

**Submission to the National Library in response to *Positioning for the future: Draft Strategic Directions to 2030* consultation document.**

Submitted by Jackie Dennis on behalf of the New Zealand Society of Authors (PEN NZ Inc)

*Submitted on 31/08/2016 4:58pm*

**What sector do you work in?**

Literature sector

**How often do you interact with the National Library of New Zealand?**

Frequently

**Do you think the 3 broad themes outlined (One knowledge network, A nation of readers, Words as taonga) are the right areas of focus for the National Library looking towards 2030?**

Yes

**Why or why not?**

Yes, with one reservation. Authors are missing from your Draft Strategic Direction except when mentioned in context of encouraging diversity. Authors create the substance of the National Library collections, whether in the form of published works or authors' research papers. It is the authors that create the sequence of words that share knowledge, engage readers and enrich cultural life in New Zealand.

**Do the strategic directions fit with your view of the role of a national library?**

Yes

**Why or why not?**

Yes, to share knowledge, encourage reading from cradle to grave, and to value and protect the national library collections (largely made up of words, created by authors) are good strategic directions for the national library. However we would like to see more acknowledgement of, and compensation to authors for the use of their works.

**Which of the proposed ideas for success for 'One knowledge network' do you consider to be most important?**

National contracts for licensing e-content & new systems

**Why?**

The digital publishing transition cannot happen until there are licenses in place for the reproduction of copyrighted works. If the library is going to lend the works, there needs to

be a mechanism in place for financial remuneration to authors for the loaning of the books and research papers that are not in the public domain.

**Which of the proposed 'One knowledge network' ideas for success do you consider to be most problematic?**

National contracts for licensing e-content and new systems

**Why?**

Getting agreements in place for the digitised copies of the works to be made available over the internet will take time and negotiation. The current PLR system is based on number of copies held by the library and this will not be functional for digitised copies. Either the legislation for PLR is updated and based on number of times a work is loaned, or a new mechanism is put in place for the distribution of digitised content. Breaking new ground is challenging as acknowledged in Marianne Takle's paper "The Norwegian National Digital Library"

**Which of the proposed ideas for success for 'A nation of readers' do you consider to be most important?**

NZ Children's Laureate appointed to champion reading

**Why?**

Reading from an early age increases literacy levels, and a NZ Children's Laureate will champion reading from an early age, therefore a NZ Children's Laureate will help increase literacy levels.

**Which of the proposed 'A nation of readers' ideas for success do you consider to be most problematic?**

N/A

**Why?**

N/A

**Which of the proposed ideas for success for 'Words as taonga' do you consider to be most important?**

Shared expertise to acquire, curate & preserve our documentary heritage & make it accessible

**Why?**

Technology is not the future, it is now. We need to keep pace with other countries in the digital arena.

**Which of the proposed 'Words as taonga' ideas for success do you consider to be most problematic?**

A sustainable, fit-for-purpose digital preservation approach to manage new digital content

**Why?**

There are three aspects to digitisation - preserving works, managing / administering works and accessing works. If digitised works are to be loaned there needs to be a mechanism in place to ensure authors / creators are paid if the work is still in copyright. Also, the administration of PLR could be improved as part of the library's digital shift, for example payments being made on actual holdings rather than estimates taken from surveys.

**What do you think is missing from the National Library's draft strategic directions?**

The next draft of the National Library strategic direction should state that removing barriers to share knowledge will be done in a way that retains the rights of copyright owners and authors. Removing such barriers without considering the authors will have a negative impact on innovation by further reducing the ability of authors (national library content creators) to make a viable living. Sometimes 'users' are given precedence over the creators and this should not happen at our National Library. We support the driver Words as taonga BUT this concept must recognise and respect the writers and creators.

**How does the National Library's draft strategic directions fit with your organisation's priorities?**

One of our organisations priorities is to ensure writers are fairly paid for their work. It is unclear if your proposed strategic response around knowledge, reading and words considers the authors of those words

**In which areas are you or your organisation interested in partnering with or contributing to the National Library?**

We are keen to partner with the National Library to create opportunities for writers and encourage greater diversity of writers. We would also like to contribute to discussions around the improved administration of PLR, and any planning on how to compensate authors when digitised books and research papers are made availability for loan.

**How would you like to be involved as the strategic directions are progressed?**

As a potential partner

**Any other thoughts you'd like to share?**

Thank you for the opportunity to give feedback on your Draft Strategic Directions.