The State Library’s collection is valued at more than $2.142 billion
Our Library
Our Library

October 2014
The Hon. Troy Grant MP
Minister for the Arts
Level 17
52 Martin Place
Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Minister

We take pleasure in submitting the Annual Report and Financial Statements of the Library Council of New South Wales for the year ending 30 June 2014 for presentation to Parliament.

These documents have been prepared in accordance with the provisions of the Annual Reports (Statutory Bodies) Regulation 2010, and the Public Finance and Audit Act, as amended.

Submitted on behalf of the Library Council of New South Wales

Yours sincerely

Mr Robert Thomas AM
President, Library Council of New South Wales

Dr Alex Byrne
State Librarian & Chief Executive and Secretary, Library Council of New South Wales

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OUR LIBRARY
A world leading library and centre of digital excellence, the State Library of NSW informs, educates, inspires and surprises online, onsite and on tour. The Library’s rich heritage collections, contemporary print and digital materials, partnership with the public library network and vibrant collaborations enable Australians to interrogate our past and imagine our future.

MISSION AND VALUES
To strengthen the community by being the trusted provider of quality information services by:
• providing equitable access to contemporary and historical knowledge
• collecting and preserving Australia’s heritage
• promoting our role as a cultural destination
• collaborating with the NSW public library network.

OUR CORE VALUES AND BELIEFS ARE:
• Equity of access
• Innovation and engagement
• Valuing people
• Honour and integrity
• Energy and teamwork.

VISION
For the community, we aspire to be a Library that is:
• a pre-eminent and welcoming cultural destination
• acknowledged for excellent client service and staff expertise
• an innovative gateway to information and cultural enrichment
• recognised for a unique and accessible collection
• an active advocate for the NSW public library network
• a proactive partner in knowledge creation.

OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES
• People and communities
• Staff and capability
• Collections and access
• Sustainability.
WORLD LEADING LIBRARY

The State Library of NSW is the premier library for the people of NSW. Its peers are the world’s great libraries, those that tell of the development of our societies and the unfolding stories of humanity.

The Library’s extraordinary collections document the heritage of Australia and Oceania and are one of the State’s most valuable assets. By building, preserving and delivering its collections, including today’s born-digital materials, the Library enables Australians to interrogate our past and imagine our future.

As a developing centre of digital excellence, the Library engages online across NSW, Australia and globally. Its collections are increasingly delivered digitally for all to use and repurpose, providing depth for the researcher and stimulus to the creative industries. Free access to online journals, databases and learning materials is provided throughout the state.

At its heritage home on Macquarie Street at the heart of Sydney, the Library is a knowledge landmark, a pre-eminent cultural destination which attracts scholars, students and visitors who can read, converse, learn, visit exhibitions or enjoy events. Mirrored online, the services and spaces for study, learning, exhibitions, events and encounter are friendly and stimulating.

The State Library works in partnership with the public library network to enrich the lives of people and communities across NSW. Onsite and online, public libraries anticipate the needs of children and families, young people and students, working people, older people, visitors and business, and the particular interests of Australia’s Indigenous peoples and multicultural population. Local services are extended by the information services, educational programs and exhibitions provided onsite, online and on tour through the expertise of the State Library’s staff and the strength of its partnerships.

OUR SERVICE GUARANTEE

• Timely, relevant and accurate information provided from anywhere in the world to anywhere in the state
• Courteous, friendly and efficient staff
• Requests for information and advice responded to promptly
• Resources held in our collections are easily accessible
• Services and resources meet the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clients, people from non-English speaking backgrounds and clients with disabilities
• Appropriate and well-maintained equipment and facilities are available
• Training courses provide participants with valuable and relevant skills
• Fee-based services deliver value for money.

HISTORY OF OUR LIBRARY

The State Library of NSW is the oldest library in Australia. In 1869 the NSW Government purchased the Australian Subscription Library, which had been established in 1826, to form the Sydney Free Public Library, the first truly public library for the people of NSW. The Mitchell Library, the first library in the country to concentrate entirely on Australian content, opened in 1910.

OUR LIBRARY’S LEGISLATION

The Library Council of NSW is the governing body of the State Library. Library Council objectives are defined in section 4A of the Library Act 1939.