overview of UNESCO's Information For All Programme (IFAP). IFAP provides a framework for international co-operation and partnerships and supports the development of common strategies, methods and tools for building an information society for all. It was confirmed that key issues in the IFAP agenda included the second phase of WSIS and building partnerships in the non-government world at a global level; and
 - LIAC members also held a productive meeting with the Guardians/Kaitiaki of the Alexander Turnbull Library.

25 July 2005

18. LIAC welcomed its Wellington-based Executive Officer on board. Commissioner Brian Pauling was nominated as LIAC conduit with Lawrence Zwimpfer of UNESCO's IFAP.

11 September 2005

19. LIAC Commissioners had the opportunity to talk to conference delegates at the LIANZA Conference in Christchurch. The conference theme, *Te Wero: Inform, Connect, Engage* fitted well with a LIAC hosted session where delegates shared their comments and concerns of issues affecting the library and information sector. The conference coincided with the launch of LIAC's website, www.liac.org.nz.

19 and 20 October 2005

20. Updates were received from:
 - John Garraway, LIANZA President, briefed LIAC on LIANZA's new direction;
 - Barbara Garriock and Fiona Rigby, EPIC, briefed LIAC on the issues and challenges facing EPIC in its second phase of procurement;
 - Winston Roberts, National Library, and Paul Alexander, Ministry of Economic Development, talked about the latest developments from WSIS; and

- LIAC Commissioner, Brian Pauling, briefed LIAC on the Advanced Distributed Learning (ADL) conference in Melbourne.
21. In order to achieve its vision, *Aotearoa New Zealand: a leading information democracy*, LIAC considered it crucial to send a representative to the WSIS event in Tunis, in November 2005. A formal approach was made to the National Library to include Commissioner Paul Reynolds, as part of the delegation.
 22. In relation to the 2005/06 Workplan, Commissioners will share responsibility for individual aspects of the National Digital Strategy ensuring that they keep an “ear to the ground” on developments within the sector and can provide effective and timely advice to the Minister.
 23. LIAC acknowledged the valuable contribution of Commissioner Karl du Fresne who stepped down at the October meeting when his term of appointment ended. Commissioner Evelyn Tobin, whose initial term has also ended, indicated her willingness to be considered for renomination.

7 December 2005

24. Commissioner Paul Reynolds briefed LIAC, by teleconference, on:
 - the recent trip to WSIS, Tunis;
 - a meeting with Chris Batt, the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (UK) Chief Executive, LIAC’s international reference group, in London; and
 - a visit to the Scottish National Library.
25. Paul reported favourably on the Summit, the parallel events and exhibitions at Tunis and the opportunity to network. LIAC noted that it is now in a stronger position to be an advocate for WSIS in New Zealand and the important role of libraries in the information society.

Ainslie Dewe
Chair, LIAC
26 January 2006