

13 December 2011

3.30pm – 5.00pm Libraries Australia Meeting Room

Present:

[REDACTED]

Inputs:

Letter from [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] dated 6 December 2011 [R11/109965]

Options paper provided by [REDACTED] [R11/113018]

Outcomes/
Discussion

1. A decision not to pursue the preferred option until after 30 June 2012. This decision needs to be supported by a business case to migrate the existing user interface to a new platform prior to June 2012. Action: [REDACTED]
2. A decision to seek direction from the Trove Reference Group prior to 30 June 2012 regarding the inclusion of index data in Trove. Action: [REDACTED]
3. An indication of both outcomes to be conveyed to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. Action: [REDACTED]
4. An option preferred by the group if the choice is made to integrate the service into Trove. The option chosen was #2. The original estimate provided for Option 2 will need to be recalculated to reflect the functional extensions proposed. Action: [REDACTED]

1) Preliminary discussion

The Argus Online index has been hosted by the National Library since 2002. Since that time, no decision has been conveyed to the owners regarding an intention to close the services.

We have no obligation to continue hosting it, as it was a time-limited ARC-funded project. There is no apparent project structure, it is not supported by any organisation such as a university [REDACTED].

[REDACTED] because we had not made a decision about our future support for the service. We wanted to finish the newspapers service first [REDACTED] [R10/46551].

When contacted in June this year with the same request, we offered to look at the service in conjunction with Trove, and to this end, IT was invited to estimate the work required to integrate the index data into Trove [REDACTED] [R11/113048].

Perhaps the original user interface should be retained [REDACTED]. This was one of the options included in the estimates provided by [REDACTED], which were used as the basis for this meeting's discussion [REDACTED].

2) The options

It was noted that the indexes couldn't be loaded into the newspaper zone in Trove because metadata and full-text can't be sensibly merged into a single results set. It was also noted that the journals zone is suitable for all indexes except when the associated text is digitised [REDACTED].

[REDACTED] Minutes of
Meeting to discuss options for the Argus Online index - 13 December 2011.DOCX

Option 1:

- Is suitable for any indexes for non-digitised newspapers [REDACTED]
- Limits to decade in the facets would work [REDACTED]
- Results could be organised by year or by words, but not both [REDACTED]
- Figure 3 most closely matches what users see now
- Each article title would link most of the time, to the right spot, with the right highlighting (despite the fact that the Argus Online indexers use the Victorian edition of the newspaper, and Trove displays the NSW edition of the newspaper)
- But this won't work for subject headings which don't appear in the full-text, which is part of the value-adding provided by the indexers [REDACTED]
- Despite it being suggested, no work has been done by the indexers to add links from the indexes to the relevant Trove articles [REDACTED].

Option 2:

- This option is better than tags because it supports a display of controlled hierarchies
- Other users would like similar tag improvements in the tags area of Trove
- This option does not indicate attribution to any source, a significant requirement [REDACTED]
- This option could be implemented for the Argus Index first, then other indexes subsequently [REDACTED]. At least four-five other agencies have expressed interest [REDACTED]
- Users couldn't choose the order for navigation, so a browse page would need to be generated, and a function to report non-matches [REDACTED]. These would need to be sent back to [REDACTED] for matching – it could not be done by NLA staff
- The idea of managing a Forum group to administer a group of volunteers had previously been considered [REDACTED]. It would need to be developed so that the owners could oversee the controlled crowd-sourcing responsibility, and respond to any public enquiries about the data. There are 40 volunteers working on this index [REDACTED]
- It was noted that while volunteers are more likely to use the browse structure to support their indexing work, some members of the public may also use it and therefore it was not easy to differentiate between them [REDACTED]
- It would also change what the API delivers [REDACTED]
- The indexers could start adding new tags immediately without new functionality being added [REDACTED] although this may be unpalatable if they can't see the results for some months until new functionality is developed [REDACTED]. This possibility was set aside in favour of aligning migration of existing data with tag creation
- The new functionality required was identified as:
 - a browsing page
 - a user interface for tag editing and attribution
 - a new customised article display
 - migration of existing data into Trove as tagsand consequently, the work estimated will need to be recalculated.

Option 3:

- This option was rejected because it does not have a value-added hierarchical display and tag functionality would be inelegantly extended beyond its intended capability. This was confirmed in an email exchange earlier in the year [R11/80717].

Option 4:

- This option was rejected because it is a poor decision in light of the NLA's stated aim of avoiding the creation of separate user interfaces (as implemented for the *Australian Women's Weekly*).

Option 5 (swapped with Option 6):

- This option does achieve the aim of being integrated into the flow of the end-user [R11/80718]
- It was noted that it would be useful to find a solution which could be extended to other indexes which have already been offered to the NLA, including for *Walkabout* magazine, and potentially AustLit [R11/113150]. However if the index is for non-digitised content, then this solution may not be appropriate.

Option 6 (swapped with Option 5):

- This option was originally discounted because it extends the life of the current separate siloed interface
- Since that advice, the Argus Online index has been included in the list of services to be decommissioned. Given that the owners of the data have not previously been advised that the NLA would not continue to accept new data, a decision was taken to estimate the time to reuse existing code to load the new data and retain the separate existing interface on a new platform. At the same time the owners would be advised of the various internal decisions to be prioritised regarding the future of the service
- To achieve this, the original estimate given will need to be recalculated as part of a business case
- If the owners are unwilling to support any of the recommended options, they could be offered the codebase
- It was noted that the Resource Sharing Division could not assume responsibility for this option, as the indexes won't be integrated with the Libraries Australia or Trove services
- The request from several users including NLA reference staff, to insert a link from the Argus Index Online website to the Argus title entry page in Trove was not discussed [R11/113141].

3) Summary

It was agreed that:

- In order to meet the 30 June 2012 cutoff, the existing software for loading new index data would be used for the current four years on offer, and the existing user interface would be ported across to the a new server;
- [redacted] and [redacted] would be advised of this outcome and they would also be advised that integration of the index data would be considered by an internal Trove Reference Group meeting in January, as a consideration for all index data offered by any agency or group;
- most of the options will still be valid for up to 12 months. The IT development work required to implement the preferred option can be reestimated after June 2012 if the Trove Reference Group approves the inclusion of index data in Trove.