



Year in Review 2020

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“What an incredible year 2020 was.”

Jill Benn, Chair of CAUL

- Introduction

- Governance
- Sector-level Services
- Strategic Programs
- Knowledge Sharing and Collaboration
- Engagement and Advocacy

What an incredible year 2020 was, from natural disasters to the pandemic and then of course the financial challenges facing the higher education sector. Over the last 12 months there have been so many examples of innovation, incredible leadership and resilience in academic libraries and despite the challenges ahead, this indicates that our sector will remain strong. Collaboration and support of each other is going to remain a critical factor in our future success.

In 2020 CAUL achieved a great deal. This included the negotiation of over \$217m worth of publisher agreements and achieving \$8.2m in savings through cost avoidance for the higher education sectors in Australia and New Zealand. Although 2020 face to face meetings had to be cancelled, CAUL regrouped quickly and launched a virtual event series which expanded CAUL’s reach with over 850 attendees at 6 events, enabling many staff at our institutions who would not normally do so to engage with CAUL directly. We advocated in the areas of open research, in copyright and in the role of libraries to make a difference.

We met with senior stakeholders within higher education, funders and government. We’ve been committed to the need to engage with you, our members, and to ensure CAUL continues to provide value.

We’ve furthered CAUL’s strategic focus building on the programmatic approach and we now have four programmes operating – Advancing Open Scholarship, Enabling a Modern Curriculum, Respecting Indigenous Knowledge and Building Sustainable Leadership. While they are all at different stages, it is great to see these coming together and having impact. At the end of 2020 we advertised the role of Director, Strategy & Analytics in the CAUL National Office and recently welcomed Dr Kate Davis who will play a key role in support of furthering these programs.

We’ve had a strong and committed Board who have spent many hours in meetings, and many more hours undertaking significant work on behalf of CAUL. We have overseen a range of significant governance changes for CAUL this year, including CAUL becoming a virtual office and direct employer, and ensuring the financial sustainability of CAUL now and into the future.

Thank you to all of the CAUL members leading or involved with CAUL committees, communities of practice, program projects or those of you who sponsor staff involvement. Active involvement of members makes CAUL great and it is very much appreciated.



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We continued to improve the governance of CAUL

- Joined the Associations Forum and participated in associations sector benchmarking surveys
- Updated and consolidated governance-related documents on a single webpage
- Appointed a new, dedicated Public Officer for the incorporated association
- Developed a Delegations Framework and a number of finance-related policies and procedures
- Adopted a new Risk Register format and ensured regular reviews of risk
- Modernised financial processes and routinised financial reporting
- Reviewed the accommodation and staffing arrangements for National Office
- Became a direct employer, established a fully virtual, connected office and created a new position of Director, Strategy & Analytics
- Developed internal policies and procedures for the National Office

We also welcomed three new Council Members and four acting members. Fiona Salisbury was appointed to the Board and Constance Wiebrands re-elected. Carmel O’Sullivan became Chair of the Finance, Risk & Audit Committee and membership of the Content Procurement Committee was refreshed.

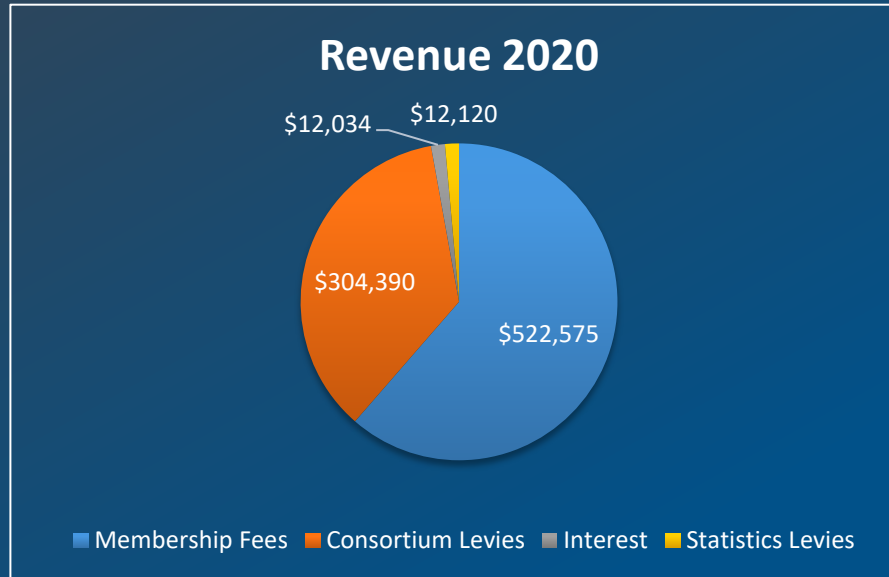
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We ensured prudent financial management of CAUL

- The final deficit (\$23,987) was much smaller than projected in the budget (\$57,753) due to savings associated with in-person meetings and events that were not held
- Expenses associated with changes to the National Office were covered by operational savings
- The 2019 surplus was transferred to the CAUL Savings Account and along with term deposits, now forms part of the reserves totalling \$308,563 in April 2021
- USD expenses incurred by CAUL such as SPARC and COUNTER memberships were approved for payment from excess funds in the Consortium USD account
- For 2021, a fully balanced budget was approved by the Board



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Assets

Current assets	\$9,129,180
Non-current assets	\$12,241

Liabilities

Current liabilities	\$8,305,090
Non-current liabilities	\$0

Net Assets **\$836,331**

Equity

Other reserves	\$100,278
Retained earnings	\$736,053
Total Equity	\$836,331

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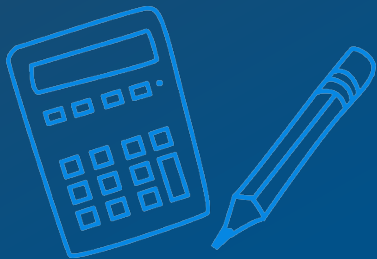


We saved the sector \$8.2m in cost avoidance of price increases for the 2021 subscription year

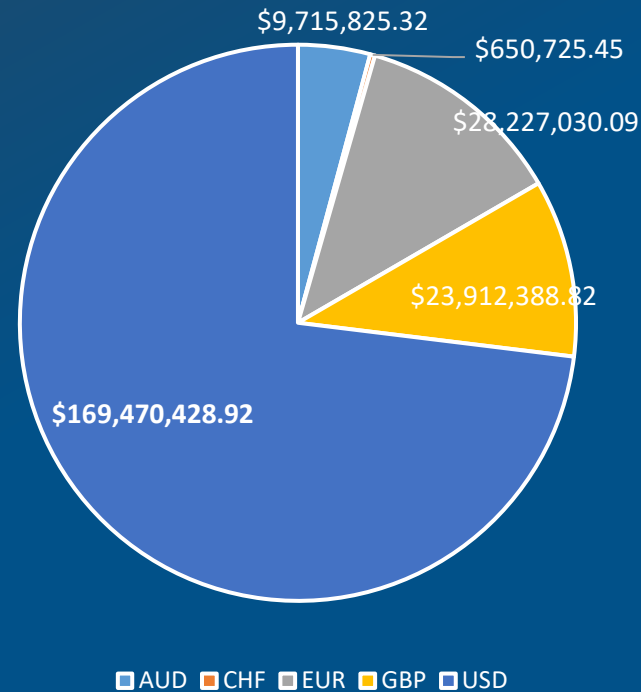
- Secured a credit of approximately AUD 600,000 across the sector through resolution of an issue with an eBook supplier
- Regularly communicated information on the financial impacts of the pandemic on institutional and library budgets, to publishers and vendors
- Introduced a Fast Track to Open Access Program for publishers and vendors
- Negotiated four new Read & Publish agreements
- Increased communication and collaboration with Content Coordinators
- Conducted the annual renewal process according to an improved timeline, resulting in more vendors paid prior to year-end than ever before
- Used ConsortiaManager to facilitate the payment of pledges from members to various open access infrastructures
- Developed a model licence clause for resource sharing and educated publishers on resource sharing in the Australian context, in conjunction with the ALCC
- Conducted a comprehensive survey of members to inform content procurement priorities and directions for 2021 negotiations for the 2022 subscription year

Content Procurement Services – CAUL Consortium

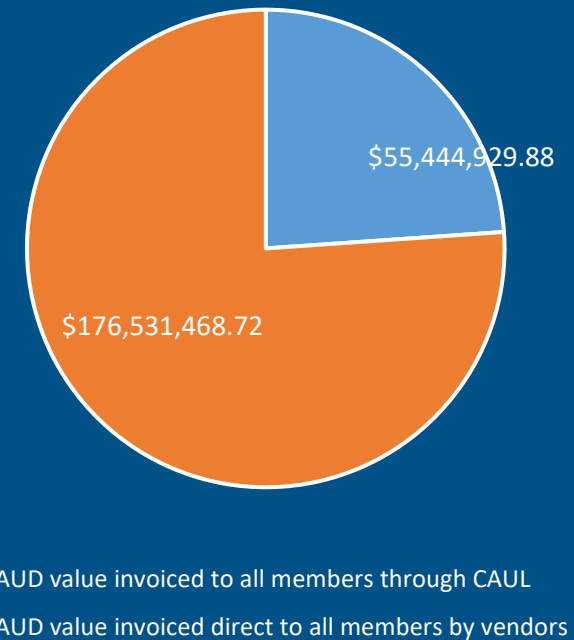
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CAUL Consortium Spend for 2020 Subscription Year (AUD equivalent) [All Consortium Members]



CAUL Consortium - Invoicing for 2020 Subscription Year [All Consortium Members]



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We adapted to the impacts of the pandemic by hosting a series of virtual events for members

- Innovative library responses to COVID-19
- Transition to Open – shared goals, stakeholder communication and collaboration in publisher negotiations
- Follow up discussion to consider the Australian context for transitioning to open
- Open and FAIR dissemination of research: towards a national approach
- Supporting Open Data – CAUL- ARDC Partnership
- Virtual workshop with breakout rooms on Enabling a Modern Curriculum
- Virtual workshop with breakout rooms on Building a Sustainable New Reality
- Virtual social event for Council Members

We also hosted these procurement-related events:

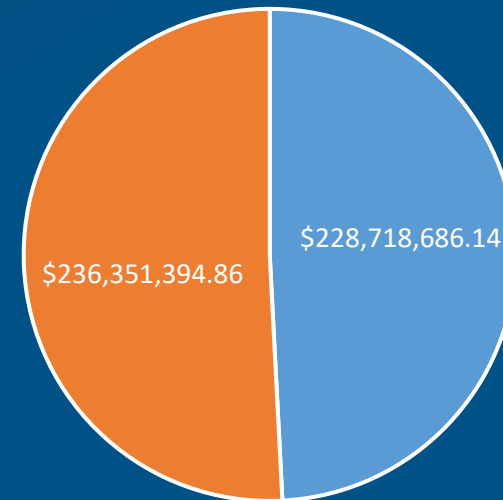
- Content Coordinators Meeting VALA 2020
- Content Coordinators Virtual Meetings throughout 2020
- Information session for CAUL Vendors and Publishers VALA 2020
- Joint Webinar with Australian Libraries Copyright Committee: “Library Resource Sharing in Australia explained. An information session for publishers and vendors”
- Update webinar to Vendors on renewal processes
- eTextbooks Virtual Roadshow

We combined data from the CAUL Statistics and ConsortiaManager to produce a profile of expenditure on scholarly content

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Expenditure on All Scholarly Content - 2020 Subscription Year
[Academic members of Consortium]



- Expenditure on all content through CAUL Consortium by academic members only
- Expenditure on all content directly with vendors by academic members only

We furthered our strategic programs and paved the way for high level national discussions on open access to research

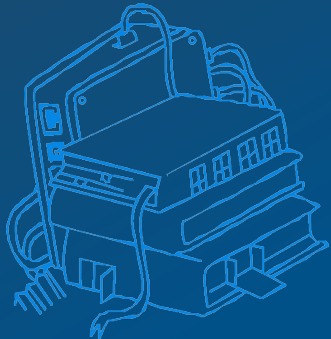
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- Developed a Roadmap to Plan S for Australia
- Reported on intellectual property rights retention in Australian universities
- Reported on compliance of Australian institutional repositories with Plan S
- Chaired meetings of the FAIR Steering Group
- Convened two virtual FAIR Roundtables involving a variety of stakeholders across Australia and produced associated briefing documents
- Hosted a Webinar – International Perspectives – developing a national strategy for open research
- Hosted a Webinar – Developing an overarching national strategy for open research in Australia
- Held several dedicated, high-level meetings with key stakeholders
- Paved the way for future meetings with the Chief Scientist of Australia
- Consulted extensively with members in developing a position on the end goal of open access to journal articles
- Reported on member experiences dealing with Copyright in relation to the impacts of COVID-19
- Conducted workshops and follow up meetings to develop projects for Enabling a Modern Curriculum and Building Sustainable Leadership



We continued to provide a valued forum for knowledge sharing and collaboration

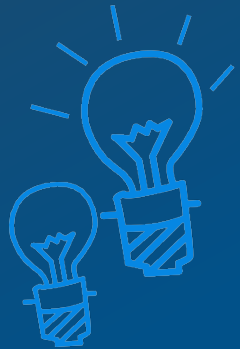
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- Facilitated extensive member sharing on responses to dealing with the pandemic, adapting to restrictions and other impacts
 - Facilitated and hosted a range of webinars and virtual events
 - Digital Dexterity Champions Network
 - Research Support Community of Practice
 - Library Value and Impact Community of Practice
 - Statistics Community
 - Content Community
 - Deputies and Associate Librarians (DALIANZ)
 - CAUL Newsletter with over 900 subscribers



We strengthened partnerships, expanded stakeholder engagement and increased advocacy

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- AARNet
- AAF
- ACOLA and all the academies in Australia
- ACCC
- ALCC and ADA
- ALIA
- AOASG (Open Access Australasia)
- ARC
- ARDC
- ARMS
- CAVAL
- CAPOS
- CAUDIT
- CSIRO
- Department of Education, Skills & Employment
- Department of Health
- Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources
- IARLA
- ICOLC
- LATN
- NLA
- NHMRC
- Office of the Chief Data Commissioner
- ORCID
- QULOC
- SPARC
- WAUL
- UA



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