

LCoNZ

Library Consortium of New Zealand

Annual Report

LCo New Zealand Limited

January to December 2005

LCoNZ Annual Report for the 12 months ending 31 December 2005

Introduction

LCo New Zealand Limited, the Library Consortium of New Zealand (LCoNZ), is a collaborative venture with four shareholders: Auckland University of Technology, University of Otago Holdings Limited, The University of Waikato, and Victoria University of Wellington; to provide and operate common library systems and services.

LCoNZ began operation on 1 June 2004. This is the second annual report.

Governance

On 1 January 2005 the following were directors of LCoNZ. They were appointed in 2004 by shareholders:

- Ainslie Dewe, University Librarian & Director of Knowledge Management, Auckland University of Technology;
- John Patrick, Chief Financial Officer, University of Otago, and Director, University of Otago Holdings Limited;
- Sue Pharo, University Librarian, The University of Waikato;
- Warwick Clegg, Pro Vice Chancellor Information Technology, Victoria University of Wellington.

Beverley Wakem was an independent director and Chair of the Board until resigning with effect from 28 February 2005 due to her appointment as Ombudsman. Ruth Bruce was appointed by the Board as an independent director in February, and Chair with effect from 1 March.

Sue Pharo resigned from the University of Waikato in August to take up a position as University Librarian at the University of Otago. She was appointed by the Board as an independent director in October.

Derek Postlewaight, Director of Information Technology, was appointed as a director by The University of Waikato on 13 October.

The Board met as scheduled in February, April, June, September, October and December, and is scheduled to meet six times in 2006.

A Statement of Corporate Intent was agreed in February.

Management

Derek LeDayn was General Manager, appointed by the Board in September 2004. Esther Sum was Office Coordinator and resigned with effect from 6 April. Alison Coleman was appointed Coordinator and started on 11 April. Alison resigned on 20 December, and will depart 20 January 2006. Alison has made a significant contribution, notably in developing a

wiki-based shared workspace for members and the LCoNZ public website. A replacement coordinator is being recruited.

Revised Terms of Reference were agreed by the Board and Advisory Group in September, to increase the number of participants by including all four University Librarians and one advisor from each library. This was intended to simplify decision-making involving the four University Librarians.

Each university library nominated members to the Advisory Group. The main members of the Group during the year were as follows:

- Lorraine Shepherd, and from September Ainslie Dewe, Auckland University of Technology;
- Rosemary Hudson (Chair) until her retirement in August, then Sue Pharo and Barbara Taylor, University of Otago;
- Ann O'Rourke, until her resignation in September, then Sally Sleight and Ross Hallett, The University of Waikato;
- Keith Webster, Chair from September, and Adrienne Ridley-Houlker, Victoria University of Wellington.

The Advisory Group met eleven times: each month from June to August, and in October, November and December, and is scheduled to meet six times in 2006. The Advisory Group met in Wellington for a strategic planning day on 29 June. This group advises the General Manager on library priorities and resourcing, and decides consortium priorities with the General Manager.

One joint meeting of the Board and Advisory Group was held on 16 December 2005, which identified key issues and direction for 2006.

Each library nominated one or more implementation or operations managers, with responsibility for leading software implementation projects. They and their colleagues providing further business and technical expertise have been a crucial group of people on which the continuing success of the consortium relies.

A one-day training workshop was prepared in association with the New Zealand Electronic Text Centre, to develop skills in designing and developing Digital Collections. It was successfully delivered in Wellington in June with 28 participants from the four libraries.

The WebVoyage group met in Wellington in September for a two day workshop to continue improving the WebVoyage interface for the mutual benefit of members. They recommended new terms of reference and tasks for the next year, and these were agreed by the Advisory Group.

Systems Implementation and Systems Management

LCoNZ coordinates the management and operation of the Endeavor Voyager library management system, working with Datacom who provide

on-going facilities management and hosting services, and the university libraries who deliver the services to their patrons.

LinkFinderPlus (LFP) was implemented for all four libraries during the third quarter of 2004. This was the first of the three digital access and management modules of the ENCompass suite of Endeavor products. LFP provides Internet links for university library users to citations and then the full-text of e-journals sourced from a large cross-section of licensed commercial databases. This is the first step for the libraries in providing consolidated access to digital material. However, after upgrade to a version 4.1 in May, significant problems have been encountered by all four libraries. These problems were escalated to the Chief Operating Officer and to the President and Chief Executive of Endeavor, and there has been regular liaison and monitoring of Endeavor by LCoNZ and Datacom. Despite extensive and time-consuming work by LCoNZ Office, Datacom and the libraries on these problems, LFP function is still unsatisfactory.

Pilot implementation of the second digital access and management module, ENCompass for Resource Access (ERA), was successful with AUT and Waikato in the first half of 2005. However significant performance problems have delayed implementation for the other two libraries.

This tool provides federated searching of licensed commercial databases and online access to complete copies of the e-journals stored in those databases.

Libraries and Datacom began development work on pilot projects for the third module, ENCompass for Digital Collections (EDC), in early 2005. In these pilot projects, the libraries intended to develop databases of their own digital material for access by their patrons. As a consequence of the problems and delays of LFP and ERA, and their heavy use of limited resources, limited progress was made on these pilots.

Operations

LCoNZ continues to work closely with Datacom. The services provided by Datacom include facilities management, hosting and service desk functions. Datacom has provided highly regarded contributions of expertise and professional support of LCoNZ on-going operations.

Endeavor provided support for on-going operations and systems upgrades, in particular LFP upgrades and problem resolution, and ERA performance tuning. Key Endeavor staff provided support to LCoNZ and this is appreciated.

Datacom and Endeavor have developed a close working relationship, and work closely with LCoNZ. This triangular relationship provides a powerful combination of resources and expertise, which is both necessary for continuing success of the consortium, and effective.

Victoria University provided serviced office facilities and services for financial management and accounting, with services and fees as described

in service level agreements. The professionalism and support of the financial and accounting team is valuable and appreciated.

Business development

Datacom and Endeavor have also worked closely together with LCoNZ on marketing proposals for potential customers.

During the year LCoNZ proposals were made to the Open Polytechnic of New Zealand and, as a group, eight of the nine Crown Research Institutes. Decisions are expected in the first half of 2006.

A proposal to the five polytechnics of the Tertiary Education Alliance was declined, when they decided to work together in-house.

A proposal made to Massey University in 2004 has been on hold throughout 2005.

Signed:

Director

Director