

21 March 2022

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Kia ora,

#### COMMENT ON TE PAERANGI – FUTURE PATHWAYS GREEN PAPER

Thank you for the opportunity to join the conversation about the future of New Zealand's research system.

The National Library has considerable knowledge assets to contribute towards a robust and effective New Zealand research, science and innovation system for public application and that generates private and social value for New Zealanders.

The National Library contributes to the New Zealand research system through leadership in the library and information sector, quality collections of New Zealand and Pacific documentary materials, extensive research datasets, national systems for managing and sharing information, and expertise. We work with iwi Māori and other partners and stakeholders so that New Zealand libraries, educational, cultural and research institutions can act as one knowledge network, to facilitate New Zealanders sharing knowledge.

The National Archival and Library Institutions (NALI) Ministerial review in 2018 recognised the vital role that the National Library has in New Zealand's democratic and cultural infrastructure along with Archives New Zealand and Ngā Taonga Sound and Vision. Furthermore, significant investment in documentary heritage as part of Budget 2020 funded large scale digitisation of at-risk audio-visual collections (Utaina!) and creating a national documentary heritage campus in the Wellington parliamentary precinct (Tāhuhu).

The Government also entrusted the National Library to lead and support COVID-19 recovery work across New Zealand's library system with the New Zealand Library Partnerships Programme (NZLPP) funding package of \$58.8 million, over two to four years. We are interested to discuss with you how this investment and future investment in the role of National Library might be leveraged in the design of New Zealand's research, science and innovation sector.

Further to submissions on the draft report for MBIE's review of scientific collections and databases (May 2019) and proposed changes and options for strengthening the Performance-Based Research Fund Review (November 2020) we would like to comment on aspects of the Te Paerangi – Future Pathways Green Paper where the work of the National Library and the New Zealand library sector can contribute to sustainable global quality e-research infrastructure and system design that improves channels of knowledge exchange and transfer for greater impact.

**Key Question 1: What principles could be used to determine the scope and focus of research Priorities?**

In considering whole-of-system research priorities we encourage diversity of research methodologies and interdisciplinarity recognising the value of social science and humanities research in addressing global issues such as climate change, and local issues such as housing, mental health and child poverty.

The National Library, which includes the Alexander Turnbull Library, and New Zealand's libraries, archives, galleries and museums are stewards of documentary heritage collections representing Aotearoa New Zealand's social and natural history. This corpus developed over almost 200 years, together with descriptive metadata and expert research support should be considered a rich and accessible resource in creating new knowledge and solving difficult problems when determining research priorities relevant to Māori and to New Zealand's unique situation. The National Library and the wider sector actively support new digitally enabled models for research and knowledge transfer.

We recommend that dedicated funding for value adding services for research and knowledge transfer provided by libraries and archives such as creating descriptive metadata, digitisation, curation of research datasets, and access and rights management should be included within the scope of research priorities.

**Key Question 5: What are your thoughts on how to enable and protect mātauranga Māori in the research system?**

In seeking to understand and honour Te Tiriti obligations and opportunities we encourage a focus on building long term trust relationships with Māori including Crown Māori partnerships. Te Ara Taonga, a group of agencies that support tiaki taonga, is an example of Crown Māori partnership involving the National Library, which is working to develop trust relationships with iwi Māori in support of cultural heritage, data sovereignty and descriptive practices for interoperability and a Māori world view.

The National Library holds the largest corpus of Māori documentary material in the world and is working with iwi Māori to make it available for researchers by managing cultural rights in the material, by digitising te reo material and by applying te reo terms and iwi and hapū names in descriptions of the material.

Culturally appropriate library and research support services, including metadata tools such as Ngā Upoko Tukutuku (Māori Subject Headings) and management of mātauranga Māori and Māori research data in research repositories also contribute to a supportive environment for Māori research.

### **Key Question 7: How should we determine what constitutes a core function and how should core functions be funded?**

To give effect to whole-of-system priorities and reduce unproductive competition we support funding for collaboration at scale to achieve system uplift in core functions. We consider library and information services and knowledge management to be core research functions. Libraries, including CRI, Tertiary and Special libraries, and Librarians have a strong history of collaboration and networked systems to ensure quality information inputs and research outputs, access and use, knowledge transfer and end to end research support services.

We would be interested to discuss further opportunities for achieving greater impact through centralised coordination of strategies, policies, and services. For example, Tohatoha, in their report [Centring our values: open access for Aotearoa](#) called for National Library, CONZUL and LIANZA to collaborate to lead the development of a national open access strategy.

Presentation and preservation of national collections (physical and digital) benefits local and international research sectors and is a core function. Long-term preservation of source materials and raw data allows for ongoing replication and re-validation of research outputs and research outcomes.

The National Library has established services that with coordination and funding can be scaled for systemwide benefit such as large-scale digitisation capability and world leading digital preservation services for research data and research collections. The work of Archives New Zealand to develop an All-of-Government ontology for government information is also likely to be of interest in this discussion.

### **Key Question 14: How should we include workforce considerations in the design of research Priorities?**

To better support the development and retention of the research workforce we encourage local solutions that respond to urgent workforce shortages in all aspects of support for Māori research and in the context of digitalisation of research practices. Some highly specialised aspects of the research workforce are becoming increasingly scarce such as expertise for bibliographic description, appraisal and arrangement of unpublished materials, and the expertise required to develop metadata standards and ontologies. We would be interested to discuss opportunities for developing a coordinated workforce development programme for research libraries in New Zealand.

The New Zealand Libraries Partnership Programme (NZLPP) provides one model for supporting library workforce development. This programme has focused on support for an increasingly diverse workforce in the public library sector, including retention and development of Māori and Pasifika staff, leadership development, trainee recruitment and career progression development, as well as supporting local iwi and skill development in te reo and mātauranga Māori.

Another workforce development model is the UK Research Engagement Programme. This is a partnership approach involving Research Libraries UK (RLUK), the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) and the Association of Research Managers and Administrators (ARMA).

We also note issues related to pay parity in research support roles, such as librarianship, and gendered patterns of career progression and team leadership, in the current research system.

**Key Question 17: How do we support sustainable, efficient, and enabling investment in research infrastructure?**

We believe strong central leadership will be required to maximise investment in research infrastructure. The National Librarian has a leadership role in New Zealand's information and knowledge systems, as well as internationally. The National Library's Strategic directions to 2030 - *'Turning Knowledge into Value'* commits us to working collaboratively to achieve change for New Zealand. The National Archival and Library Institutions (NALI) Ministerial review identified current issues with pressure on operational budgets allowing very little capacity for the National Library to lead collaborative activities needed to achieve system shift and strong support from stakeholders for it to do more across the New Zealand knowledge system.

The National Library has demonstrated capability in delivering sustainable research infrastructure through its platforms, including the National Digital Heritage Archive, Digital NZ, *Papers Past* and most recently Digital Pasifik. Its comprehensive collections of New Zealand's published output acquired through legal deposit, and the research collections and services of the Alexander Turnbull Library, particularly in the fields of New Zealand and Pacific studies, also represent significant investment in infrastructure and research value overtime.

We would be interested to discuss ways in which current investment in this infrastructure and future investment in tangible and intangible infrastructure might enable generation of greater value from New Zealand's Library and documentary heritage systems. We are interested to position the National Library for greater impact in New Zealand's knowledge system and to realise the value in this investment in the New Zealand's research, science and innovation sector.

Nāku noa, nā

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