

Seamus Ross Report Recommendations 29 April 2003

Throughout this report a number of recommendations of detail have been made (such as the need for further consideration of handles vs DOIs, microfilming, that if the Library develops a selective web harvesting programme that it maintain information about the process including details of sites rejected, the need for server consolidation, the need to add a dynamic OCRing functional layer to Papers Past). There are nine key recommendations which are essential if the Library is to ensure the long-term success of its digital library programme.

- (1) The Library needs to complete and adopt its digitisation policy within this financial year.
- (2) A digital library policy needs to be established by the end of the first quarter of the next financial year.
- (3) The Library should consolidate its digitisation activities within Corporate Services and manage these through a cross disciplinary oversight committee to ensure that resources are effectively allocated and there is consistency to its digitisation work whether this is conducted in-house or outsourced.
- (4) The Library should ensure that in developing its digital library activities it exercises its leadership role and support public and academic libraries in the area of digital preservation.
- (5) The Library should complete as a matter of urgency its Survey Objects Project and publicise the results.
- (6) The Library should specify, design, implement and deploy a digital repository, if possible in conjunction with other national memory institutions, but if necessary independently of them.
- (7) The Library should establish a time-constrained Digital Library Delivery Service with responsibility for strategic developments in the areas of selection, acquisition, cataloguing, providing access to and preserving digital materials.
- (8) The Library improve its economic modelling of the costs associated with collecting and maintaining digital objects whether coming from digital objects on fixed media, digitisation, or web harvesting. This should include consideration of the economic impact of these resources on building the creative economy of New Zealand, encouraging tourism and services to industry.
- (9) The library needs to address the tension between providing access for education and research purposes.

These recommendations will enable the Library to build on its remarkable successes in laying the foundations for the ELEMENTS of a digital library that the National Library will need to have in place if it is to respond to the changing information landscape and to fulfill its duties under the new Act.