

CONZUL Report

CAUL Meeting, Melbourne, May 2007

1. Meetings:

The first CONZUL meeting of the year was held in late March at the University of Auckland Library and included a tour of the new Engineering Library. CONZUL welcomed Sue Roberts, the new University Librarian at Victoria University of Wellington, to her first CONZUL meeting in New Zealand. Some CAUL members may have met Sue when she visited Australia as part of the last SCONUL tour. At least two other Australian university library staff members as well as myself had the pleasure of meeting Sue at the Ticer Digital Libraries Summer School at Tilburg in 2006.

CONZULAC, which now consists of all NZ University Libraries, successfully completed negotiations with monograph suppliers for a UK and a North American supply contract at the end of 2006. The contract was previously held by YBP's offices in US and UK, but has this time been awarded to Blackwell's Book Services. The contract runs from January 2007 – December 2009.

Three NZ university libraries (AUT, University of Auckland and University of Otago) have decided to swap from Rodski to LibQual+ in order to have more effective international benchmarking. Other CONZUL members are now considering their options as there was general agreement that one benchmarking tool would be preferable for NZ university libraries.

A second Collection Practices Forum was held following the CONZUL meeting, as a follow-on from the earlier meeting in July 2006. Alison Elliott, from the National Library, also joined CONZUL members for the meeting. The University of Auckland presented a detailed proposal to rationalise storage based on earlier-supplied details of print bibliographic holdings where there were duplicate electronic holdings. The proposal was accepted in principle, with minor alterations. A contract is currently being developed by a working party outlining the basis of the proposed cooperative storage arrangement which will result in space savings in a number of libraries. The next step is a similar evaluation of the overlap in printed holdings for journals available as electronic files; the focus will initially be on journals published by Elsevier, Wiley, Springer, Oxford, Cambridge & Blackwell's. There appears little likelihood of funding from the NZ Government for a shared store at this point in time so cooperative rationalisation of print holdings seems to offer the only way forward to those university libraries with shelving / storage issues.

As a result of funding from the Tertiary Education Commission, as well as funding from the Ministry of Education for Massey University to join the Australian RUBRIC project, six New Zealand university libraries have been able to begin the development of institutional repositories in-house or via service providers such as the Digital Commons hosted service. The other two university libraries also have initiatives underway. It is likely that most, if not all, of the universities will transfer to DSpace as their software environment by the end of 2007 although a number of the universities did initially pilot both DSpace and Digital Commons. The National Library of New Zealand is well down the track of completing a pilot National Research Discovery Service in association with several of the TEC funded projects.

CONZUL, in association with the Institutional Repositories Aotearoa (Ira) TEC funded project (UofA, VUW and UC), is sponsoring a second **seminar on institutional repositories** on 28th May in Christchurch. Professor Tom Cochrane from QUT will be the guest speaker at the seminar which will showcase all current tertiary sector repository projects in NZ. On 29th May there will be a DSpace User Group meeting; the Ira project is sponsoring Scott Yeadon from ANU as the guest speaker for this first DSpace User Group meeting in New Zealand. For further information on the seminar and the DSpace user group meeting see <http://www.conzul.ac.nz/conferences.htm>

A half-day meeting with SCIT, the NZVCC Standing Committee of IT Directors, is scheduled for Tuesday, 29th May following the CONZUL institutional repositories seminar. The joint meeting will be held at Lincoln University and will include presentations from the National Library of NZ on the National Digital Heritage Archive (NDHA) as well as discussions on a number of issues relating to e-research and the development of the KAREN high-speed network in NZ. There will also be a

tour of Lincoln's new Information Commons facility. An additional half-day CONZUL meeting will be held in the afternoon and any visitors from CAUL, who might be attending the Institutional Repositories seminar, would be welcome to attend the originally unscheduled meeting.

2. Merger of Endeavor Inc and Ex Libris library systems

Six of the NZ university libraries, as well as the National Library of NZ, were customers of Endeavor Inc although not all of the sites were using the full suite of former Endeavor software products. The libraries, including the National Library, have all been offered the opportunity to swap out of the three Encompass software modules to the Ex Libris equivalent products. The University of Auckland Library is the first library to swap over from Endeavor's former linking product to SFX, with swap overs to DigiTools and Metalib scheduled in the coming months. This is the first SFX implementation in NZ. Some of the other libraries have taken the opportunity to swap to competitor products. National Library of NZ is, as I understand it, still in negotiation with Ex Libris about the suitability of DigiTools for the significant NZ Digital Archive (NZDA) initiative. The majority of libraries are pleased with the merger as there is the opportunity, with the larger group of customers, for improved investment in the core suite of products.

3. Partnership between OCLC and Te Puna, NZ's equivalent to Libraries Australia

In early February the National Library of NZ signed a new partnering agreement with OCLC to participate fully in their WorldCat union catalogue. From 1 July 2007 Te Puna libraries are expected to gain considerable operational benefits from this arrangement, including the opportunity to catalogue directly onto WorldCat with the records being downloaded the next day to Te Puna, and unlimited use and access to a range of other OCLC services, including First Search.

4. Update from the Library and Information Advisory Commission (LIAC), including the National Library of NZ's Next Generation Strategy

Ainslie Dewe, University Library at AUT University, has stepped down as inaugural Chair of LIAC and Janet Copsey, University Librarian at the University of Auckland has been appointed as a new member of the Commission. LIAC and CONZUL both made submissions relating to the Government's proposed "digital content strategy", with both being supportive of the document and its direction although both concern was expressed by both parties in regard to insufficient reference being made to the importance of appropriate operational and governance frameworks in delivering on the vision for "Creating Digital New Zealand".

The National Library of NZ was successful, along with other partners, in gaining funding from the Government's initial Digital Strategy community partnership fund for the establishment of phase one of an Aotearoa NZ's People's Network based on the successful UK model. The project is being rolled out over the next two years and it is hoped that there will be additional funding made available to complete a full roll-out throughout all public libraries in New Zealand.

LIAC continues to lobby the Minister for the National Library and other parties in relation to the seriously problematic issue of poor access to high speed broadband in New Zealand. There is currently discussions going on between the Government and Telecom NZ in relation to the apparent stranglehold that Telecom appears to have on the development, or non-development, of broadband in NZ.

LIAC was briefed by Penny Carnaby on the National Library on the National Library's Next Generation Strategy which includes aligning National Library of NZ's operations to meet the opportunities and challenges of the 21st century. Prior to the release of the final version of the strategy there was extensive consultation with libraries and with the Chief Executives of all major Government departments in Wellington.

5. IATUL Conference in Stockholm in June 2007 to be followed by IATUL Conference in Auckland, 21-24 April 2008

Ainslie Dewe, University Librarian at AUT University, has agreed to be Conference Chair for the 2008 IATUL Conference which is to be held in Auckland, 21-24 April 2008 with the official welcome being held on 20th April. Delegates may also wish to participate in ANZAC events on 25th April. Derek Whitehead and Imogen Garner have agreed to be corresponding members of the Program Sub-Committee. The theme of the 2008 conference is "Digital Discovery: Strategies and Solutions". This ties in with the NZ government Digital Strategy (<http://www.digitalstrategy.govt.nz/>) and it is hoped the conference will attract some high profile speakers. There is a similar Canadian strategy, the UK e-infrastructure for science and innovation and, many Australian initiatives. Possible sub-themes are national digital strategies, e-infrastructure for research discovery and Web 2.0 for learning discovery. Assistance of CAUL members in promoting the conference to potential Australian delegates will be greatly appreciated.

6. KAREN network and e-research issues

New Zealand universities are finally in a position to connect to high-speed broadband suitable for e-research initiatives with the implementation of KAREN – Kiwi Advanced Research Network. CONZUL has had brief discussions about the desirability of developing a national approach to selected data archives and would welcome the opportunity for further discussion with CAUL on this issue. It is noted that there is a workshop day scheduled for Friday 29th June at the end of the upcoming eResearch Australasia 2007 in Brisbane. Perhaps there is an opportunity for a joint workshop relating to data curation or a similar topic??

Janet Copsy, University Librarian, The University of Auckland
Chair, CONZUL
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