Collaborative Digitisation:
The New Zealand Experience

By Steve Knight
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Session III
Digital Library: Preserving and Sharing
Steve Knight is the Programme Director, Preservation Research and Consultancy at the National Library of New Zealand. Steve leads the team whose primary focus is access to and preservation of New Zealand digital content with a particular view to modelling and developing solutions that can be disseminated or scaled to national level. The team facilitates implementation of the operational and technical infrastructure for the integration of digital materials into the collections of the National Library. The team also leads the Library’s response to the demands of digital preservation through the National Digital Heritage Archive (NDHA), a flagship programme designed to ensure the long term storage, preservation, and provision of access to New Zealand's digital cultural heritage. Steve was the business leader for the NDHA project, a four year programme responsible for the development of digital preservation processes and procedures, including development of the Rosetta digital preservation system and the development of staff capability and capacity within the Library relating to the handling and management of digital material. From a library background Steve has experience in a range of information management disciplines, including records management and document management and the design and implementation of electronic services. Among other initiatives Steve was involved in setting up the National Digital Forum in New Zealand, the award-winning Matapihi collaboration and the NDHA mentioned above. Steve has represented the National Library on the National Digital Forum Board, is a member of the Advisory Committee for the School of Information Management at Victoria University in Wellington, has sat on the Steering Committee for the International Internet Preservation Consortium and has been a reviewer in various European Commission projects related to digital libraries and digital preservation.
Collaborative Digitisation: The New Zealand Experience

Preserving and Sharing Digital Resources Through Co-operation and Collaboration

International Digital Library Conference

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Steve Knight, programme Director, Preservation Research & Consultancy, National Library of New Zealand

With thanks to Sam Minchin, Digitisation Manager, National Library of New Zealand

National Library of New Zealand

Combined with Department of Internal Affairs in 2011

Archives New Zealand and Government Information Services

DIA provides a wide range of services, eg births/deaths/marriages, passports, community grants, anti-spam and gambling

National Library Act 2003

Purpose is to enrich the cultural and economic life of NZ by Collecting, preserving and protecting documents ... and making them accessible for all the people of NZ

Supplementing and furthering the work of other libraries in NZ

Working collaboratively with other institutions having similar purposes

So NLNZ has a statutory obligation to act in collaboration
Strategic Background

Result Area 10 - Better public service – New Zealanders can complete their transactions with Government easily in the digital environment

AOG ICT Strategy – (CE is also GCIO) - Services are digital by default, Information is managed as an asset, Investment and capability are shared

Department of Internal Affairs – four areas of strategic focus including ‘Increased trust in how government manages New Zealand’s civic information’ which covers the National Library’s work in digitisation and digital preservation

Information and Knowledge Services – Tipping Point – Digital Shift: transition from analogue to digital

National Library – collect, connect and co-create knowledge to power New Zealand

Strategic Partnership – 10 year programme of NLNZ and Archives NZ delivering shared outcomes where alignment allows

Our strategic environment is focusing on developing digital services, understanding and leading the ‘digital shift’ and, as always, doing more with less

National Library Digitisation

Digitisation Strategy - 3 areas of focus
- access (greater access to collections, enable use in new ways)
- Preservation (at risk collection items, shifting to digital and managing for long term safekeeping)
- collection building (focus on NZ and Pacific content, collaboration to build critical mass of New Zealand content)

Two main streams of work
- Imaging Services – high quality in-house team
- Digitisation Team – large-scale projects

Target of 450,000+ pages a year

Newspapers, books, maps, parliamentary papers

Increasing focus on collaboration to meet targets and deliver on strategy
**What is collaboration?**

Collaboration is the National Library of New Zealand working with others to create value by making important historic information available online.

By working together the National Library of New Zealand and collaborators can deliver more digitised content and better reflect New Zealand’s diverse customer needs.

**Principles of collaboration**

- Open access
- Acknowledgement
- Sustainable stewardship
- Fairness and transparency
Principles of collaboration

Open Access
The key driver for this programme is access: giving New Zealanders ready access to historic newspapers, introducing the newspapers to new audiences, and enabling new ways to access and analyse our combined newspaper collections.

Acknowledgment
Collaborators who make financial and in-kind contributions will be acknowledged on the Papers Past website. For our partners this is critical as they need to be able to demonstrate to their funders on the value of their contribution.

Principles of collaboration

Sustainable stewardship
The Papers Past website includes more than 80 newspaper titles, and we expect this to grow over time. To manage this collection efficiently the National Library must have consistency in the way that we work, and consistency in the way that we work with our collaborators.

Fairness and transparency
The National Library will undertake our collaborative work in a transparent and fair manner.

NLNZ welcomes feedback and comment from those included in the programme (or interested parties). That information will be used to improve the programme to make sure that as many groups and communities can be included and are happy with the outcomes.

Opportunity for groups of all sizes to become involved.
Collaboration in action

Donations
Loans
Expertise
Money

Why collaborate (benefits)

Increase range of content
Access to more content from a wider range of institutions
Filling in our collection gaps
Leveraging other major collections
Development of a National Collection

Do more together
Combined budgets deliver more content
Greater pool of funds allows better arrangements with suppliers

Minimise duplication
Effort, content and digitisation platforms
Some more benefits...

Utilise expertise (wherever it is)
Others plug into the NL workflow and tools
Individual institutions can focus on what they’re good at
Shifts the focus to outcomes rather than “how do I?"

Increased Engagement
Community buy-in
Enhanced reputation
Greater participation
Greater use of the digitisation outcomes

First year of formal digitisation agreements
12 partners – contributions ranging from $10,000+ to a few hundred $
First year of collaborative newspaper programme
14 partners at the beginning, 3 still continuing

10 partners, 7 continuing
To June 2014 16 formal partnerships, 8 continuing

Includes 1st agreement with a private individual

Growth in collaboration
Focus on new formats

But it isn’t all plain sailing...

Collaboration takes time...longer than you think...

Sustainable stewardship requires formal agreements
How we work together, agreeing deliverables and timeframes
Ownership of the digitised data?
What can the parties do with the digitised data?

Prioritisation
Balance between National Library priorities and those of the collaborative partner

Stakeholder management
Need to engage fully with partners
Meeting all partners’ needs
Case Studies

- Appendices to the Journals of the House of Representatives (AJHR)
- Newspapers
- Maps
Appendices to the Journals of the House of Representatives (AJHR)

Government-related reports tabled in Parliament
Goal – vital records available to the public in an easily accessible and searchable form.
Scope 1854-1999 – already available online from 2000
Current coverage – launched in 2010, complete to 1950, approx 320,000 pages
National Library lead
   Endorsed and with permission from Clerk of the House
Utilisation of expertise around New Zealand
   Subject expert and technical stakeholder groups
Governance via a cross-sector steering group (Office of the Clerk, Parliamentary Library, legal sector, universities and public libraries)
Funded from wide range of sources contributions range from 50k to $100s.
Content sourced from multiple organisations (destructive scanning)

Newspapers – Papers Past

Papers Past started life in 2001 with digital images of selected 19th century newspapers and periodicals.
In 2007 it was re-launched with the current look and feel and more importantly, searchable text. Papers Past has had a strong impact on the way New Zealanders conduct research.
Communities throughout the country now have easy access to information that previously was only available at their local library. It also gives us whole new insights into New Zealand’s history and the lives of New Zealanders.
Types of newspaper collaboration

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<th>Collaborative Programme</th>
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<td>Groups of all sizes</td>
<td>Large institutions</td>
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<td>National Library expertise</td>
<td>Shared expertise</td>
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No one size fits all

We need to adapt our programmes to meet customer needs
Maps

Partnership - University of Auckland

Digitise complete set of NZ government maps

- 20,000 maps
- 600 dpi (for research and academic use and enabling geo-tagging)
- Catalogue records
- Digital preservation

½ way through 3 year partnership

Utilise UoA expertise

Leveraging University of Auckland expertise

In many ways the relationship with the partner here is like that of client / vendor. UoA provide staff and equipment to digitise the maps to agreed specifications.

The library then catalogues and loads maps into the National Digital Heritage Archive. The maps are then available online and the digital copies preserved.

From here the relationship changes and UoA becomes the expert and they begin adding extra value to the digitised content.

They take the metadata (catalogue records), format into a GeoNetwork standard, encode the TIFFs with geo-references and load them into the GeoDataHub.

The maps will also be available through the GeoDataHub with enhanced access. The GeoDataHub will provide enhanced access to the map data (compared to the library catalogue records).
Where to next?

Build on success of current collaboration
Keep working with partners to improve how we work together
Profile New Zealand content digitised elsewhere
  Google Books, HathiTrust etc
  What is the quality of the digitised content
  How to free up access to this content (much of this material is currently blocked to New Zealand internet users)
  Work with copyright holders, re-digitise?
Opening up access to datasets created through digitisation (eg interrogation of 3 million pages of Papers Past as a data set, computational linguistics etc)
Review Digitisation Strategy
  Confirming digitisation goals
So, why Co-operation in Libraries?

Building and providing access to national collections
Collecting content from throughout New Zealand
Bringing together online as single collection or views within multiple collections
Delivering a joined-up approach to digitisation

Focus on doing rather than “how do I?”
Lowers the bar to enable a wider range of other organisations to participate in digitisation projects (smaller institutions, individual citizens)
Everyone has a way of participating and enabling access

Utilise expertise – wherever it resides

Increased value for money (eg single procurement processes and digitisation platforms)

And, at the very least, we are fulfilling our statutory purpose

One last thing - how do we ensure long term preservation of our digital collections?

NLLNZ Draft Digitisation Strategy

Goal 4 – Ensure the long term access to New Zealand content through digitisation for preservation and digital preservation

Focus for Goal 4
At-risk collections are digitised and preserved for future generations
All materials included in the digitisation programme are preserved in the NDHA

We need to provide confidence in the integrity and authenticity of our digital collections to our users of the future.
Questions?

Digitisation strategy

Collaborative digitisation

AJHRs
http://atojs.natlib.govt.nz

Papers Past
http://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz

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