

## **Asia and the Pacific Library Advisory Committee (APLAC)**

Minutes of the APLAC meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> June 2011 at 11:30a.m. in the McDonald Room,  
RG Menzies Building

**Present:** Prof. R Cribb (Chair), Dr. C Ballard, Dr. R Barz, Dr. D Campbell, Mr. M Churchman, Dr. N Farrelly, Prof. R Kersten, Prof. L Narangoa, Mr. E Maidment, Dr. R Maliangkay, Dr. B Nelson, Prof. N Robinson, Prof. Z Zhao, Mr. V Elliott, Ms. K Collier, Ms. A McKenzie, Ms. R Wong (Secretary)

### **1. Welcome and Apologies**

**Chair**

The Chair welcomed new members to APLAC: Dr. D Campbell, Prof R Kersten (alternate of Prof. J Corbett), Prof. L Narangoa, Prof. N Robinson, Prof. Z Zhao  
Apologies were received from: Prof. L Elliott, Prof. P Jackson, Dr. T Li, Dr. J O'Hagan (new member)

### **2. Minutes of the meeting of 25<sup>th</sup> November 2010**

**Chair**

The minutes of 25<sup>th</sup> November 2010 meeting were accepted.

### **3. Business arising from the minutes**

**Chair**

#### **#5.1.2 Status of South Asia Collection Budget**

- Mr. Elliott confirmed that an extra A\$10,000 would be added to the Western South Asia Collection Budget from the Director's Fund in 2011. This allocation will be reviewed again in 2012.
- Dr. Ballard advised that the Centre of Indigenous Studies and the Centre of Latin American Studies were successful in obtaining funds for Library material from grants. It was agreed that Centers should include Library materials into their fund bidding. Prof. Cribb will put this recommendation to relevant parties.
- Dr. Ballard enquired the source of funding for PNG and E Timor. It was agreed that E.Timor is to be funded by the South East Asia budget, and PNG is to be the funded by Pacific budget.

### **4. Director, Scholarly Information Services and University Librarian**

**V Elliott**

#### **4.1 Consolidation of libraries**

- Mr. Elliott reported that the Chemistry and the Earth Science Libraries had been closed with the resources moved to either the Hume Store or the Hancock Library. Savings achieved from this consolidation will be transferred into the Access and Collection budget progressively from January 2012 onward. No staff will be made redundant.

- A further proposal has been developed proposing the amalgamation of the Art and Music Libraries into a single collection in the School of Art. The space in the School of Music would be repurposed as a seminar room, practice spaces and a student area. Consultation on the proposal is currently in progress.
- Prof Kersten enquired about the purpose of the relocation. Mr. Elliott responded that this was to free up space with any staff savings being transferred to the Access and collections budget.
- Dr. Barz enquired about the location of the new library. Mr Elliott responded that this will be integrated into the Art Library within the Creative Arts Precinct. There will be sufficient space to bring in all existing Music collections.

#### **4.2 Insync Library Survey, 2010**

- Mr. Elliott reported on the outcome of the Insync Library Survey. The ANU Library is one of thirty-nine Australian and New Zealand university libraries which participated in the Survey. The Survey was conducted in September 2010 and 1,065 responses were received.
- A 6.4% increase in user satisfaction level was recorded when compared to results of the same survey in 2008. The differences between 2008 and 2010 may be partially attributed to collection relocation exercise and changes in Library space which took place in 2008.
- Benchmarking through this survey indicates that in 2010, the ANU Library was ranked within the second quartile among 39 participating libraries. Mr Elliott noted that it was more useful to compare the ANU against the six Go8 libraries who participate in the survey. The ANU compared very well against these libraries, rating overall as the best performer.

#### **4.3 Access and Collection Budget 2011**

- Mr. Elliott reported that the Access and Collection budget for 2011 is A\$8.73 million, an increase of half million on the 2010 A&C Budget.
- The high value of the Australian dollar, in conjunction with the additional funding has put the Library in a better financial position this year.
- The Library had purchased \$2.7 million US dollars when the currency reached parity. The US\$ purchased will be used for payment of significant subscription invoices. Purchase of books will continue to benefit from the strength of the Australian dollar in recent times.

#### **4.4 SuperSearch**

- Mr. Elliott reported on the implementation of *SuperSearch*, a new cross-database search platform to replace *Metafind*. *SuperSearch* is a service with the trade name

“*The Summon*” provided by Serials Solutions by the ProQuest Company. It provides Google type single search facility across library resources to article level at a breadth and depth this Library hasn’t been able to provide before, and has the functionality to narrow down searches. It is hoped that *SuperSearch* will address some of the concerns expressed in recent Insync Surveys comments.

- *SuperSearch* is available through the Library Home Page as an additional option to the Library catalogue. This will be reviewed over time to determine whether users prefer to use the catalogue or *SuperSearch*.
- Prof. Robinson welcomed the new search tool. Dr. Ballard expressed his preference for *SuperSerach* over the use of the Library catalogue. Ms. McKenzie asked why the Library does not use the trade name Summon. Mr. Elliott responded that the proprietary name is not used in case it replaced by a similar product from a different provider in the future.
- Dr. Ballard expressed concern about the latest change to keyword search default with the Library catalogue. Dr. Nelson supported this view. Mr. Elliott responded that the change had been implemented a year ago based on student survey data.
- Prof. Cribb enquired whether the Library preserves the old card catalogue as archeology. Mr. Elliott responded that some libraries may keep the shelf-listing as master data. Ms. McKenzie confirmed NLA keeps shelve listings to support back tracking of purchase information. Dr. Ballard suggested moving a small proportion of the remaining card catalogue into the Archive.

## **5. Access and Collection Budget 2011**

**R Wong**

### **5.1 Asia Pacific Access and Collection Budget 2011**

- Ms. Wong tabled the document “Budget 2011 Asia Pacific”. Total allocation for 2011 is \$643,884, representing 8.12% increase from 2010. Percentage allocations among areas within the Asia Pacific collection remain unchanged. The latest spending status of all areas ranges from 32% to 69%. Current allocation for monographs in 2011 is 60% and serials 40%.
- Prof. Robinson enquired what the basis of distribution was. Mr. Elliott responded that there is a formula which was originally based on student and academic staff numbers. Adjustments had been made by internal agreement within a small group when necessary.
- Prof. Cribb added that strength of areas keep shifting back and forth in the past five years. It is not preferable to rely on a snapshot of latest status for major adjustment.
- Prof. Kersten asked how soft money was factored in. Mr. Elliott clarified it was used for one-off purchases of major acquisitions across all areas. Any unspent budget can be carried over to the following year. Special one-off allocations, such

as bequest moneys, are usually designated for use by specific areas.

## **5.2 New Subscription/major acquisition proposals**

- Members endorsed the following new subscriptions/purchases:
  - (China)      Compilation of the poems of the Qing Dynasty  
                 The NewspaperArchive (subscription)
  - (Gen. Asia) Journal of South Asian and Middle Eastern Studies (subscription)
  - (Japan)      The representation of Japan in Modern East Asia, 1872-1948  
                 Contemporary Japan (subscription)
  - (Pacific)    The Intellectual Property Office Journal (subscription)
  - (Southeast Asia) The South East Asia Review (subscription)  
                 NUS Press Publications (standing Order)
- Ms. McKenzie confirmed that the NLA will subscribe The China InfoBank and SOSHOO databases with remote access.

## **5.3 Recent major acquisitions – status reports**

Ms. Wong tabled a progress report on 2010 major acquisitions approved by APLAC and acquired by Director's Fund. The report showed that most of these items are now available for use.

## **6. Other business**

### **6.1 Cataloguing of electronic resources and implications of electronic delivery for collection strategy**

**Chair**

- Prof. Cribb expressed the view that SuperSearch is useful to retrieve electronic resources. He inquired about the need to maintain online database subscriptions if they are available from the NLA.
- Mr. Elliott explained the need to maintain subscriptions of databases in high demand by ANU users, and the possible impact on renewal terms for NLA/ANU if either of us drops the subscription. NLA is an option if a database is of interest to minority groups within ANU.
- Ms. McKenzie shared her experiences on negotiating remote access via NLA. Some providers may be more willing and supporting but some are reluctant to provide a national licence. Also there is no guarantee for on-going remote access.

### **6.2 Role of area staff in collection development**

**Chair**

- Prof. Cribb invited comments on how to ease gaps in collection development. Prof. Narangoa noted that the new titles list she received for selection had been very useful. Dr. Farrelly mentioned that a recent summary on collection priorities he received was useful information.

- Ms. Wong explained the two Library collection development support initiatives. The China area is trialing a collaborative platform (Alliance) to disseminate title lists and collection development support information. The South/Southeast Asia area is developing a collection profile to support identification of collection strengths and gaps.
- Members are encouraged to use the existing Focus Group networks hosted by Collection Managers to receive support and facilitate the flow of information.

### **6.3 Report from National Library of Australia**

**A McKenzie**

- Ms. McKenzie reported on the appointment of new Director General of the National Library of Australia, Ms. Anne-Marie Schwirtlich. NLA is currently developing a new strategic plan.
- In terms of NLA-ANU coordinated Collection Development, various areas have old collection development agreements. These have not been updated but currently remain effective.
- Ms. McKenzie tabled a report on the above with a list of selected Asian acquisitions in 2010-11. Dr. Narangoa acknowledged that the DuXi database is very useful. Dr. Ballard asked whether Pacific materials can be included in the next report. Ms. McKenzie accepted the suggestion. Prof. Robinson asked whether Middle Eastern materials can be included. Ms. McKenzie advised that Middle East was not within the collection scope of the National Library of Australia. Dr. Nelson enquired about the status of India related publications. Ms McKenzie confirmed NLA collection as being English language materials only.
- Mr. Maidment asked about the digitization projects in the NLA. Ms. McKenzie explained the NLA had recently completed digitizing the London Missionary Society collection in order to preserve the collection.

### **6.4 Acknowledgement to Mr. V Elliott**

**Chair**

Prof. Cribb advised the group that this is Mr. Elliott's last meeting of APLAC. He thanked Mr. Elliott for his support and undertaking to develop the Asia Pacific Library during his time here and expressed the wish that the Asia Pacific Library will remain as the jewel of the crown under direction of Mr. Elliott's successor.

### **7. Next Meeting**

**Chair**

To be advised.

There being no more business, the meeting adjourned at 1:00p.m.