Building an Aotearoa New Zealand-wide Digital Curation Community of Practice

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National Library of New Zealand
Te Puna Mātauranga o Aotearoa

New Zealand Government
Why do this work?

• The National Library of New Zealand established the National Digital Heritage Archive (NDHA) in 2008
• Since 2015, we have had significantly more requests for advice from institutions around New Zealand
• The National Library’s strategic directions seeks to preserve born-digital documentary heritage nationally
• There is very little formal training for digital curation, digital preservation, or born-digital collecting in New Zealand’s heritage sector
Born-digital in Aotearoa

• NZ survey based on prior OCLC Surveys of Archives and Special Collection Libraries (conducted in US and Canada, and UK and Ireland)

• Aim was to understand the current state of born-digital archival and special collections material across the country. How well prepared and positioned was our sector to collect, manage, and preserve this material?

• Survey was sent out to 390 contacts in archives, libraries, and museums in 2016

• Overall response rate of 27%
  – 100% response rate for university / tertiary libraries
  – 20% response rate for public libraries
  – 37% response rate for council archives
  – 26% response rate for museums
Current status of born-digital archival collections

- 81% of New Zealand cultural institutions hold born-digital material
- 86% expect to be collecting and managing born-digital materials in the next two years
- Only 32% reported having a plan or strategy for born-digital collections in place
- 63% identified lack of staff expertise as their main impediment to collecting and managing born-digital materials
Digital processing

• 88% reported having born-digital material on digital physical media such as CD, DVD, external hard drives, and floppy disks

• Obsolete physical digital media carriers such as 5.25” and 3.5” floppy disks, are held by 33% and 60% of these institutions respectively.

• Only 33% reported currently transferring born-digital content from physical digital media carriers to a more secure environment.
Collaboration welcomed

• I would welcome a collaborative approach to knowledge sharing, planning and collecting digital born materials between New Zealand collecting institutions working in this space. [Name redacted] hopes to begin piloting targeted collecting of digital

• Support from national institutions for digital repositories, practice, training and financially viable solutions for born digital material is lacking.

• Born-digital content is important, and will become a priority...once we have better control over the physical collection. As a small regional library, we would like to benefit from the research/processes of larger, municipal libraries with greater resources in this area
Pilot workshops

• Held in Dunedin and Auckland in 2017

• Key principles:
  – Theory and practice are always in conversation with each other
  – Everyone in the room is an equal partner and we each have valuable information and experiences to share
Follow-up workshops

Workshop for Library and Special collections staff at University of Auckland, 2018. Photo: Valerie Love

Attendees at ‘Building Digital Collecting Capabilities’ workshop held alongside the ARANZ Conference, August 2018. Photo credit: Valerie Love
Thank you!

Many colleagues have supported and contributed to this work since 2016. It would not have happened without: Jessica Moran, Leigh Rosin, Mark Crookston, and Valerie Love.

Questions?

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