

NATIONAL DIGITAL HERITAGE ARCHIVE

Securing the
Future



NATIONAL DIGITAL HERITAGE ARCHIVE

Increasingly, New Zealand and the world's cultural heritage is being created and stored in digital form. Institutions are being challenged to preserve and provide long-term access to digital heritage collections under their guardianship.

The National Digital Heritage Archive (NDHA) is the National Library of New Zealand's technical and business solution to this challenge.

A digital storehouse, the NDHA will ensure that websites, digital images, CDs, DVDs and other 'digitally born' and digitised items that make up the Library's growing digital heritage collections will, despite technical obsolescence, be preserved and remain accessible to researchers, students and library users now and in the future.

AN ARCHIVE FOR NEW ZEALAND'S DIGITAL HERITAGE

The NDHA will provide ongoing preservation of and access to digital heritage collections under the guardianship of the National Library of New Zealand and Alexander Turnbull Library.

WHY DOES THE NATIONAL LIBRARY NEED THE NDHA?

Strategically the National Library has long recognised that digital publications are a significant part of New Zealand's growing digital heritage and that long-term preservation of this heritage is one of the greatest challenges facing modern memory institutions.

The National Library of New Zealand (Te Puna Mātauranga o Aotearoa) Act 2003 broadened the National Library's legal deposit responsibilities to include electronic publications, ensuring this form of publishing was afforded the same heritage status and protections as traditional publishing. The National Library requires the infrastructure and technology to meet this expanded brief.

PRESERVING NEW ZEALAND'S DOCUMENTARY HERITAGE

"Legal deposit" is the provision in law that has enabled the National Library to collect and preserve New Zealand's documentary heritage since 1903, requiring publishers to provide copies of their publications to the National Librarian.
<http://www.natlib.govt.nz/services/get-advice/legal-deposit/>

WHAT WILL THE NDHA MEAN TO NATIONAL LIBRARY USERS?

The National Library and the Alexander Turnbull Library's guardianship of published and unpublished heritage items ensures that they are kept for the use of present and future generations, and provides for research into all aspects of New Zealand life and culture.

The digital world is transforming national libraries all around the world as digital content creates new forms of collection and access to a much wider audience.

The NDHA is central to the National Library's development and preservation of digital heritage collections and the delivery of digital library services to users.

First and foremost, the NDHA will secure the integrity, authenticity and therefore trustworthiness of digital material deposited with the National Library.

The NDHA will then ensure that the content that National Library users want to access now and in the future is preserved in perpetuity and that the Library can continue to take advantage of digital access technologies.

"The New Generation National Library of New Zealand will be a library that never sleeps. A place where access to New Zealand's documentary heritage inspires new ideas and leads to the creation of new stories and knowledge. A library for all New Zealanders to connect with, wherever they are."

Penny Carnaby, National Librarian and Chief Executive

WHAT IS THE NDHA PROGRAMME?

In 2004, the NDHA Programme was established by the National Library to develop a digital archive and preservation management system.

Based on the National Library's requirements, the NDHA Programme is working in partnership with Ex Libris Group and Sun Microsystems to develop digital preservation software and hardware systems.

Concurrently, the NDHA Programme is developing tools to integrate the digital preservation system with other applications the Library uses, transitioning the library's business processes and training staff.

WHAT IS NDHA?

The NDHA is the National Library's technical and business solution to preserve and provide long-term access to digital heritage collections under its guardianship.

At the core of the NDHA is a standards-based, commercial digital preservation system based on the National Library's requirements, developed by Ex Libris Group and operated on

Sun Microsystems hardware. The hardware and software is designed to be scalable over time as the digital collections grow. The NDHA also encompasses new business processes for the transfer of digital material into the digital preservation system and the ongoing management of these digital assets.

Ongoing, the newly formed NDHA Business Unit will research and manage digital preservation and handling of digital material collected through legal deposit and unpublished donations.

WHAT PART DOES THE NDHA PLAY IN DELIVERING THE NATIONAL LIBRARY'S DIGITAL SERVICES?

Tools developed by the NDHA Programme will integrate the NDHA's digital preservation system with the National Library's collection management systems and with access products that deliver digital services to its users.

An example of these tools is INDIGO, an internal digital object submission tool. As with other digital preservation developments the National Library is pioneering, INDIGO is being made available to other institutions via open-source.



WHAT EXPERIENCE DOES THE NATIONAL LIBRARY HAVE IN THE DIGITAL PRESERVATION DOMAIN?

The National Library has built up a huge body of digital preservation expertise in the past six years. Successful initiatives have included the development of a preservation metadata schema and data dictionary, software for the automated extraction of preservation metadata from key file formats, involvement in international activities such as PREMIS (Preservation Metadata Implementation Strategies) and the development of the Web Curator Tool with the British Library.

The digital preservation management system the NDHA Programme is developing with Ex Libris Group and Sun Microsystems will be the first-ever commercially viable system of its type and will serve as an international model

AN INTERNATIONAL LEADER

In November 2005, the National Library was recognised as a Sun Centre of Excellence for Digital Futures in Libraries. The National Library was the first non-tertiary institution in the world to achieve this status, which recognises our work at the forefront of digital preservation endeavours globally.



HOW ARE DIGITAL HERITAGE MATERIALS TO BE STORED IN THE NDHA COLLECTED?

Digital materials that make up the digital heritage collections under the National Library and the Alexander Turnbull Library's guardianship come to the National Library from four main sources; legal deposit, web-harvesting, donors and digitisation programmes.

Through legal deposit, digital publishers use an online submission process for online publications or send physical items such as CD's and DVD's to the Legal Deposit Office. The National Library's web-harvesting programme collects websites using the Web Curator Tool.

Unpublished digital heritage material generally comes to the National Library from donors in the same ways as published material.

One of the largest sources of digital material is from internal sound, audiovisual, image and print digitisation programmes.

Underlying all these sources that create the digital heritage collections are the National Library's collection policies.

HARVESTING NEW ZEALAND'S WEB CULTURE

The Web Curator Tool enables the acquisition of web material, such as websites, web pages, and other documents found on the internet ready for storage and preservation in a digital archive such as the NDHA. The Web Curator Tool was released as open-source software in September 2006 and a follow-up release was made in August 2007. The Web Curator Tool, along with manuals, FAQ documents, source code, development documentation and further information, is available on the Web Curator Tool website.

<http://webcurator.sourceforge.net/>



HOW HAS THE INTERNATIONAL LIBRARY COMMUNITY BEEN INVOLVED IN THE NDHA PROGRAMME?

To ensure that the digital preservation system is developed in concert with general access and archiving trends and meets cultural heritage preservation and management needs of libraries now and in the future, an international Peer Review Group serves as an independent resource for the partnership.

The Peer Review Group members are recognised thought leaders and innovators from the international library and academic community with institutional expertise in the areas of digital preservation and permanent access. Members represent such institutions as the British Library, Cornell University Library, the

Getty Research Institute, Helsinki University Library, Koninklijke Bibliotheek, National Library of China, Singapore National Library, the University of Glasgow and Yale University.

NEW ZEALAND'S DIGITAL STRATEGY

New Zealand's Digital Strategy is a vision for New Zealand to be 'a world leader at using information and technology to realise economic, social and cultural goals'.

The NDHA Programme is playing a significant part, ensuring that one of New Zealand's largest institutions responsible for digital heritage content has the appropriate digital archiving and preservation management systems. In turn, the NDHA Programme is sharing the digital preservation knowledge gained with the rest of the public sector.

WHEN WILL THE NDHA BE OPERATIONAL?

The NDHA will be implemented in two phases. The NDHA will be operational for digital material ingest, storage and access by the end of 2008. The balance of functionality, including support for digital preservation management, will be in place by the end of 2009.

**For more information about the NDHA Programme,
please visit www.natlib.govt.nz/ndha**



<http://www.natlib.govt.nz>



<http://www.exlibrisgroup.com>



<http://www.sun.com>

New Zealand Government