



Building the New Generation National Library (A)

On 5 February 2009, the Minister responsible for the National Library, Richard Worth, launched New Zealand's National Digital Heritage Archive (NDHA). Representatives of local and international business, government and community agencies, arts and cultural organisations, and the Ministers for Arts, Culture and Heritage, Research, Science and Technology, and Broadcasting were among those gathered to celebrate the delivery, on time and under budget, of the \$24 million project initiated in 2004.

“As a digital storehouse, the NDHA will ensure that websites, digital images, CDs, DVDs and other digitally-born and digitised items that make up our heritage, will be preserved and accessible to all New Zealanders, now and in the future. It will ensure our digital heritage will still be accessible – even when the original technologies have become obsolete,” the Minister said. He commended the National Library for “not only identifying the issues around digital preservation, but in leading the critical thinking to address it practically” and said the NDHA exemplified the successful combination of innovative solutions, creative people and access to leading technology, that would be essential to building a strong future for New Zealand.

“National Libraries are more usually associated with collecting and preserving physical documents, and while this continues to be a key role, the Library, under the guidance of its Chief Executive, Penny Carnaby, has also embraced digital content and the opportunities it provides through greater online access,” the Minister said.¹

This case was written by Janet Tyson, Australia and New Zealand School of Government, for Dr Richard Norman, as a basis for class discussion rather than to illustrate either effective or ineffective handling of a managerial situation. The support of the Leadership Development Centre in the development of this case is gratefully acknowledged. The Case Program thanks Penny Carnaby, Norman Chorn, and other contributors for their assistance but notes that the content herein is the responsibility of the author.

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¹ www.beehive.govt.nz/speech/national+digital+heritage+archive+launch downloaded 7/02/2009

A vision of the future

Penny Carnaby was appointed as New Zealand's National Librarian in 2003, as revised legislation, anticipating the Library's expanded role in the age of digital information, was about to be passed. It was a time when the role and function of information professionals and of libraries were in rapid and escalating evolution, and emerging trends like the increase in user-generated content would totally transform the nature and purpose of libraries. Librarians, she said, were "a passionate and increasingly strategic profession in New Zealand...leveraging off the knowledge-led world we are in by connecting New Zealanders to information important in all aspects of their lives."²

With general access to the Internet, librarians no longer needed to be protective gatekeepers of limited resources of knowledge. Instead they could be guides, "mediating access" through multiple gateways to vast amounts of information to suit the needs of users; "agnostic" conduits to and connectors of information, not all of it generated through traditional sources. Librarians as protectors and preservers of knowledge would face undreamed-of challenges from the massive influx of user-generated material.

In the vision that Penny Carnaby articulated, to ensure the implications of such massive change were well understood, the "new generation" National Library would be more things to more people than could have been conceived of when the National Library of New Zealand was established over 40 years earlier.

Establishment of the National Library of New Zealand

The National Library of New Zealand, Te Puna Mātauranga o Aotearoa, was established by the *National Library Act 1965*, which designated the Library as manager of the Legal Deposit process. Legal Deposit required all publishers in New Zealand to provide two copies of their print and music publications for cataloguing and preservation.

It was not until 1987 that the Library's core components were brought together under one roof in the purpose-built structure on Molesworth Street (*Exhibit 1*), near the New Zealand Parliament. The Library had its origins in the National Library Service which comprised the School Library Service and the Country Library Service, and the Alexander Turnbull Library. After operating as a division of the Department of Education, in 1988 the National Library became a government department in its own right.

The Country Library Service had been established in 1937 to provide book delivery services to support local public libraries at a time when the multitude of small local bodies were not able to maintain full collections of their own; the School Library Service similarly sent out batches of books to boost school libraries. The "Turnbull"

² Carnaby, P, 'New Zealand's Digital Content Strategy: Challenges and opportunities for the tertiary sector.' Notes prepared for a public lecture to mark Penny Carnaby's appointment as Adjunct Professor, School of Information Management, Victoria University of Wellington, 16 October 2006, p1 Hereafter "PCVUW"

dated back to 1918, when businessman Alexander Turnbull bequeathed to the nation his collection of manuscripts and paintings dating back to the earliest European voyages of discovery to New Zealand, and rare works by John Milton. It continued to attract donations and was a treasurehouse of rare and original material, frequently visited by international researchers.

The new Molesworth Street building for the first time physically located the Turnbull within the National Library. However the Turnbull maintained a separate entrance from the main foyer, and a strongly established brand and identity. Turnbull staff preferred to identify themselves as working for the Turnbull, rather than the National Library.

Vigorous debate

In the years leading up to the Library establishment in 1965 there had been vigorous debate about its proposed role and purpose: whether it should be primarily for scholarly research, with restricted access (the Turnbull model), or, as a lending library, be as accessible as possible and meet a wide range of readers' needs (in the spirit of the Country Library Service), and whether the two could or should coexist. The Friends of the Turnbull Library conducted a vigorous press campaign for the continued independence of the Turnbull Library, involving such notables as the poet Denis Glover.

Tensions persisted. Over 30 years later, the debate exploded again after the appointment of Christopher (Chris) Blake as the National Librarian in 1997. Blake, an engineer by training and an accomplished classical composer, came to the Library after six years as the foundation Chief Executive of the Ministry of Culture and Heritage. Like his predecessor, Peter Scott, he was concerned that the Library should keep pace with the growing importance of electronic information, the explosion of new digital material, and the vastly increased access to information through the Internet.

LIANZA, the Librarians' professional organisation³ was at the forefront of lobbying for new legislation to match the realities of the digital revolution by making it possible to "harvest" electronic publications. LIANZA promoted the idea of a National Information Strategy to guide New Zealand forward.

In August 1999, Chris Blake launched Te Puna, which made the nationwide bibliographic information, until then card-indexed, available as a web-based directory. Te Puna was delivered on time and to budget. This was a significant success, which provided a platform for future digital developments.

However it was overshadowed by the furore which broke out over Blake's plans to restructure and refocus the Library to prepare for the challenges of the 21st century. He wanted to cut overall staff numbers from 400 to 340⁴, creating new positions in the

³ The Library and Information Association of New Zealand, formerly the New Zealand Library Association.

⁴ Courtney, B, 'Cost-cutting plan affects 60 National Library jobs' *The Dominion*, 5 May 1999, Edition 2 page 3.

digital area, and to cull more than 40,000 books from the general (but not the Alexander Turnbull) collection in order to sharpen its New Zealand-Pacific focus.

Such “weeding out” of unused and outdated publications to make room for more current material was a necessary and routine activity for every library, particularly when the general collection’s Country Library Service heritage included much material now duplicated in public libraries around the country.

“Vandalism and filching from the people”

But, in a battle waged through the pages of New Zealand’s main newspapers in May and June 1999, the weeding process was presented as a terminal threat to the national heritage and to the Turnbull.

Vincent O’Sullivan, director of Victoria University’s Stout Research Centre, said the proposal was deplorable in terms of scholarship, made New Zealand look ludicrous internationally, and amounted to “vandalism and filching from the people.”⁵ Jim Traue, the Alexander Turnbull Librarian from 1973 to 1990, said that the “managerial medicine” of restructuring would kill the patient:

“Once again we are going to get more by spending less...In the Roman world, decimation was one of the most savage military punishments: 10 out of 100 were summarily executed to improve the performance of others. The National Library is going 5% better; it is booting out 15% of its 400 staff to improve the performance of the rest.”⁶

In mid-June, the *Evening Post* editorialised about threats to New Zealand’s “family Bible.” Chris Blake wrote in response:

“The National Library is responsible for maintaining a complete picture of New Zealand’s documentary heritage. It does this through the New Zealand collection in the Alexander Turnbull library, which receives one copy of every book published in New Zealand through the legal deposit system. One copy of every item is also placed in the National Library’s general collections.

“Your editorial (*The Post*, June 18) implies that the National Library is disposing of books from these New Zealand collections. This is absolutely untrue. Please let me make it clear to your readers that a rigorous process and criteria are in place which allow the library to carry out its weeding programme.”⁷

The Library was following a strict collections policy established in consultation with the New Zealand library and information community, he said. But Blake had lost the support of some influential members of this community. Editorially, LIANZA’s journal was highly critical of the National Library, while within the Library a faction was also fuelling the fires of discontent.

⁵ ‘Academic sees library plan as wanton vandalism, *The Dominion*, 6 May 1999, Edition 2 Page 3.

⁶ Traue, J; Managerial medicine will kill the patient’ *The Daily News*, 18 June 1999, Edition 1, page 6.

⁷ Blake, C, ‘Weeding’ policy explained, Letter to the Editor, *The Evening Post*, 30 June 1999, edition 3, page 4, downloaded from <http://io.knowledge-basket.co.nz/helicon.vuw.ac.nz/iodnews/cma/cmapl?id=18660>.

Matters came to a head when the Friends of the Turnbull Library, publicly supported by the Labour Party in pre-election mode, lodged a court injunction for a judicial review of the restructuring. This brought the process to a standstill, without arresting the slide in staff morale.

New legislation

Litigation was avoided after the change of government in November 1999. The new Minister responsible for the National Library, Marian Hobbs, negotiated for the injunction to be dropped and promised a review of the 1965 Act. The incoming Labour government had signalled its intention to value the National Library as part of the “cultural renaissance” led by the Prime Minister, and Arts and Culture Minister, Helen Clark. Drafting of new National Library legislation began, often incorporating almost to the letter what LIANZA had been lobbying for, including the world-leading extension of legal deposit to cover formal and informal electronic material.

The “weeding” furore would leave its mark in a conservative collections policy that would require Ministerial approval for almost all disposals. A Wanganui building was acquired to store seldom-used material to be retrieved on request.

Chris Blake resigned from the National Library in 2002 to become chief executive of the much larger Department of Internal Affairs. On leaving he noted he had achieved the \$1.9 million savings required of him, mainly by staff attrition, the closure of the library shop and reorganisation of departments.⁸

Blake had played a significant if unheralded part in preparing for the Library of the future. At a time when organisations including the Library⁹ were beginning to digitise new and historic material in a range of different ways and to a variety of standards, he had overseen the establishment of the National Digital Forum. This brought together New Zealand’s museums, libraries and art galleries to develop a national collaborative approach to digitisation of the visual treasures they held on behalf of the nation.

Chris Blake’s successor Penny Carnaby, named in October 2002, acknowledged that his hard work laid the foundations for much of what she was able to achieve in digital developments, and that the strict managerial focus of the political environment¹⁰ he operated in gave him little “wriggle room.”

Library staff had been resistant to what they saw as “yet another restructure” by a new chief executive, but perhaps most of all because, as a career public servant, Blake was “not one of us”. As organisational consultant Norman Chorn would later observe, librarians identified their world as “librarians and others.”

⁸ Langdon, C. ‘Library boss moves to Internal Affairs’, *The Dominion*, 2 May 2002, Edition 2, Page 7, <http://io.knowledge-basket.co.nz/helicon.vuw.ac.nz/ioidnews/cma/cma.pl?id=23887-3...> Downloaded 18/12/2008.

⁹ One early project was “Papers Past” the digitisation of early newspapers.

¹⁰ The 1990-1999 National Government continued and extended market reforms begun by the preceding Labour Government.

“One of us”

Penny Carnaby was “one of us,” and welcomed back into the fold, though less typically for a librarian, she was a “big picture thinker”, a visionary rather than a detail person. Her extroverted style was in marked contrast to her more restrained predecessor.

English-born, Penny Carnaby had worked in Australia, where she grew up, and in New Zealand, where she spent over 20 years at the Christchurch Polytechnic Institute of Technology, before moving to the Macquarie University Library in 2000. An active member of LIANZA, she was its incoming president when the Labour government was elected in late November 1999.

LIANZA seized the moment and held the Library and Information Policy Summit (LIPS) to “imagine what the government needed to do to start to realise the economic and social benefits of the information age we were in.” The slogan “watch our LIPS” got attention for LIANZA’s wish list of overhauled legislation and a National Information Strategy incorporating digitally-born information.

Penny Carnaby declared herself to have become “a librarian through lust” - her passion for education.¹¹ She had an “unstoppable urge to make connections.” Stylishly and colourfully dressed, and prepared to dress up if the occasion warranted it, she loved telling stories, relished repartee, and celebrated difference – hers and others.

People quickly warmed to her and felt she was “someone who listened.” Yet some could feel overwhelmed by her enthusiasm, empathy and involvement, or the power of her sharp intellect. Intuitive and visionary, she thrived on uncertainty, readily admitting mistakes and seeing strategy as an evolution rather than a series of decision points.

Though she was aware of the battles Chris Blake had fought over the role and purpose of the library, and knew she would have to re-establish broken relationships, Penny Carnaby was taken aback to discover the low morale of staff.

“I thought it might be mission impossible [to restore the Library] but I found out really quickly that the people were superb. They’d lost their confidence and felt the public debate was unfair to them.

She realised that her leadership role would be two-fold – internally, to build the confidence of the organisation, and externally to mend or extend bridges to the community. Her first move was to assure the staff there would be “no immediate restructuring, no trauma... we would firstly celebrate their genius.”

¹¹ Harris, C, ‘A lust for libraries’, The Dominion Post, 1 November 2003, Edition 2 p14 downloaded from <http://io.knowledge-basket.co.nz/helicon.vuw.ac.nz/iodnews/cma/cma.pl?id=18660-3xxx> on 18-11-2008.

The library nexus

Penny Carnaby felt confident she could be a good National Librarian but was initially concerned whether she could make a good Chief Executive in the New Zealand Public Service. She was pleased to discover common elements between the two and found a rapport with the Minister Marian Hobbs, a former secondary school principal. However, Penny Carnaby found she needed to take a fresh look at the more familiar professional role of Librarian. The National Library was, she realised, unique in its character and in the possibilities of its “national” commitment which had largely been unrealised.

Much of her first year was spent away from Wellington, rebuilding relationships with the nationwide network of public libraries.¹² The consultation yielded a consistent message that she summed up as: “Give us access to e-content, especially New Zealand content now, provide national frameworks that benefit all New Zealand libraries, provide inspired leadership– but don’t tell us what to do.”¹³

The National Library still looked to the education sector as its prime stakeholder. Feeling the Library had not fulfilled its potential as a leader in information policy and information democracy, Penny Carnaby began to network with other stakeholder sectors, starting with libraries and including education, culture and heritage, ICT , and research.

She felt the *National Library of New Zealand Act 2003*, passed on 5 May, would be the springboard for the Library’s extended role. Through writing policy, it could “make that legislation sing.” (*Exhibit 2*). Salient features were the safeguarding of the Alexander Turnbull Library, an endorsement of the Library’s role in giving New Zealanders access to their heritage, and “supplementing and furthering the work of other libraries in New Zealand”.¹⁴ The Act specifically addressed Māori interests, including references to the Treaty of Waitangi, which had been absent from the 1965 Act.

The Act also mandated the National Library to “harvest all New Zealand-born digital publishing, sound, moving image and textual material, websites and blogs.”¹⁵ With “second-generation” applications for the internet – user-generated content and the use of the internet for social connections – still only concepts, this was world-leading legislation.

The library world was good at collaborating, used to looking for linkages, and could provide a nexus between content sources and users. Libraries had an exciting story to tell about their unique value proposition as facilitators of access to the universe of digital information, and Penny Carnaby used every opportunity to tell it. While her predecessors had operated to tight and reducing budgets, she was able to attract new funding for the Library’s new ventures.

¹² New Zealand has over 450 public, specialist and sectoral libraries, most of which are institutional members of LIANZA. LIANZA has over 1700 members, including individuals.

¹³ PCVUW, p5.

¹⁴ National Library Act 2003, Part 2 Section 7

¹⁵ PC VUW p7

In December 2003, the National Library was the government's lead agency representing New Zealand at the first World Summit on the Information Society in Geneva, and in 2004, the Library secured \$24 million to establish the National Digital Heritage Archive. This public-private partnership with international technology company Sun Microsystems and Israel-based library experts Ex Libris would capture all electronic and "digitally born" information created in New Zealand. At the same time, the all-of-government initiative Digital New Zealand aimed to identify and ensure home-grown content was visible and accessible to major search engines such as Google. This would promote New Zealand's ideas and innovation on the global marketplace, enhancing international understanding of New Zealand culture while meeting the needs of New Zealanders for ease of access to and discovery of information which was uniquely New Zealand.¹⁶

From 2004, the National Library embarked on a range of collaborative activities with its key stakeholders and with fellow government departments. It was the lead agency for the Content element of the New Zealand Digital Strategy, a multi-agency exercise that clearly built on LIANZA's National Information Strategy. The Library was a foundation member of the Kiwi Advanced Research and Education Network (KAREN), creating a high-speed network linking universities and Crown Research Institutes to foster collaboration in teaching, learning and research, and worked with universities and polytechnics to develop the KRIS (Kiwi Research Information Service), ensuring New Zealand's publicly-funded research was publicly accessible to New Zealand and the rest of the world.

The Library and Information Community

In 2006, Penny Carnaby was appointed Adjunct Professor at the School of Information Management at Victoria University. In her inaugural lecture she described

"three years of strategic activity in the library profession...notice the speed with which it has happened, the depth of the collaboration and the strategic importance of the pivotal role this will play in New Zealand's future."¹⁷

The National Library maximised its international connections on behalf of the library and information community of New Zealand. In 2004, it brokered the establishment of EPIC (Electronic Purchasing in Collaboration), a whole-of-country consortium to bring thousands of periodicals and other online references to public, school, university, research and special libraries in New Zealand.

Within New Zealand, it developed the on-line homework service Any Questions, also offered in Te Reo.¹⁸ Work began on Māori subject headings, that would enable a Māori search engine.

¹⁶ Over two-thirds of New Zealanders regularly access the internet, and of these 84 percent undertake general browsing using search engines which use digital content. Source: Briefing for the Incoming Minister Responsible for the National Library, November 2008, p12.

¹⁷ PCVUW, p8

¹⁸ The indigenous language of New Zealand Māori.

AnyQuestions and EPIC would all be award-winners. The Equal Opportunities Trust commended the Library in its Work and Life Awards, and in 2006, the National Library was chosen as a Sun Microsystems Global Centre of Excellence. The National Library of New Zealand was the first national library in the world to be accorded this status, and the first organisation in New Zealand.

In collaboration with New Zealand's public libraries, local government, the Department of Internal Affairs, and Te Rōpu Whakahaui, the Māori librarians' network, the National Library developed *Public Libraries of New Zealand – a strategic framework 2006-2016*, which was followed by the first national summit for Public Libraries in February 2007. The National Library was granted \$4.4 million over four years to establish the Aotearoa Peoples' Network, bringing broadband internet access, content and tools to rural and provincial communities in New Zealand, bridging the city/ rural divide.

A new design

In May 2008, the then Prime Minister, the Rt Hon Helen Clark, announced that over \$70 million would be spent to upgrade the Library's Molesworth Street building (\$69 million capital expenditure plus \$13 million in operational costs over four years.)

It had long been known that the current National Library building would reach its storage limits by 2010, despite the increasing proportion of content being harvested digitally. New spaces were needed for people to access the digital content. Ironically, increased access to information about materials online was encouraging people to see "the real thing," even travelling from overseas to do so. The Turnbull's collection, continuing to attract valuable donations, as well as examples of every item published in New Zealand, was growing exponentially (*Exhibit 3*). The newly conservative disposal policies added to the increase of the general collection.

Opinions were divided about the aesthetics and accessibility of the fortress-like Molesworth Street library at the "government" end of Wellington, but there was no dispute that much of its storage space did not meet current conservation standards. As a public building it did not match the appeal of Te Papa Tongarewa, the National Museum, opened in 1998, which had far outstripped visitor predictions, and become a hub of colourful events and activity at its waterfront location. Te Papa was "the fingerprint of the nation" while the National Library held "the DNA of the nation" Penny Carnaby argued.

In 2005, Athfield Architects designed a new, more obvious and inviting entrance to the library. The following year, leading New Zealand architecture firms were invited to suggest a way to transform and expand the facility on the existing site.

The chosen company, Warren and Mahoney, like other short-listed applicants, initially proposed to add a new space to the existing building, but were encouraged to think again. Project Architect Andrew Barclay said that Penny Carnaby wanted

“a very expressive building that was a transformative break from what was already there...She really pushed hard for something that was, in her mind, expressive, dynamic and contemporary, but which also had some historic and cultural references.”¹⁹

The resultant design, (*Exhibit 4*), to be built from 2009, provoked conflicting opinions in the architectural world, with some protesting the destruction of a heritage building that ought to be preserved.²⁰ The revamp would remove the Library’s massive concrete façade, and replace it with glass, on which images of current exhibitions could be projected. The building would be extended on all sides, creating 4000 sq metres of new space and fully occupying the podium on which it sat. Internally, the building would be refurbished to overcome practical problems like the need for massive amounts of insulation to maintain storage temperatures for the heritage collection. The closed cubicles of current work spaces would be opened up, and the “deep research soul” of the Library, the Turnbull, would have a bigger, more prominent, and more accessible position.

A new generation National Library

However, the drive to modernise the National Library was much more than a building in Wellington. It was about embedding the digital and print world into all activities, to connect New Zealand’s ideas and intellect to global knowledge networks and bring the world to New Zealand.

During 2006 National Librarian Penny Carnaby consulted with stakeholders, including sixteen public sector chief executives about their views on her vision for a “new generation National Library” with a greater New Zealand and Pacific content focus, increased access to heritage materials and an improved user experience whether on line or at the library. As she described it:

“We basically got a mandate for change, and people actually understood what a National Library ought to be doing. Then I thought we need to look at how we do this, and we needed to do several things. One was to redesign the organisation. Everyone was focussed on structures, but we needed to redesign before we restructured...That’s where I brought in Norman Chorn because I didn’t quite know how to do it.”

To help design the new generation organisation, Penny Carnaby sought the assistance of Australian-based organisational consultant, Norman Chorn.

“Penny is a big picture, divergent thinker, and had been thinking it through her own intellectual horsepower and global contacts. She sketched the world in 2017 for me,” Chorn recalled, “The new environment, with a virtual library operation, where it’s no longer ‘if you are a good boy or girl we will lend you a book for a time’, it is a user-generated content environment with many gateways and search engines.”

Over the next 20 months, beginning with scenarios and workshops, Norman Chorn asked library staff and external stakeholders what the Library would look like in the new environment, who and what its audiences would be, and what “value

¹⁹ Goodman, D, “Carnaby’s New Look”, *Architecture*, 6.2008, p54.

²⁰ Joiner, D. ‘Destruction of cultural heritage’, Letter to the Editor, *The Dominion Post*, 10 September 2008, Edition 2, page 4.

propositions” could be offered to them. He wanted them to understand the need for change, and the implications of change, so that it could be put in place.

Exhibit 1: The National Library, 2008

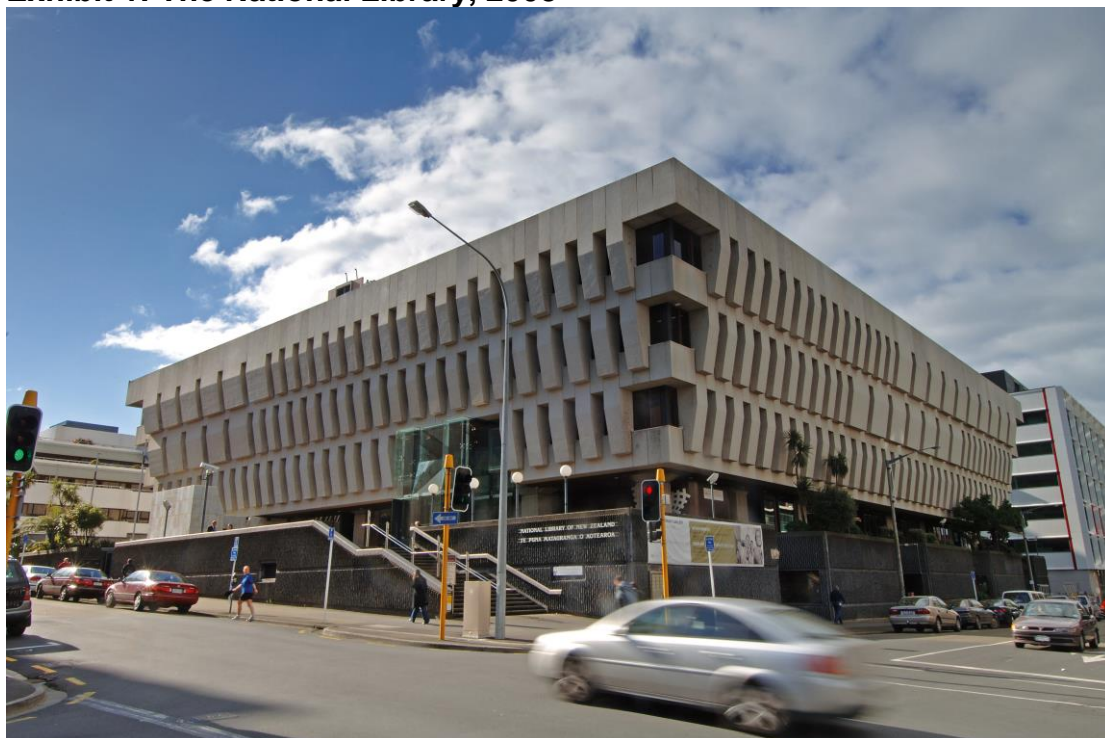


Exhibit 2: Excerpts from the National Library Act, 2003

Part 1, Section 3:

Purpose

The purpose of this Act is to provide for the preservation, protection, development and accessibility, as appropriate, for all the people of New Zealand, of the collections of the National Library (which includes the Alexander Turnbull Library) in a manner consistent with their status as documentary heritage and taonga, and, to this end, to:

- (a) maintain and enhance the National Library; and
- (b) maintain and enhance the Alexander Turnbull Library, as part of the National Library; and
- (c) continue the mutually supportive roles of –
 - (i) the National Librarian, as chief executive of the National Library, and
 - (ii) the Chief Librarian of the Alexander Turnbull Library, as an employee of the National Library; and
- (d) establish an unincorporated body called the Guardians Kaitiaki of the Alexander Turnbull Library for the purpose, among other things, of providing assurance to the people of New Zealand that the collections of the Alexander Turnbull Library are held in perpetuity; and
- (e) establish an unincorporated body called the Library and Information Advisory Commission Ngā Kaiwhakamārama i ngā Kohikohinga Kōrero for the purpose of providing advice to the Minister on library and information issues, including mātauranga Maori; and
- (f) dissolve the incorporated body called the Trustees of the National Library, which was established by the National Library Act 1965; and
- (g) enable the Minister to notify requirements that copies of public documents be provided to the National Library, for the purposes of assisting in preserving New Zealand's documentary heritage; and
- (h) ensure that the power to require public documents referred to in paragraph (g) extends to internet documents and authorises the National Librarian to copy such documents; and
- (i) provide for other related matters.

Part 2 Section 7: the purpose of the National Library is to enrich the cultural and economic life of New Zealand and its interchanges with other nations by, as appropriate, by:

- (a) Collecting, preserving and protecting documents, particularly those relating to New Zealand, and making them accessible for all the people of New Zealand, in a manner consistent with their status as documentary heritage and taonga;
- (b) Supplementing and furthering the work of other libraries in New Zealand; and
- (c) Working collaboratively with other institutions having similar purposes, including those forming part of the international library community.

Exhibit 3: Library holdings in 2008 showing growth since 2004 (in brackets)

The National Library of New Zealand Te Puna Mātauranga o Aotearoa holds

- around 2.9 million books
- about 4.5 million photographs and negatives (compared to 2.7 in 2004);
- 100,000 (81,000) paintings, drawings prints and cartoons;
- enough newspapers to form a stack about 2 km high;
- 9 (8.5) kilometres of manuscripts;
- more than 4 km of serials;
- (100,800 music scores;)
- a collection of sound recordings, including almost 100,000 (13,000 music) CDs;
- 10,000 oral history interviews;
- 589,000 children's books;
- and about 140,000 (125,000) ephemera items, ranging from posters to theatre programmes;
- the most extensive collection of Māori documentary material in NZ.

Source: National Library Annual Report 2008 and (2004)

The General Collections contain more than 780,000 items, including books, maps, serials, music scores, CDs, DVDs and videos.

These include a number of special collections such as the largest music collection in the country, and the National Children's Collection, a range of books written for children and young people from 1942 onwards.

The General Collections also contain a section where you can come in and find out about your family history and genealogy. It has resources for tracing your family history in New Zealand and overseas, such as birth, death and marriage indexes, electoral rolls and cemetery, military, probate and shipping indexes.

The Heritage Collections include the Dorothy Neal White collection of more than 7,000 pre-1940 children's books; and the Susan Price Collection a mostly fiction range of books for nine to eighteen year olds which was gifted to the library in 1991.

All material that is held in the General Collections is catalogued in the National Library Catalogue.

Source: National Library Annual Report 2008

Exhibit 4: The National Library, 2011: Design and features of the proposed redevelopment announced in 2008

The redevelopment project will involve a transformation of the existing building, while retaining the existing structural bones.

The original concrete cladding will be removed, and a new exterior and additional space added to all four edges of the building. This will extend the structure to the edge of Molesworth Street, allowing the development of a 12-metre deep, five-storey high atrium to showcase the building's content. The building will be the same height it is today.

The National Library building redevelopment will encourage interaction with the public by allowing the activities going on within the building to be clearly seen from outside. The New Generation Library will be fronted by a white steel structural frame presented as a skeleton of an energy efficient, digitally active sign and symbol of New Zealand's changing reality.

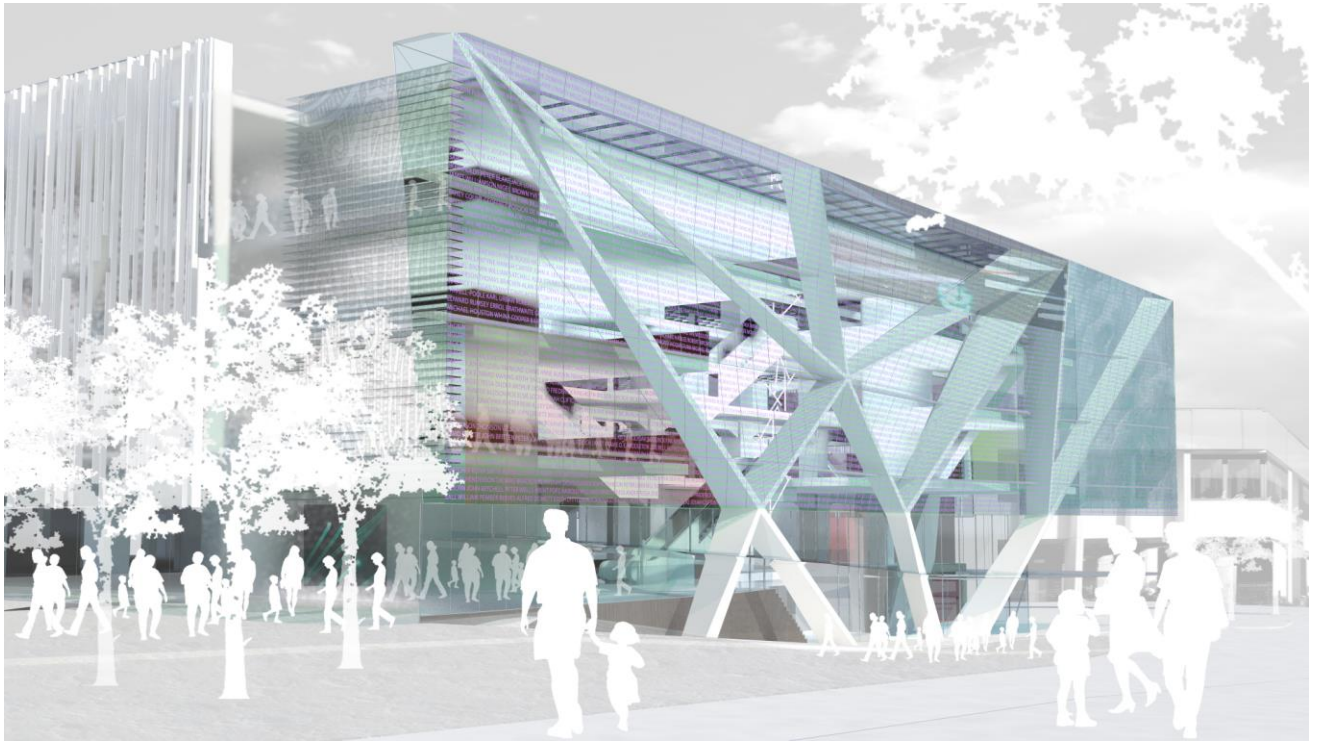
The Alexander Turnbull Library, which is housed in the current building on Molesworth Street, will have a more prominent presence and its unique identity will be maintained.

The redeveloped building will include leading environmentally sustainable initiatives, incorporating low-energy design elements such as natural ventilation, ground source heat exchange, rain water harvesting and the use of bio or alternative fuels. We will also explore other opportunities, such as the recycling and reuse of materials from the current building, to maximise sustainable features.

What the redeveloped building will offer

- Almost 4000m² of additional space for exhibitions and collections
- Increased levels of accessibility of the building and its contents to New Zealanders and the international community
- New controlled storage environments, that meet international preservation standards
- Increased quantity and quality of archival space, allowing greater capacity for the building to protect and preserve valuable collections
- A more prominent presence for the Alexander Turnbull Library
- Enhanced research spaces and facilities
- Innovative interactive spaces for digital access to collections, 3D and multimedia experiences
- An improved environmental footprint, incorporating innovative and leading-edge environmentally sustainable features
- A more multicultural presence, using external and internal design features to recognise matauranga Māori and New Zealand's place in the Pacific and the world

A five-storey high atrium to showcase the nation's heritage collections.



[Architect's video of the proposed changes](#)

[Images of the proposed building redevelopment](#)