

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications

Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice

Additional Estimates Spill-over hearing March 2017

Communications Portfolio

National Library of Australia

Question No: 267

National Library of Australia

Hansard Ref: Written, 03/04/2017

Topic: National Library

Senator Bilyk, Catryna asked:

1. What library collection material will be digitised and what critical infrastructure will be upgraded as a result of the allocation of \$16.4 million over four years (commencing 2016-17) from the Public Service Modernisation Fund to be used for digitisation of library collection material and the upgrade of critical infrastructure as included in the Portfolio Additional Estimates Statements published on 9 February 2017?
2. Did the Library request this additional funding and, if so, what funds were requested and for what purpose?
3. Why was the additional allocation made to the Library when no additional allocation was made to other national collecting institutions in the Arts portfolio for digitisation of their important national collections?
4. Will other allocations be made from the Public Service Modernisation Fund for digitisation of the collections of other national collecting institutions in the Arts portfolio?
5. What representations have been received for additional funding for digitisation at other collecting organisations in the Arts portfolio?
6. What representations have been received for relief from efficiency dividends at collecting institutions in the Arts portfolio?

Answer:

1. The funding will target the following activities:
 - Capacity of the Trove service to aggregate content from smaller organisations (e.g. district historical societies) and from larger organisations (e.g. universities and museums).
 - Collection funded digitisation by the Library.
 - Enhance Trove digital delivery and capability to meet end user expectations.
 - Undertake scoping and requirements development for a National Electronic Legal Deposit system.
 - Procurement and implementation of an Integrated Library Management System.
 - Upgrade information technology infrastructure to ensure Trove remains a robust and reliable service.

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- Enhance user engagement through multiple digital channels (e.g. Apple TV, Google Chromecast, iTunes U and YouTube) so that content, particularly as video, can be accessed where people and audiences are and in their preferred medium.
- Improve collection control through projects which make collections usable and discoverable.

The funding will support the following digitisation projects:

- Partnership with the Office of Parliamentary Counsel (OPC) to digitise and deliver 155,000 pages of the *Commonwealth Gazette* from 1901-1957. OPC had digitised the gazette, planning to make it available to its internal audience. The funding allowed the Library to process the digital images, producing fully text searchable content ready for delivery through Trove. This content was released in February 2017.
 - The Library and OPC will partner to digitise and deliver an estimated 1.1 million pages of the remaining years – 1958-2012 – over the next two financial years.
 - The Library has developed a four-year plan to digitise and deliver high impact, high volume content. In addition to the *Commonwealth Gazette*, this includes *The Bulletin* (out of copyright years only), parliamentary papers, and content microfilmed during the 50 year *Australian Joint Copying Project* (an estimated 5 million images of documents relating to Australia, but held in UK public and private archives).
 - The Library will also digitise more of its unique and rare material, including pictorial, rare book, and manuscript collections.
 - The Library continues to collaborate with other organisations that fund digitisation and processing of content. The State Library of New South Wales is the Library's largest single partner in this activity.
2. Yes, \$16.4 million for the activities listed in Answer 1.
 3. This is a matter for Government.
 4. This is a matter for Government.
 5. This is a matter for Government.
 6. This is a matter for Government.