

Hon Judith Tizard
Minister Responsible for the National Library

Annual Report to the Minister Responsible for the National Library for the period January 2006-December 2006

Purpose

1. The purpose of this paper is to report to the Minister Responsible for the National Library on the performance of the Library and Information Advisory Commission functions during the period January 2006 to December 2006.

Background

2. 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.
3. LIAC advises the Minister Responsible for the National Library on:
 - (a) library and information issues in New Zealand, including mātauranga Māori, and access to library and information services;
 - (b) the role of library and information services, including mātauranga Māori, in the cultural and economic life of New Zealand; and
 - (c) any other matters requested by the Minister.
4. In addition to its advisory role, LIAC must report to the Minister each year on the performance of its functions during the preceding year.

Summary of activities

5. LIAC has spent the year focusing on four strategic areas in order to achieve its vision *Aotearoa – New Zealand: a leading information democracy*:
 - mapping (surveying) the existing information landscape;
 - imagining the information society;
 - contributing to the policy arch of strategies and frameworks; and
 - LIAC informing Aotearoa New Zealand.
6. These strategic areas are articulated in LIAC's Strategic Directions 2006/07 (refer to the link <http://liac.org.nz/cms/imagelibrary/100085.pdf>) and will form the basis of a LIAC workplan in 2007.



Collaboration

7. LIAC has continued to work jointly with the National Library of New Zealand (Te Puna Mātauranga o Aotearoa) on initiatives such as the New Zealand Digital Content Strategy (“NZDCS”), the Strategic Framework for Public Libraries and planning for the Public Libraries Summit and the proposed Creative Commons seminar which has received LIAC’s endorsement.
8. LIAC continues to keep a ‘watching brief’ on the activities of UNESCO’s Information for All programme (“IFAP”). LIAC’s vision of “New Zealand Aotearoa: a leading information democracy” fits well with the ideals and aspirations of IFAP.

International Reference Group

9. LIAC has maintained contact with the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (UK), a member of LIAC’s international reference group. Commissioner Paul Reynolds met with the Chief Executive Chris Batt, and staff, in London in October 2006 to discuss developments such as the European Digital Library initiative, People’s Network, initiatives with schools, professional development, open archive initiatives and technological developments in libraries.
10. LIAC will consider the Collections Council of Australia as an international reference group member to LIAC. Ainslie Dewe (previous Chair) met informally with members of the Council while attending the Digital Collections Summit in Adelaide, in August 2006.

The Collections Council of Australia carries some responsibilities that are similar to those of LIAC and its charter *“focuses on the collections sector throughout Australia, and includes libraries, museums, archives and galleries. The Council aims to ensure the stability and the sustainability of the collections sector by playing a leadership role in:*

- *developing long term strategies to address issues facing the collections sector;*
- *developing a profile for the sector at a national and international level; and*
- *implementing initiatives to address cross-sectoral issues.”*

11. In November 2006, Commissioner Evelyn Tobin travelled to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Library and Information Network (“ATSILIRN”) conference in Sydney. ATSILIRN was established in 1993 to support and educate a library and information network for all traditional owners of Australia working in libraries as well as those librarians, archivists, and other information professionals servicing their information needs.

A highlight of the 2006 *2Deadly* conference was the launch of the ATSILIRN Indigenous Protocols Website by Jackie Huggins, Reconciliation Australia. The protocols will guide libraries, archives and information services to interact in appropriate ways with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the communities which the organisations serve, and to handle materials with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander content.

Evelyn’s attendance at the conference was an opportunity to network with key contacts from the international library world. Given LIAC’s responsibilities under the ambit of Mātauranga Māori, LIAC will give consideration to ATSILIRN as an international reference group member.

NZ Online and the Digital Strategy

12. LIAC initially conceived the concept of NZ Online and acknowledged that whilst this expression was not evident in the NZDCS, the 'DNA' of NZ Online was present throughout the proposed approach.
13. LIAC gave advice to the Minister in March of an urgent need for broadband with levels of bandwidth comparable with that of other developed countries, as an essential plank of the Government's Digital Strategy. LIAC strongly recommended a minimum standard of 2 Mbps bandwidth rising to 10 Mbps by 2010 as expressed in the slogan : 2 to 10 by 2010 for all people, all the time.
14. LIAC was pleased to see that the People's Network proposal had met the criteria of the Community Partnership Fund which has provided funds for an initial phase. LIAC believes that a People's Network, similar to that in the UK (which has seen public libraries provide UK citizens with over 60 million hours of high speed access to the Internet per year) is essential to the *Capability* and *Content* goals of the Digital Strategy and supports the full funding of the initiative.

Traditional knowledge / Mātauranga Māori

15. Given the centrality of Mātauranga Māori to LIAC's focus, the challenge for the Commission this year has been to begin the journey of embedding Mātauranga Māori into all its thinking and to truly live up to *Ngā Kaiwhakamārama i ngā Kohikohinga Kōrero* – LIAC's Māori name.
16. LIAC's position statement on Mātauranga Māori was confirmed and posted on its website. An explanatory video clip to accompany it and to enrich the meaning contained in the textual statement was produced and is also posted on the LIAC website (refer to the link <http://liac.org.nz/cms/imagelibrary/100084.pdf>).
17. LIAC celebrated Commissioner Evelyn Tobin's keynote delivery on Mātauranga Māori at this years LIANZA Conference in October and travelled to Otaki afterward to meet with academic staff from Te Wānanga-o-Raukawa. The purpose of this encounter was not only an exchange of information, but for the entire Commission to gain an understanding of Mātauranga Māori in order to truly incorporate it into their approach and advice to the Minister. LIAC's intention is that this initial meeting will be the first of a long and mutually beneficial relationship with Te Wānanga-o-Raukawa.

Communication

18. LIAC has met its responsibility to inform public debate through:
 - posting communiqués to the LIANZA newsletter, *Library Life*, and the public libraries list serve following each meeting;
 - speaking to the South Island Library Managers at their meeting in Gore (May);
 - speaking at the Library and Information Association of New Zealand Aotearoa (LIANZA) Nelson Weekend School (May);
 - a key note address at the Auckland Digital Day (June);
 - attending the Te Ara launch in Wellington (June);
 - hosting a session at the LIANZA Conference (October); and
 - attending the National Digital Forum in Wellington (November).

Consultation

19. 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.

Summary of meetings

10 February 2006

20. LIAC took the opportunity to hold the first meeting of the year at the Auckland University of Technology. Meetings outside of Wellington are seen as a good opportunity to meet with local colleagues. LIAC invited Allison Dobbie, Group Manager - Auckland City Libraries, and Brian Flaherty, Digital Services Manager - University of Auckland, to discuss happenings and challenges facing their sectors, the Digital Strategy and NZDCS.

14 March 2006

21. LIAC welcomed a presentation from a Wellington based intellectual property lawyer on intellectual property and traditional knowledge, and the National Library on Wai 262 (the Waitangi Tribunal flora and fauna claim).
22. LIAC met with the Minister and provided the following advice, in relation to the Digital Strategy and the NZDCS:
- LIAC endorsed the directions of the draft NZDCS, lead by the National Library, and welcomed the concept of building NZ Online – a concept which LIAC introduced.
 - LIAC welcomed the opportunity that Wai 262 has presented to illuminate the discussion on traditional knowledge / Mātauranga Māori.
 - LIAC welcomed the availability of funds (through the Community Partnership Fund) to realise the vision. Concerns from the library community were expressed to LIAC about the criteria for funding and whether the criteria will provide for innovation in the original vision.
 - LIAC expressed confidence that the People's Network would meet the criteria of the Community Partnership Fund and would hope that this provides for a working network rather than a pilot project.
 - Underpinning the Digital Strategy, and a prerequisite for information democracy, is an urgent need for broadband comparable to that in other developed countries. LIAC's expressed this in the slogan:

2 to 10 by 2010 for all people, all the time

(a minimum standard of 2 Mbps as a minimum to 10 Mbps by 2010)

22 June 2006

23. LIAC congratulated the Government on 'unbundling of the local loop' – a critical first step to achieving the *Connection* goal of the Digital Strategy and advancing the complementary goals of *Content* and *Capability*.
24. LIAC initially conceived the concept of NZ Online and acknowledged that whilst this expression was not evident in the draft NZDCS, the 'DNA' of NZ Online was present throughout the proposed approach.
25. LIAC had, for some time, encouraged further debate on the development of a Creative Commons license, and was pleased to endorse a forum, to be hosted by the National Library, in February/March 2007.

13 and 14 July 2006

26. LIAC took advantage of a two day meeting to receive briefings from various parts of the sector and provided the following advice to the Minister:
 - the draft NZDCS : **LIAC was pleased to receive the draft NZDCS discussion document and hopes that the concept of NZ Online – the “bank” of New Zealand knowledge – will not be lost in the NZDCS;**
 - the E-government Strategy from Laurence Miller, Deputy Commissioner for ICT at the State Services Commission : **LIAC welcomes the broad approach of not just transforming delivery of government services to citizens, but transforming the way citizens engage with government;**
 - the National Digital Heritage Archive (NDHA) - a solution for the preservation of digital heritage and a key initiative of the Government's Digital Strategy : **LIAC was interested to hear about the governance structures in place for monitoring this significant project and congratulates the NDHA team for their groundbreaking work;**
 - the concept of One Library Card : **LIAC suggests that the core issues are related to the range of services that one card might provide access to, rather than the mechanisms for issuing cards. When these services have been defined and agreed, then matters of cost sharing, authentication, rationalisation of policies etc, can be addressed;**
 - digital broadcasting in New Zealand from Jo Tyndall, Director of the Ministry for Culture and Heritage's Digital Broadcasting Strategy : **LIAC believes that the move to digital broadcasting will lead to a need for aggregation and organisation of, and access to broadcasting content along the lines of the management of other digital content, as proposed in the NZ Online concept;**
 - LIAC affirmed that libraries play a crucial role with respect to Aotearoa New Zealand's digital content. The Commission's key messages are:
 - libraries are **aggregators** of content, respecting creators' rights;
 - libraries are **organisers** of content for discovery, when and where required; and,
 - libraries are **access spaces** for creating, sharing and disseminating content.

12 October 2006

27. LIAC's position statement on Mātauranga Māori was confirmed and posted on its website the previous month. An explanatory video clip to accompany it and to enrich the meaning contained in the textual statement was produced and is also posted on the LIAC website (refer to the link <http://www.liac.org.nz/internal.asp?cat=100118>).
28. LIAC immersed itself in its responsibilities to Mātauranga Māori at a hui at Te Whare Wānanga-o-Raukawa. At that time new Commissioners were welcomed on to LIAC and retiring Commissioners released.

<i>Retiring LIAC Commissioners 2006</i>	<i>Current LIAC Commissioners 2006</i>
Ainslie Dewe	Brian Pauling, Chair (appointment to July 2007)
Chris Szekely	Evelyn Tobin (reappointment to September 2008)
	Paul Reynolds (reappointment to September 2008)
	Bill Macnaught (appointment to September 2009)
	Paul Thompson (appointment to September 2009)
	Janet Copsey (appointment to September 2009)

29. LIAC acknowledged the significant contributions of Ainslie Dewe, outgoing Chair, and Chris Szekely, Commissioner, whose appointments ended in October. Both Ainslie and Chris have seen LIAC through the challenges of the initial establishment phase and have provided valuable advice and connections with the tertiary and public libraries sectors.

Brian Pauling
Chair, LIAC
December 2006