Oceania and South East Asia

Conference of Directors of National Libraries – Asia and Oceania
The National Library of Australia hosted the 2014 meeting of CDNL-AO in February. This enabled our colleagues, particularly from Oceania, to raise any preservation and conservation questions and issues while they were with us.

Preservation activities at the National Library of Australia
The approach the Library has taken to integrate physical and digital preservation operations in a single organisational structure is working well with the confirmation of appointment earlier this year of Cornel Platzer as Director. During the year we exchanged information with our esteemed colleague Naoko Kobayashi at the National Diet Library on our rationale for this organisational approach.

In the last year work has continued on implementation of the Tessella digital preservation management system, currently in test mode.

A scoping study of the long term preservation and collection control needs of the Library's highest priority published collections (early Australian and overseas rare books) was completed in June 2014. The report determined that a stronger strategic preservation framework would provide a more informed and transparent context for determining the relative priority of preservation work on collections across the institution. This will be achieved through a review of existing preservation policies and the articulation of a preservation strategy to achieve key policy objectives over the next three to five years. The project also identified a range of other activities that could be undertaken to improve the management of the rare book collections, mostly relating to bibliographic control. These will be taken up by collection managers.

In this preservation policy development work, as a matter of interest, it is planned to articulate higher level principles that apply to both physical and digital collections so that future digital preservation work can be similarly subject to a strategic framework.

Digitisation at the National Library of Australia
In the last year the Library digitised a further 3.6 million newspaper pages using a combination of contributor and Library funding. About the same volume is planned this year.

The Library implemented the Docworks digitisation workflow management software, redeveloped its backend management system and developed a new delivery system for digitised books and journals in Trove. This provides the Library with the capacity to create and deliver in-house text and OCR digitised content.