

LIBRARY *Life*

TE RAU ORA



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COVER IMAGE

Sandy Nepia and Jasmin Ratana at Te Rerenga mai o te Kāuru Alexander Library.

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EDITORIAL STATEMENT

Te Rau Ora Library Life is the digital magazine of New Zealand's Library and Information Association Te Rau Herenga o Aotearoa. Providing a voice for the views and news on issues relating to the GLAMIR sector. You may use material found in this publication in accordance with the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 CC BY licence for any purpose if the original creator is acknowledged.



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LIANZA

Library and Information Association of New Zealand
 Te Rau Herenga O Aotearoa



FROM THE EDITOR NĀ TE KAITĀTARI

ANGELA CAIRNCROSS

Tēnā koutou katoa

Moving to four issues a year for *Te Rau Ora* means fuller issues. This one is no exception.

My visit to Te Rerenga mai o te Kāuru Alexander Library was a bonus. Not only did I get to spend time in a heritage library on my old stomping ground in Whanganui, but I also experienced the kotahitanga on which this library prides itself. You'll want to read the article and learn about their Te Kāuru framework, which guides their library.

Never has Te Tiriti o Waitangi education been more important, and we are lucky to feature the National Library's Te E oho! Waitangi series.

LIANZA's new executive director, Laura Marshall, introduces herself to you all – what makes her tick, her first impressions and her vision for LIANZA.

Meet the 2024 Helen Zwartz scholarship recipients, Delwyn Pearce and Nerissa Cottle, as they talk about their highlights in Auckland with Te Puna Mātauranga o Aotearoa. Bernie Hawke and Louise LaHatte update us on the fine-free campaign. Vicki Ward presents the results of her digital skills research, and we learn about the successful IATUL conference. Krissy Wright tells us about the Books Beyond Barriers podcast and we have our book reviews and columns. Take a peek now.

Articles for the June issue are due on May 1. Please nominate your library or your library team to feature in the next issue, or let me know if you have an article in mind!

Angie Cairncross

LIANZA Communications Advisor

FROM THE PRESIDENT

NĀ TE TUMUAKI



IVY GUO

LIANZA PRESIDENT-ELECT

Kia ora koutou, 大家好!

As we step into the first issue of *Te Rau Ora* for 2025, I hope this message finds you refreshed and energised after a joyful and peaceful holiday break. Whether you have finally tackled that ever-growing “to-read” list or added more, I hope you’re feeling refreshed and ready to dive back into the thrilling world of libraries - where coffee is strong and urgent emails never stop arriving. Here’s to a year of productivity, innovation, and collaboration.

Last year, past president Richy Misilei indicated that the emphasis for 2024 was on shaping the strategic plan. The LIANZA Council spent the last few months of 2024 working on actions that were identified towards our strategic vision to build a thriving library and information sector.

We have made several vital submissions, including a submission on Amplify – The Ministry of Culture and Heritage Strategy, the Principles of the Treaty of Waitangi Bill, and a letter to Hon Andrew Bayley

regarding copyright reform consultation.

LIANZA Values were defined and published with your support and participation. The terms are endorsed with meanings that apply to our sector, helping us navigate the ever-changing landscape while keeping us grounded in what truly matters.

Value proposition work has begun and is one of the priorities for 2025. We hope to create a set of value propositions to help LIANZA better serve its members and communities.

Looking ahead to 2025, the Council will look closely at our objectives for the year and ensure they are strategically aligned. The rapid pace of digital innovation, the growing importance of cultural competency and the pressing need for strong leadership are calling for an investment in the skills and expertise of our professionals. I am pleased to see further developments in the important work such as Te Tōtara Project and the continued support of professional development following the project’s completion later this year.

The much-anticipated LIANZA 2025 Conference planning is well underway. I hope you will find many ways to connect your work with the conference theme *Ko au te taiao, ko te taiao ko au* – Sustaining and changing. **Watch this space for announcements** – proposals open February 24. I look forward to seeing everyone in Pōneke Wellington.

The theme of this year’s conference strongly aligns with our ability to evolve in response to the ever-changing landscape of information access and technology. It’s essential to understand the challenges, such as funding constraints, digital transformation, and evolving community needs, while embracing the opportunities they bring. Libraries are not just repositories of books but dynamic hubs for learning, creativity and connection. One of our greatest challenges is ensuring that the value of libraries is recognised and celebrated.

Let’s continue to work collaboratively and champion the vital role of library and information services and the value of our work to ensure they remain essential spaces for knowledge and connection.

水积成川，载澜载清

Water accumulates to form a river, bearing boats and remaining clear.

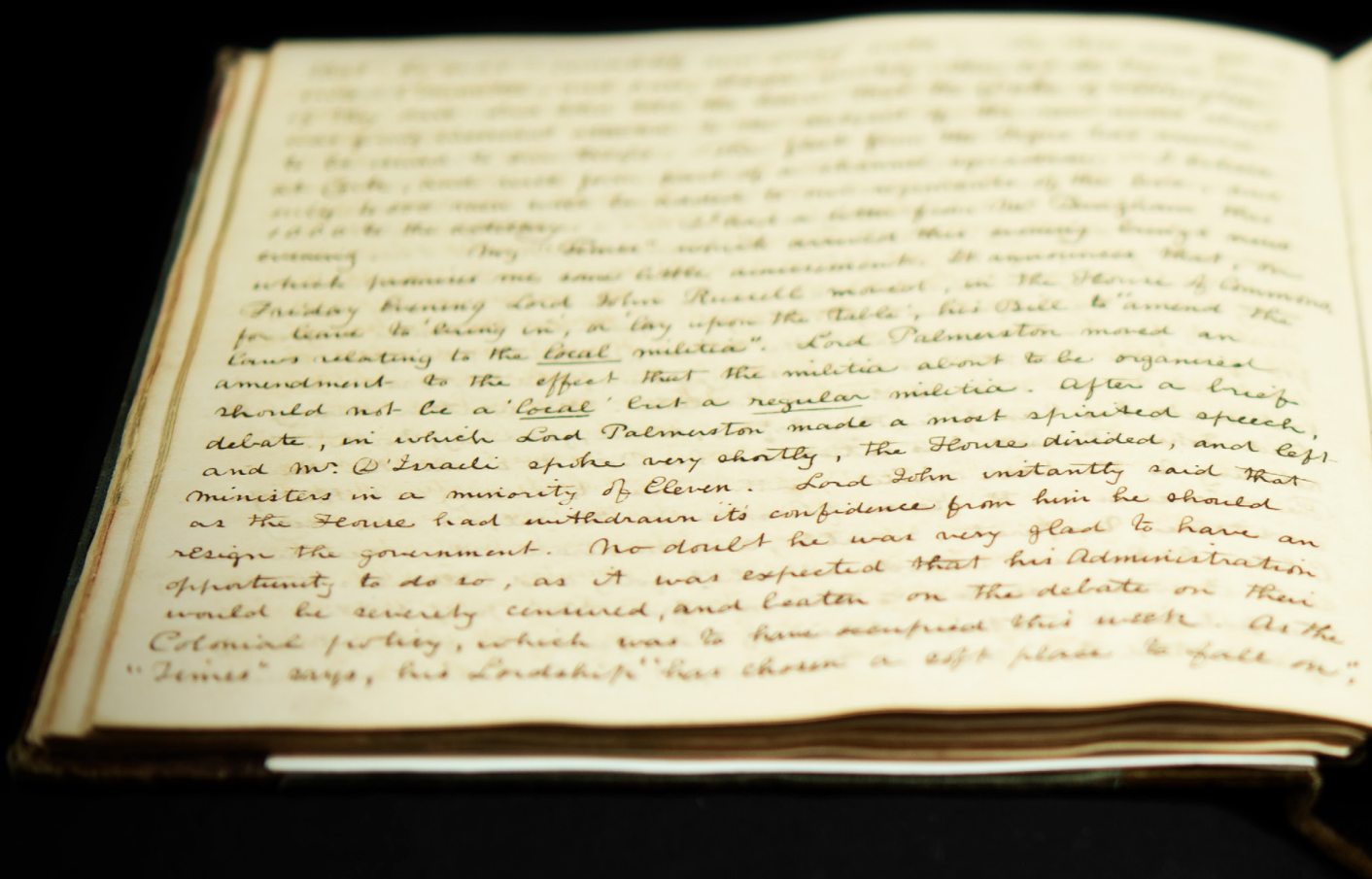
Ngā mihi nui,

Ivy Guo

President, Te Rau Herenga o Aotearoa LIANZA

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FINE-FREE AOTEAROA CAMPAIGN 2025



This article, by Louise LaHatte and Bernie Hawke, looks at the local campaign to remove fines for overdue items returned to libraries.

Since 2017, there has been a global drive towards removing overdue charges by public libraries.

More than 200 public libraries in Canada are fine-free, including those in Toronto, Vancouver, and Calgary. There are more than 2,000 fine-free public libraries in the United States, including New York, Los Angeles and Chicago.

From 1 January 2019, all public libraries in Ireland became fine-free as part of the wider *Libraries Ireland national initiative*, while in Australia, over 100 public libraries are currently fine-free.

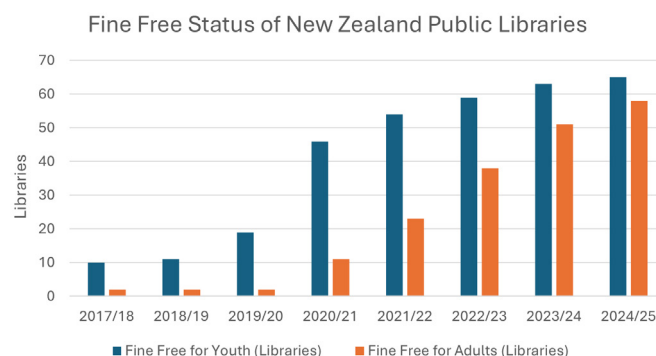
Closer to home, in 2019-2020, of the 66 city and district councils in New Zealand, there were only two public libraries without overdue charges for adults, while 19 libraries were fine-free for children and youth.

In May 2022, Public Libraries NZ, with support from LIANZA, launched a campaign to support all New Zealand public libraries to become fine-free based on the library experience in New Zealand and overseas that overdue charges are a barrier to library usage and a disincentive to return overdue items.

PLNZ established a Fine-Free Aotearoa Working Group led by Louise LaHatte and included representatives from diverse library sizes and geographic locations. The working group commenced by establishing the status and fine-free baseline in New Zealand and researching overseas experience. The fine-free status of libraries remains an integral component of the annual public library data collected by PLNZ.

The working group released a joint statement on library overdue fines by PLNZ and LIANZA. They collated relevant reports, documents, and case studies that could be useful to libraries as they start their fine-free journey. They produced approaches to researching and developing a plan to remove overdue charges, as well as FAQs, templates, and New Zealand case studies. **This information is currently collated on the Fine-Free Aotearoa website hosted by PLNZ.**

The progress of the fines-free campaign is graphically demonstrated below:



Early New Zealand adopters of fine-free for all library members were Central Hawkes Bay (1950), Rangitikei (2008), Masterton (2020), Selwyn District Councils (2020) and Upper Hutt City Council (2020). Along with the 19 libraries which were by June 2020 now fine free for youth members, the scene was set for a fine-free explosion.

By June 2021, there were 11 libraries fine-free for all members, which by June 2022 had grown to 23 libraries, including Nelson, Waimakariri, Opatiki, Wairarapa, Clutha, South Taranaki, Stratford, Timaru, Waikato, Whangarei and the largest local authority in the country, Auckland.



This critical mass of libraries, which had moved to being fine-free for youth and/or all members, provided a model and an inspiration for other libraries considering or aspiring to become fine-free.

By 30 June 2024, 63 New Zealand public libraries were fine-free for youth, 96% of all New Zealand public libraries, and 51 libraries were fine-free for all members, 77% of all New Zealand public libraries. In addition, since July 2024, five public libraries have announced that they have become fine-free for all members.

As of January 2025, of the 66 City and District Councils in New Zealand, there are only seven that currently have overdue charges for adult members and one that has overdue charges for all members.

What was an aspirational target in 2022 is very close to becoming a reality.

The experience of fine-free public libraries in New Zealand and overseas is that the removal of overdue charges removes a significant barrier not only to library membership and borrowing but also to the multitude of other reasons for visiting and using public libraries.

Fine-free public libraries have noted increases in library membership, borrowing and visitation following the removal of overdue charges.

The experiences of fine-free public libraries contradict the popular myths that charges are needed to encourage the return of overdue library items or the absence of overdue charges provides no incentive to return items. Instead, fine-free public libraries report that borrowing and return rates increase after removing overdue charges.

But just as important, removing overdue charges fosters a more welcoming environment for the public library within the community. It encourages increased usage of the public library for all ages, to support access to technology and the internet, for the development of digital and literacy skills, and to the gateway provided by the public library to a rich and diverse literary and cultural heritage, and to opportunities for lifelong learning.

With the goal of 100% of all New Zealand public libraries becoming fine-free now within sight, PLNZ has relaunched its Fine-Free Aotearoa Working Group, which is focusing on customised approaches and bespoke strategies to support the remaining eight councils to become fine-free.

Once again, we see the value of our profession in sharing information and resources and supporting each other to achieve change, especially when library managers are so busy with a wide range of challenges to face alongside this initiative.



Louise LaHatte has been involved in library professional activity for LIANZA and PLNZ for many years, including roles as President, Chair of the Committee on Freedom of Information and membership of the copyright, Hikuwai and conference committees. She is a Fellow of LIANZA and a life member of PLNZ. Louise worked for Auckland Libraries for 35 years where she led the project to remove overdue fines across Auckland.



Bernie Hawke is currently the Executive Director of Public Libraries New Zealand (PLNZ), a role he has held since May 2023. Before this, Bernie was the Director of the Dunedin Public Libraries (2002/23), has also been a member of the LIANZA Credentials Committee (2021/24) and was awarded a LIANZA Fellowship in 2019.

NATIONAL LIBRARY CELEBRATES E OHO! WAITANGI SERIES MILESTONE



***'E oho! The principles of the Treaty flow from its words'* marked the 30th event in the National Library's E oho! Waitangi series which started in January 2021. Treaty Law expert Dr Carwyn Jones drew in a crowd of almost 1,000 people. The library's Taiwhanga Kauhau Auditorium was full, and hundreds joined online.**

Te Puna Mātauranga National Library believes the success of the E oho! events lie in the kaupapa (topics) as much as in the format which welcomes everybody with karakia, waiata and mihi, creating a safe space for public dialogue. Keeping the talks short, about 40 minutes, and allowing ample time for discussion, 20-30 minutes, is also a key feature of E oho!

The series was co-designed with Māori staff from National Library, Alexander Turnbull Library, DIA and Ngā Taonga Sound and Vision who brainstormed kaupapa and potential speakers in two wānanga style sessions. The E oho! Waitangi series is programmed by the Public Experience Team who have continued the co-design approach selecting speakers that our audiences would like to hear.

An existing 'Treaty series' was rebranded 'E oho!' – which means 'wake up' with the purpose to foster a national forum for discussion about He Whakaputanga The Declaration of Independence and Te Tiriti o Waitangi and their contemporary reverberance. The series is offered as an extension of our guided tours of *He Tohu*, which displays the original founding documents, and responds to visitor's desire to learn more.

"Like the ripples on the document room, the documents still create waves today," says a staff member. "But we have generations of New Zealanders who have missed out on learning about the significance of these documents in school. Add to that recent migrants who are new to learning about Aotearoa's histories and you can imagine a giant gap of knowledge. We wanted to help fill this gap with historical facts and deepen people's understanding so they can be informed."

The E oho! series explores key events that shape Aotearoa and provides a chance to hear from subject matter experts. Each event features talks and the opportunity to kōrero about historical events, contemporary consequences, and collective understanding. The topics often directly relate to questions that visitors to He Tohu ask when on a guided tour.

"Many visitors wonder what the role of the missionaries was in the Treaty translation and the signings. So, we invited Rev Jay Ruka, author of *'Huia come home'* to speak about **Te Tiriti o Waitangi and the church**", remembers one of the learning facilitators.

Most events are lunchtime seminars that are livestreamed. But some of the most highly rated events were workshops and a walking tour to sites of historic significance in our capital city with rangatira from Te Ātiawa. One participant raved,

A photo taken at the E oho! Tāngata Ngāi Tahu: Wāhine Ngāi Tahu. Left to right Helen Brown, Puamiria Parata-Goodall, Tā Tipene O'Regan and Kura Moeahu. Image credit: National Library of New Zealand and Mark Beatty.

"As someone who has a very limited knowledge of New Zealand history I found it so informative, and accessible. I left wanting to look up more and more info. I loved learning about Wellington. Thanks to you for sharing the event."

The National Library has a role in providing a diversity of knowledge and ideas in support of the education of society as a whole and of specific communities within it. One of the ways we do this is through facilitated learning experiences, connection, and discussion through events and exhibitions.

Like libraries everywhere, the National Library Te Puna Mātauranga o Aotearoa aims to create spaces and places to go for trusted information, providing safety for discussion and community, alongside access to knowledge resources for life-long learning.

Many E oho! events have been recorded and are available online. For accessibility the videos have been subtitled and the full transcript is also published.

We recommend the panel discussions which are fabulous to watch:

- **E oho! Tāngata Ngāi Tahu: Wāhine Ngāi Tahu | National Library of New Zealand** with Sir Tipene O'Regan, Helen Brown and Puamiria Parata-Goodall.
- **E oho! Te Petihana Reo Māori 50 years on | National Library of New Zealand** with Ngahiwi Apanui and Poia Rewi.
- **E oho! Mana takatāpui | National Library of New Zealand** with Ngahua Te Awakotuku, Dr Lynne Russell, Kassie Hartendorp and Kevin Haunui.
- **E oho! A short history of the Waitangi Tribunal — Where to from here? | National Library of New Zealand** with Dame Claudia Orange, Colin James and Judge Damian Stone.
- **E oho! How New Zealanders commemorate Waitangi Day 2021 | National Library of New Zealand** with Kura Moeahu, Samuel Carpenter and Professor Rawinia Higgins

Asked which videos are a 'must-see', the Public Experience Team suggested watching these in order:

- **Captain Cook: The beginning of what?** with Associate Professor Alice Te Punga Somerville and Emalani Case.
- **Understanding Te Tiriti o Waitangi** with Roimata Smail.
- **Te Tiriti o Waitangi and the church** with Reverend Jay Ruka.
- **The English text of the Treaty of Waitangi** with Dr Ned Fletcher.
- **Ruth Ross, history, law and te Tiriti o Waitangi** with Prof Bain Attwood.
- **Fighting the agents of deterioration — The archival story of Te Tiriti o Waitangi** with Richard Foy.
- **He Whakaputanga and He Puapua** with Dr Carwyn Jones.
- **Contemporary pursuit of justice for Māori** with Annette Sykes and Tina Ngata
- **Parihaka: Remembering November 5, 1881** with Dr Ruakere Hond.
- **Te Pūtake o te Riri, He Rā Maumahara — How a petition led to a day remembering New Zealand Wars** with Leah Bell and Zak Henry.
- **Te Tiriti o Waitangi and Tamariki** with Glenis Philip-Barbara.

Teachers and people with an interest in the Aotearoa New Zealand Histories curriculum should watch Dr Liana MacDonald's talk **Te Whenuatanga o te Tangata: Everyday storytelling belonging to whenua**.

If you are interested in previous events at National Library, 22 E oho! videos and transcripts are available on the National Library website. You can find the full list of E oho! events to explore [here](#) along with videos and transcripts of 'recorded events' [here](#)

Keep informed about all [upcoming events at National Library](#) and [subscribe](#) to our newsletter.



Dr Tanja Schubert-McArthur works as a learning facilitator in the Public Engagement Team at the National Library of New Zealand Te Puna Mātauranga o Aotearoa. She holds a PhD in Cultural Anthropology from Te Herenga Waka Victoria University.

BOOKS BEYOND BARRIERS

A NEW CHAPTER FOR CCS DISABILITY ACTION LIBRARY



In late 2023, two significant changes occurred for the CCS Disability Action Library and Information Service. First, the library was relocated from the National Office in Wellington to the Otago Branch Office Building in Dunedin. Second, Krissy Wright was appointed as the new librarian, also based in Dunedin.

Krissy brings a wealth of experience to her role, having managed the Dunedin-based Donald Beasley Institute Research Library for nearly twenty years and worked in the disability sector for over 30 years. As the parent of a young man with Down syndrome, Krissy offers valuable lived experience of disability. The CCS Disability Action Library is a national public library providing free information on disability-related issues and the wider disability sector.

Following the relocation and unpacking of numerous boxes of books and resources, the CCS Disability Action Library was officially opened with a whakawātea and blessing in January 2024. The new library space, previously a training and meeting room, includes a small kitchen, a comfortable sofa, study desks, and a toy corner for visiting children.

Krissy is a passionate advocate for ensuring that information is accessible, evidence-based, and relevant to each person's situation. Early in her networking efforts in Otago, Krissy connected

with the team at Otago Access Radio (OAR FM), Dunedin's local community radio station. After an interview about the CCS Disability Action Library and Information Service, Krissy discussed creating a radio show and podcast about the library with community liaison Jeff Harford and station manager Lesley Parish. Recognising that radio could meet the accessibility needs of many disabled people. With each episode transcribed for deaf or hearing-impaired individuals, Krissy saw this as an excellent opportunity to reach a wider audience.

Working closely with Rebecca Park and Emma Lubberink from the CCS Disability Action communications team, Krissy established the marketing and promotion of the new show. Following a social media poll, the show was named 'Books Beyond Barriers'.

Krissy prerecords each show, which airs fortnightly on Wednesdays on OAR FM (105.4FM / 1575AM), with repeats on Saturday mornings and Sunday evenings. 'Books Beyond Barriers' is also available on podcast platforms such as Spotify and Apple Podcasts, and past episodes can be accessed via both the Otago Access Radio and [CCS Disability Action websites](#).

Krissy is a lifelong music fan who creatively ties each episode to a song title or lyrics, blending her love for music with her passion for disability advocacy. While she enjoys 'old school' music, she also listens to contemporary artists.

Finding new topics for each episode can be challenging, but Krissy carefully considers her audience's interests. With her extensive experience in the disability sector, she identifies themes that resonate with listeners and isn't afraid to tackle significant issues. She also receives requests from individuals and organisations to be guests on her show.

Having recorded sixteen episodes, Krissy plans to start a new season in early 2025. In the first episode, she shared her journey through the world of disability, including the loss of her first child with Down syndrome at 18 months old. She explained how, through the lifetime of her first son, she came

Image supplied.

to be a librarian, coped with the grief of his death, found love and happiness, and finally came full circle and returned to the career of librarian for CCS Disability Action. Krissy said she wanted to let people know that she understood some of the challenges that disabled people and their families and whānau face and that they weren't alone.

In each episode, Krissy reviews library resources on a specific topic, discussing who might benefit from them, what she liked or didn't like, and providing valuable insights and advice from her experience. Here are some episode titles and their topics to pique your interest:

- **You Reap What You Sow:** Discusses whakataukī/Māori proverbs with guest Recenia Kaka, National Kaiārahi a motu for CCS Disability Action.
- **Turn and Face the Strange Changes:** Covers educating disabled children and youth about puberty and sexuality, including topics like menstruation, personal hygiene, and personal safety.
- **Ain't No Sunshine When You're Gone:** Reviews children's books on grief and loss, emphasising the importance of using clear language with children.

- **'Cause You'll Be in My Heart:** Interviews Brigit Mirfin-Veitch and Umi Asaka from the Donald Beasley Institute about their research on UNCRPD Article 23 and its impact on parents with a learning disability.
- **We Can Be Heroes:** Reviews three books about disabled people's stories, including memoirs by Australian comedian Adam Hills, travel adventures by Julie Woods, and the journey of Harry Potter stuntman David Holmes.

Under Krissy Wright's leadership, the CCS Disability Action Library and Information Service remains a vital resource for the disability community. Through innovative initiatives like 'Books Beyond Barriers', the library reaches a broader audience and provides valuable information and support. Krissy's dedication and personal experience enrich the service, making it a beacon of knowledge and advocacy in the disability sector.

TĀKINA WELLINGTON CONVENTION AND EXHIBITION CENTRE, SEPT 23-24 + TALES & TOURS, SEPT 25



CALL FOR PROPOSALS FOR LIANZA 2025 CONFERENCE NOW OPEN

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- Gale has negotiated no official embargo for the monthly publications.



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CAN WE BEAT A C+?

DIGITAL LITERACY LEVEL OF LIBRARY WORKERS IN AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND

The digital skills required for library work range from understanding phone models to managing complex library management systems (LMS). Tasks include running online meetings, using collaboration software, and managing photocopiers. Despite the importance of digital literacy (DL) in libraries, there is limited research on the digital literacy skills of library workers themselves.

Vicki Ward's research investigates the digital literacy level of library workers in Aotearoa New Zealand, focusing on the impact of age, socioeconomic background, and education level.

LITERATURE REVIEW

From Vicki's literature review she discovered the following:

- Paul Gilster (1997) first defined digital literacy as the ability to understand, evaluate, and integrate information in multiple formats delivered by computers.
- Digital literacy is crucial for finding reliable information, especially in academic settings (Alexander et al., 2016; Chukwueke & Idris, 2023; Hallam et al., 2018; Soltovets et al., 2020).
- Libraries play a key role in reducing the digital divide by offering programs and resources to marginalized communities (Alexander et al., 2016; Barrie et al., 2021; McNaughton, 2016; Micklethwaite, 2018; Reedy & Parker, 2018; Semerci & Semerci, 2021; Spante et al., 2018; Tkachenko et al., 2021; Whiteside et al., 2022).
- Libraries are central to improving digital literacy in their communities, and library staff need to be digitally literate to support these programs (Ahmed & Rasheed, 2020; Cerny, 2021; Chukwueke & Idris, 2023; George et al., 2022; Inskip, 2018; McNair, 2016; Mullins, 2012).
- Digital literacy skills are essential for thriving in the modern workforce. (Ada et al., 2021, p. 771; Cheuk & Reedy, 2018; Inskip, 2018; McNaughton, 2016). Looking at the job descriptions of advertised library positions, it is clear that from entry level up, solid digital literacy skills are required.
- Various frameworks, such as the Jisc Digital Capabilities Framework (JISC) (Feerrar, 2019), the Council of Australian University Librarians (CAUL) Digital Dexterity Framework (Johnston, 2020), and the European Digital Competence Framework for Citizens - DigComp (Cerny, 2021; Janssen et al., 2013; Jin et al., 2020; List et al., 2020; Martzoukou et al., 2022; Murphy, 2019; Tinmaz et al., 2022), provide guidelines for measuring and developing digital literacy.

RESEARCH FRAMEWORK

A quantitative survey was conducted using purposive sampling, targeting library workers across Aotearoa New Zealand. The survey included demographic questions and questions based on the DigComp framework.

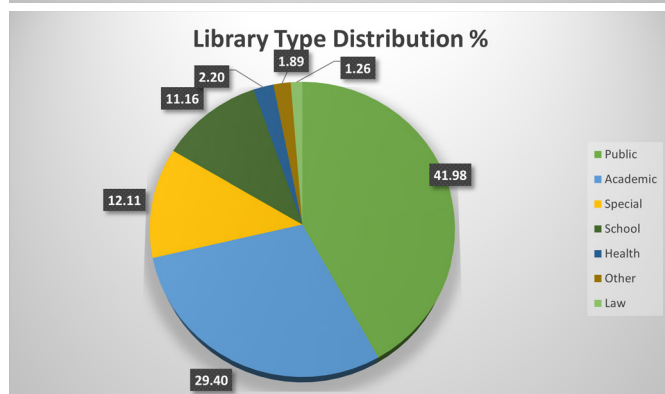
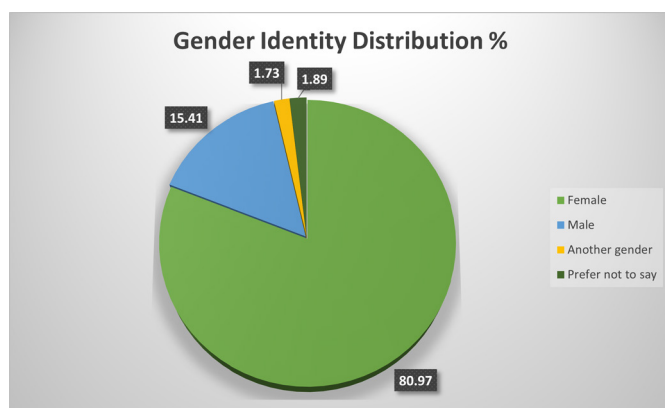
RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. What is the digital literacy level of library workers in Aotearoa New Zealand libraries?
2. How does age influence digital literacy levels?
3. What impact does an aging workforce have on digital literacy?
4. How does gender identity affect digital literacy skills?
5. How does education level impact digital literacy skills?
6. How does continuing education impact digital literacy skills?
7. How does the location of the library affect digital literacy skills?
8. How does the number of library workers affect digital literacy skills?
9. How does the role of a worker in libraries affect digital literacy levels?

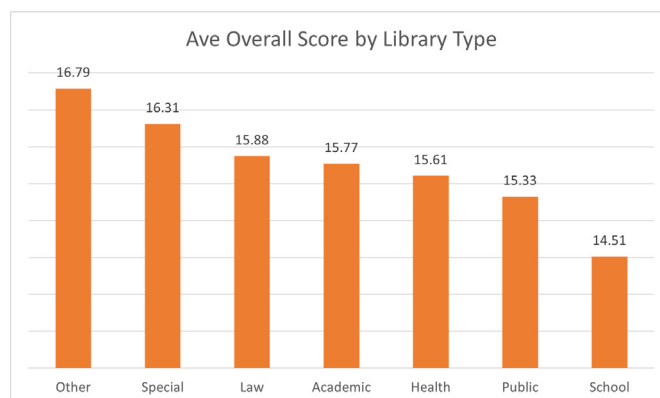
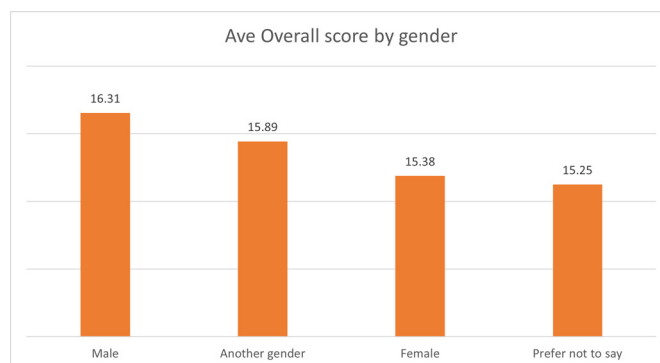


ANALYSIS OF RESEARCH RESULT

The survey had 636 qualifying respondents, with a 95% confidence level and a 4% error margin. The age distribution was relatively even across three groups: 25-39, 40-54, and 55-64 years. Most respondents identified as female (80.97%). A significant number of respondents had degrees or graduate degrees (76.26%).



The mean overall score was 15.53 out of 20 (78%), indicating that respondents scored above a C+ (60%). The highest average scores were in the 25-39 and 40-54 age groups. Males outperformed females, and respondents with higher education levels scored better.



Information and data literacy was the most important element, followed by communication and collaboration. The survey revealed gaps in digital literacy skills, particularly in the communication and collaboration element.

DISCUSSION

Results showed that the 25-39 age group performed the best, while the 65-74 age group scored lower. The concept of digital natives suggests younger people are more proficient with technology, but critical thinking skills are also essential.

Males scored higher than females, but self-assessment biases may influence these results.

Higher education levels correlate with better digital literacy skills. Continuing education is crucial for keeping up with technological advancements.

Rural library workers performed well, possibly due to improved connectivity and resources. Larger libraries may have more resources for staff development, impacting digital literacy levels.

Different roles require varying levels of digital literacy, with

leadership and specialist roles demanding higher proficiency.

CONCLUSION

The study provides insights into the digital literacy levels of library workers in Aotearoa New Zealand. Libraries play a crucial role in delivering digital literacy programs, and staff need to be digitally literate to support these initiatives. Recommendations include focusing on continuing education, increasing digital literacy awareness in library education programs, and creating internal training programs for library staff.

FURTHER STUDY

It would be beneficial to repeat the survey in 2-5 years to track changes in digital literacy levels. Further study on how gender identity affects digital literacy and other aspects of computing would also be of benefit.

References available on request.



Vicki Ward is the librarian for Specialist Mental Health Services at Hillmorton Hospital, Health New Zealand Te Whatu Ora - Waitaha. Vickie has worked across a variety of library types in her nearly 20 years in the information profession including academic, medical, school archives and library. During 2024 Vickie completed her Master of Information Studies (MIS) with merit from Victoria University Wellington Te Herenga Waka. Vickie is very interested in digital literacy and how libraries of all types can improve the digital literacy levels of the communities they serve.

A THRIVING LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SECTOR



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TO MAKE CONNECTIONS, ADVANCE YOUR CAREER, AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE

HELEN ZWARTZ SCHOLARSHIP

NERISSA COTTLE AND DELWYN PEARCE



In November 2024, Nerissa Cottle, Children, Youth and Assistant Librarian at Tākaka Memorial Library, and Delwyn Pearce, Library Manager at Coastal Taranaki School Community Library in Okato, attended a week-long residency at Te Puna Mātauranga o Aotearoa National Library in Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland. They talked to Te Rau Ora Library Life about their experience with the Literacy and Learning Branch of the National Library.

Nerissa lives in Mohua Golden Bay. She says, "Mohua has one road in, and one road out, over the Tākaka Hill, a windy 791m high mountain. This can mean it is not easy to connect with other libraries and librarians and I jumped at the opportunity

to go to Tāmaki Makaurau to gain some fresh inspiration and experiences."

Nerissa and Delwyn were warmly welcomed to the National Library. "I felt very welcome and instantly loved being with like-minded and passionate peers, networking with colleagues who have a focus on education, literacy and reading for pleasure," said Delwyn.

Delwyn is a regular user of the National Library. "I borrow from their collection for our school, so it was awesome to see behind the scenes and get an understanding of the processes involved with the service."

Delwyn was able to choose her library's summer reading

selection while she was there. "At first, I was overwhelmed with the sheer number of books to choose from, but with the help of Nerissa, we soon got into the swing of it and four boxes of fabulous books were couriered to 'The Naki'."

Delwyn and Nerissa were taken on a tour of primary and secondary school libraries in the area, viewing a range of library spaces, meeting different librarians and gaining much inspiration.

"Seeing a school the size of Mt Albert Grammar and the newly built library was impressive," said Delwyn. "I gathered new ideas for our library from every single space we visited."

From left, Nerissa Cottle, left, Elizabeth Jones, Director of Literacy and Learning at National Library, Anne Morgan, National Manager for Reading Services, Delwyn Pearce. Image credit Tracey Greenwood.



Nerissa commented, "One library, which had the smallest budget and time restraints, had created a library primarily run by the students and had changed the library systems to suit the children's capabilities. My takeaway from this was that if something isn't working then look at it with a different view."

The libraries all had ideas to share and stories to tell, such as CANVA can be free for schools, accessibility to collections is a priority, it is ok to genre organise your collections if that is best for your students, and yes weeding is always a challenge but a necessity. They noted the supportive role the National Library's Services to Schools Team plays for school libraries and came away with an added appreciation of what this team offers.

A highlight was visiting Manurewa Intermediate, where Patrick Ness was promoting his new book. He delivered a simple but very effective and engaging session with a message that anyone can write, "We all have a story within us"

"He had us laughing when reading an insert from his new book *Chronicles of a lizard nobody*, his first comedy book, and even taught us how to draw a character from it," Nerissa said.

Nerissa and Delwyn were introduced to important digital resources. This included **Te Hinatore (Te ao Māori rauemi a ipurangi)** which has seen many hours of mahi and much aroha and will be launched soon.

They were particularly taken with **He Tohu Tāmaki | He Tohu**, a space at the National Library designed for teachers and students to learn and explore our history. Nerissa said, "The replica voyaging waka was incredible, built using 3D printing technology and made from recycled plastic. The waka was designed as a tool to teach history in an interactive way and is only one of the resources and programmes offered in this space."

"Tereora Crane was amazing, his knowledge and drive to build on the partnership of our shared history was inspiring and

contagious. Hearing about the location of the National Library site and lifting the beautiful photo on the blinds to see the actual area out of the window was humbling. History is all around us – literally," commented Delwyn.

Any spare time was spent browsing the National Library's shelves full of children and youth books. Something Nerissa repeatedly heard from the staff was how important reading for pleasure is, "I feel incredibly lucky to work in a space where I am part of people's journey with books and reading, and I am inspired more than ever to get more books into young people's hands."

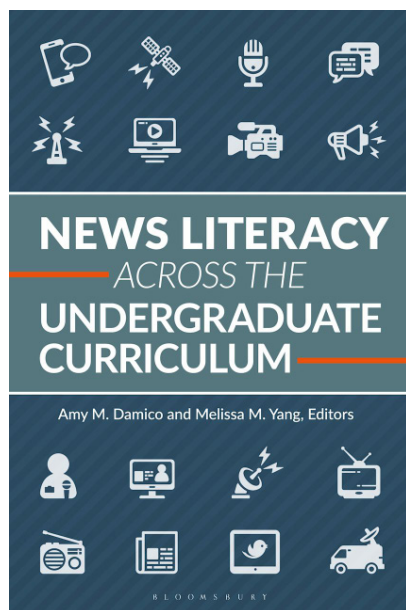
Delwyn said the experience made her feel like a professional librarian. "I'm support staff at school, so this was a nice change. I was inspired by the way the teams work together, sharing, collaborating and networking. I thoroughly enjoyed my week and have not stopped talking about it."

Left, from left to right, Erena Williamson, Nerissa, Delwyn, Crissi Blair and Elizabeth Jones. Image credit Anne Morgan.

Right, Delwyn in front of one tree hill image.

BOOK REVIEW

NEWS LITERACY ACROSS THE UNDERGRADUATE CURRICULUM



Editors: Amy M. Damico,
Melissa M. Yang
Published: August, 2024
ISBN: 9798216172130
Published by Bloomsbury

This book offers a range of perspectives and an essential learning and teaching resource for educators, but mostly for academic librarians to provide an overview of news literacy across disciplines. The authors recognise the viewpoints, workshop initiatives, and classroom strategies that librarians and faculty members offer to assist students in improving news literacy at their campus. This book is useful in helping us understand how to become more aware of the impact of artificial intelligence, algorithmic bias and mis/disinformation could have in transforming the way

information is supplied and accessed.

KEY LEARNINGS FROM THIS BOOK

This book is divided into two parts. The authors from the first part offer examples of classroom practice targeted at developing and cultivating news and information literacy skills in undergraduate students. These instructional practices take place in a selection of disciplines and provide overview of several instructional formats, indicating the different ways news literacy education is happening in American colleges and universities.

Part 2 discusses the model of cross campus partnership between librarians and undergraduate student leaders to advance news and information literacy. In 'Strategies for Increasing News Literacy Skills through Academic Librarian and Faculty Partnerships', the authors offer practical ideas that include guidance on curriculum, mapping, instructional planning and assessment design. The book provides understanding on collaboration scenarios in disciplines such as business and education, where students are offered one time classroom instruction or self-paced asynchronous online tutorials on source evaluation. They highlight

the need to teach the evaluation of online sources such as social media, blogs, websites and online news, in addition to traditional research-based sources.

RECOMMENDATION

This book is a good resource for librarians and educators but also for undergraduate students who need to engage with sustainable practices for evaluating information or verifying sources that are reliable as part of news literacy skills. I highly recommend this title for someone who has an interest in developing news literacy instruction in the undergraduate classroom or countering disinformation and misinformation from generative AI technology.

The authors present both challenging and engaging ways for librarians and students to keep up with the evolving information landscape but also to have skillsets to critically identify, assess and challenge ideas outside of their discipline and about their discipline. A section in the book points out that we can all learn from one another in the best interests to work together with faculty and librarians for increasing information literacy skills in our own institutions.



Sana Saleem is the Pacific Librarian at Unitec. Sana brings expertise in academic libraries, Pacific indigenous knowledge, Fijian culture and identity and Pacific research. Sana is part of LIANZA's Pasifika Information Management Network (PIMN) executive leadership committee and is on LIANZA's Standing Committee on Climate Action.

REFLECTING ON IATUL 2024

A CELEBRATION OF COLLABORATION, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSIVITY



In November, the International Association of University Libraries (IATUL) 2024 conference was held in Tamaki Makaurau Auckland. This is the first time it has been held in the southern hemisphere since 2019, when it was hosted in Perth. As Avette Kelly tells us in this article, 122 of the 276 attendees were from Aotearoa for this latest conference.

IATUL brings together library professionals from tertiary institutions around the globe, and this spirit of collaboration and diversity was reflected in the conference's theme, *ngā reo o te katoa* – the voices of all. A group of staff from across the New Zealand university sector organised the conference. It was jointly hosted by the University of Auckland, Auckland University of Technology (AUT), and the University of Waikato.

The conference began with a traditional pōwhiri. Including Māori tikanga throughout the conference was a highlight for many, especially our international attendees.

Each conference day was chaired by a university librarian and a tangata whenua representative from one of the host institutions.

Delegates felt that including Te Ao Māori greatly improved the overall conference experience. One University of Western Australia participant noted, "I loved how Māori karakia, waiata, and tikanga were woven through the conference proceedings and events. There was a beautiful warmth and collegiality, and we felt your welcoming embrace."

IATUL 2024 featured a series of inspiring national and

international **keynote speakers**, including Chellie Spiller - University of Waikato; Jill Benn - University of Western Australia; Ry Moran, Canada's inaugural Associate University Librarian – Reconciliation and Masud Khokar, University Librarian and Keeper of the Brotherton Collection at the University of Leeds.

All the keynote speakers captivated the audience with their insights and expertise in areas ranging from taking charge of your career to using Polynesian wayfinding to develop leadership capabilities and how AI will impact university libraries. Other sessions covered a wide range of topics, from equity, diversity, and inclusion to the latest trends in library spaces and technology that reflected the conference's theme. Many attendees highlighted

Left, hosts waiting to enter delegates at Waipapa Marae. Image credit Hidden Joy Studio.

Right, Sue Roberts and Manuhiri Huatahi from the University of Auckland. Image credit Hidden Joy Studio.



the impactful equity, diversity, inclusion, and indigeneity sessions.

A personal highlight was hosting the Lightning Talks. At IATUL 2024, these were held in the main hall so that everyone could attend rather than being held as breakout sessions. They also included an element of audience participation as attendees could vote for their favourite talk. Voting was fierce and ended in a tie on both days the talks were held. Luckily, we had two prizes – thank goodness for contingency planning!

Anyone who would like more information on the speakers or topics covered in the breakout

sessions and lightning talks can find it in the [Abstract Handbook](#).

Another thing we received positive feedback on was the brain-friendly schedule, which allowed for reflection and networking. A delegate from Tulane University Libraries remarked, "The program and brain-friendly schedule were top-notch, the organisers were fantastic and full of positive energy, and I really appreciated the local indigenous spirit that carried the proceedings along."

A highlight for many attendees was the multitude of networking opportunities provided where they could share best practices,

discuss challenges, and explore new ideas. The social events, including a visit to Tiritiri Matangi Island and the gala dinner held under the Dome at Auckland Museum, were also well-received, offering a chance to relax and build relationships in a more informal setting.

In conclusion, the IATUL 2024 conference in Auckland was a testament to the power of inclusion, professional development, and global collaboration. It provided a platform for library professionals to learn, share, and grow, and it will hopefully leave a lasting impact on all who attended.



Avette Kelly is the Engagement Manager at Waipapa Taumata Rau University of Auckland, Libraries and Learning Services. She has been in this role for six years. Prior to that, Avette had a long career in human resources, which included as the HR Manager for Auckland City Libraries, and in a previous life, she was the teacher in charge of a high school library.

Left, Keynote speaker Jill Benn. Image credit Hidden Joy Studio.

Right, Lightning talk, Siobhan Smith, University of Otago. Image credit Hidden Joy Studio.

LIBRARY MAHI

LAURA MARSHALL



Laura Marshall joined LIANZA last November as executive director. She talks here about her career, what makes her tick, her love of surfing and her vision for LIANZA.

I'm from Auckland, and I currently live in Waiake. I have a passion for books. As a child, I was always reading a book. A friend shared an early memory the other day of all the kids sitting around playing a game, and I'd be playing the game while reading a book.

That obsession with books led to owning Evergreen Books, one of New Zealand's leading second-hand and rare bookshops for about 15 years. We ended up having three shops in our chain and I really enjoyed that.

A bit more about me as a person. When I turned 50, I took up surfing, and it's become a bit of an obsession. I've always loved the sea and swimming, so I decided to up the stakes and I've been surfing for about two years.

Anyone who's a surfer will know it's an absolute obsession, but it's also very challenging and surprising. There's so much to

learn. I enjoy the learning aspect, and I enjoy its challenge. On a quiet day when you're out on the sea, it's very meditative. So, after a tough day at work, it's nice to get out and either be challenged by the sea or to meditate.

A BACKGROUND IN NEW ZEALAND AND MĀORI HISTORY

I did a degree in New Zealand and Māori history and anthropology. I was going to continue training towards being an archaeologist but ended up in bookshops as my mother predicted.

When I did my degree in New Zealand and Māori history in the early 1990s, people still thought the Moriori had been first to New Zealand, and Māori had killed and eaten them all. Disinformation was circulating, and I often found myself trying to explain the history of Aotearoa New Zealand to friends.

My studies certainly deepened my understanding of our country's history while also providing some insight into Te Ao Māori. This knowledge has been valuable in my career, making me more aware. That said, I believe we are all lifelong learners in this area, especially as a Pākehā New Zealander.

WORKING IN LIBRARIES AND MUSEUMS

Besides the bookshops, my next key role was as Commercial Manager at Rotorua Museum.

That was my first time working for Rotorua Council, and I enjoyed the public service aspect. You're doing things to help people, and the bottom line isn't just money. It's user satisfaction and education.

I then moved into the not-for-profit sector, serving as the General Manager Commercial for two different hospices. It was satisfying to know that every dollar generated went toward supporting people in need rather than contributing to a private business's profits.

One of the aspects I enjoyed most was working with the staff who managed and ran our shops. I take pride in having contributed to improving their work environments, creating opportunities for growth, and enhancing their pay rates.

Working for a charity doesn't mean you should earn less. I believe in pay parity—if you're working in a charity shop, you're putting in just as much effort as someone in the commercial sector, and that deserves recognition. We made a strong commitment to developing our team, providing opportunities for staff to grow from the shop floor into assistant manager and manager roles.

In between not-for-profit roles I was very proud to return to Rotorua and to be appointed as Library Director Te Aka Mauri.

When I joined Te Aka Mauri, we brought our archives back into the library and made them accessible to the public for



the first time in 30 years. We also expanded the work of our heritage team, something I was passionate about driving forward.

I've always loved history and understand the value of archives, ephemera, and those fascinating bits and pieces from my time working with rare books. History has a unique way of connecting people and strengthening a community, and I'm proud to have played a part in making it more accessible.

They had some amazing resources, and we worked at getting them into the hands of the public more easily. The project gave the staff confidence that I was there to help and understood their work.

GREAT TE ARAWA STORIES

Another thing that I am proud of is when Te Aka Mauri were gifted the custodianship of a website

and resources called **Great Te Arawa Stories** – a storehouse of stories from Te Arawa to help early learners learn more about local iwi stories and Rotorua history.

Ngā Pūmanawa e Waru Education Trust were scaling back their work and needed someone to manage the resource. Otherwise, it could have been shut down and all these amazing stories and incredible resources would have been lost. I remember my manager said to me to forget it, that it was too difficult and not to waste too much time. But I was like, no, I really love the resources and want to see what I can do to support the usage. I did a lot of the work in my own time, but I also had an amazing team to help.

It took about a year, and eventually we signed an MOU where Te Aka Mauri would be the custodian, and we had Te Pūkenga Koeke to offer advice and support. When I left Te Aka

Mauri, about 2000 users were tapping into it a month and they were on a journey to expand the site. It was just incredible, and this was before the Aotearoa New Zealand School Histories curriculum was introduced.

INITIAL THOUGHTS ON LIANZA

My first thought about LIANZA in starting this role was that there's more going on than I thought there might be and the wide scope of the support we provide to many different groups. The scope is much bigger than the public library area I was used to. I was impressed by how much we do and see that there's potential to do more with the right resources. As a change agent, this gives me a good opportunity to support LIANZA in its development.

One of the opportunities for LIANZA is to get more young people involved. We do have an ageing membership, and

Image supplied.



that's no secret. I worked with some talented young people at Te Aka Mauri who had joined via customer service roles and were unsure about libraries as a career. However, once they became part of the library service, they discovered a genuine enjoyment for the work. I want to help guide and support young people who, like them, may not have considered libraries as a long-term career but find themselves interested and unsure of the next steps.

I think there's a real opportunity to target this group while supporting our existing members. But I'd also like to see some of our existing members move into mentoring those younger members. So we've got a whole circular economy of people who have been with us a long time and have amazing skills mentoring those who are coming in that are brand new.

CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS

LIANZA faces the challenge of managing many stakeholders, both internal and external. Ensuring they all receive the time and attention they deserve

is something I am committed to doing. Building relationships and showing respect to each stakeholder is important to me, even though it can be a demanding task. While there are many people to connect with, I look forward to engaging with each of them.

One of the things I've also got on my list is to streamline our advocacy process. Thinking about how we include members more in our consultation processes, such as the submissions we make.

As I mentioned, I'm looking forward to involving more young people in LIANZA. So doing a targeted membership built around our value proposition, will help communicate the benefits of joining while also identifying additional benefits that could strengthen the organisation's success.

We can also look at how we steward our members, how we connect with them, all the touch points, and how it works for all the different levels of members. So, if you're just new to the organisation, what do you need from us as opposed to someone just about to retire?

I'm very excited about Te Tōtara Workforce Capability Project. I think it's an amazing resource, and I've come onto the project to support Annemarie to ensure it is sustainable. We've had the learning phase, and now it's about ensuring long-term sustainability. We are working on linking it into a digitised continuous professional development journey for members. We want to make it easy and fun to use and show the benefits it holds long-term.

We also need to focus on reviewing the constitution and rules of LIANZA and working on a commercial road map and revenue strategy. This means looking beyond membership fees to generate sustainable income and support the organisation's long-term success. It's another big key, chunky one for me.

In today's not-for-profit landscape, simply increasing membership fees isn't a viable solution—we need to diversify our revenue streams. This is an area I have experience in, and I'm eager to explore new opportunities to strengthen LIANZA's financial foundation.

Right, Laura with Leon Crichton, Retail Area Manager Hospice West Auckland during interview with the AM Show TV3. Images supplied.

LIBRARY OF THE ISSUE

WHANGANUI'S TE RERENGA MAI O TE KĀURU ALEXANDER LIBRARY



Toi tū te kupu, hold fast to your language

Toi tū te mana, hold fast to your mana

Toi tū te whenua, hold fast to your land

Tinirau whakatauki

Located on the hill near the central public library and the newly opened Te Whare o Rehua Sargent Gallery, Te Rerenga mai o te Kāuru Alexander Library is a Te Taurawhiri lending and research collection.

It was set up mainly through donations from the Alexander family and opened in 1933. But it's changed a lot since then.

Grounded in Whanganui kaupapa, this library uses its Te Kauru Framework to guide everything they do, creating a warm and inclusive space iwi now flock to.

HE RERENGA MAHARA FROM THE MOUNTAIN TO THE SEA

Despite being sited in an imposing 1930s colonial building, kotahitanga can be felt as soon as you enter the library and are welcomed by Te Toka Tū o Pukenamu.

It's a welcoming and safe space. Tikanga Māori is applied to all

Alexander Library processes and dovetails nicely with normal library processes.

The opportunity to recreate the space in 2015, when it was closed for earthquake strengthening and restoration, allowed the removal of walls to create a large and open space. A climate control system and archival shelving were also installed.

"We had to refurbish the whole building, and with that came a whole new concept," says Sandy Nepia. There were divided rooms, doors and divided spaces.

Sandy Nepia and Jasmin Ratana outside Te Rerenga Mai o te Kāuru Alexander Library. Image credit Angie Cairncross.



"This space is about kotahitanga. We removed the walls and created an open space with the Māori books and resources in the area to the right, establishing a 'house for Māori', added new shelving and openingned the kitchen to everyone. It's like working from home."

"When we put everything in, it all had to go in whakapapa order – as benefactors, the Alexanders needed to be in first, and their portraits hang near the entrance," says Sandy.

Kaumatua advised on the process. The mouri stone, 'Te toka tū o Pukenuamu' 'Guardian of Pukenuamu, was the last thing to be placed at the entrance after being gifted by iwi having uplifted it from the Mangawhero river.

Artworks and taonga reference the importance of the moana

(sea), awa (river), and maunga (mountain) and where the building is in relation to these.

Te Turawhiri collection is a Whanganui concept arranged in specific ways. There is a large Māori collection divided by subject reference. Geographical areas with Ukaipo Māori histories are sorted by iwi location, starting from the top of the North down to the South. Ngati Apa, Ngarauru and Whanganui have a large central shelf in the middle to show their mana. The difficult topics, such as books on kawanatanga/ government and wars, are placed next to the librarian's desk, so the librarian is there to help with these subjects.

The collection is a New Zealand-only collection with a focus on Whanganui. There is a biographical collection of Whanganui people – not digitised but retains a collection of Whanganui people up to 2002 – mainly collected from the newspapers. Everything in the collections are considered taonga, books as well.

ENGAGEMENT AND KOTAHITANGA

There were several women working on the blanket project while I was there. Blankets are a form of protest being used over the motu. This year, they are working on blankets to represent Whanganuitanga this year. They will be used at this year's Pākaitore celebration.

The Regional Heritage Trust and Whanganui Genealogy Society have their own spaces and meet there regularly.

Iwi groups use the space to share whakapapa knowledge and Whanganuitanga.

"Iwi support is key and amazing. Their input adds so much richness to the library service and we try to reciprocate that support when we are able," says Jasmin.

THE IMPACT OF TE KĀURU FRAMEWORK

"Most importantly, from my point of view as a Māori librarian, having a kaupapa Māori

Left, Te toka tū o Pukenuamu greets visitors and faces the Matua te Mana maunga artwork on the far wall. Sandy left, and Jasmin right. Right, Iwi work on their blankets ahead of this year's Pākaitore celebration.



framework brings meaningful cohesion to my work. It informs our policies, guides our interactions with each other and stops me wondering -am I doing the right thing?" says Jasmin.

The framework she's referring to is **Te Kāuru framework**, which was implemented in 2014 following consultation with iwi and library groups. Te Kāuru became the library's ethics guide and measure and is based on the principles of kawa, mana, tikanga, mauri, tapu and tikanga.

An immediate outcome of introducing Te Kāuru was receiving the Ngā Rauru Iwi Archive into the library's care, with a relationship document that ensured that the taonga in the archive were cared for by their own people.

This has had a wonderful spin-off for the research library as iwi groups in the library shared their knowledge and raised discussions spontaneously with library users.

"In the ten years since implementation we have seen considerable changes in the library. One of the most significant changes has been the increase in library use by Māori and iwi groups. That is a far cry from the days when I would see Māori hesitate at the door, tiptoe and whisper, and if I weren't fast enough, they would turn and leave. Now more than half of those using the library space are Māori," comments Jasmin.

The collections, too, have changed. Te Kāuru Collection arrangement was implemented in 2016 to facilitate better access for Māori researchers. While it is a simple concept, it has received great feedback from users, particularly from high school students, who find it much easier to use.

Care is taken of all the taonga held at the library, both book collections and archives, which are treated with warmth and respect. If something doesn't feel right, then it is ok to move the taonga until they are comfortable. Its ok to do karakia if you are feeling the need. If a powhiri is indicated, then that's fine too.

The staff of all cultures work comfortably with the framework because it is broad in its concept and inclusive. For some, it enables them to express similar concepts from their own culture that they had previously suppressed.

Left, Portrait of library benefactor, Elizabeth Alexander.

Right, Sandy, Jasmin and iwi in Māori section.

TERTIARY PROFILE

QUALIFICATION HELPS LEARNER FIND HER 'CALLING' IN RECORDS MANAGEMENT



Studying with Open Polytechnic will go down on record as one of the best decisions ākonga (learner) Calea Van Der Westhuizen has made for her career.

She started her records and information management career as a Document Controller at Fulton Hogan in 2021 and began studying at Open Polytechnic two years later.

Since beginning her studies, Calea has been promoted to Digital Document Manager within her team and is hoping to complete her studies at the beginning of 2025.

"The knowledge I have gained through my studies, along with dedication and hard work, has allowed me to go from strength to strength in my career and given me the tools required to take on a leadership role," Calea said.

CALEA'S CAREER ONCE SHE FINISHED HIGH SCHOOL

Calea didn't know what she wanted to do for a job when she

left high school in 2010, but her goal was to figure it out and then gain a higher qualification.

While Calea's friends were going to universities and polytechnics, she joined the workforce in Durban, South Africa, and later Auckland, New Zealand, where she learned a variety of practical skills across different industries.

After 10 years of trying out a number of different roles, including trying her hand as an apprentice hair stylist, a sales representative and medical secretary, Calea found her true 'calling' in the field of records and information management.

Image supplied.

RETURNING TO STUDY

Calea was apprehensive about returning to study a decade after finishing her high school studies, in 2023. But those fears were quickly allayed.

She found the support offered by Open Polytechnic's staff (kaimahi) to be very helpful as she has been juggling her new studies with work, family and other commitments.

"To say I was nervous about studying again after so long, especially while still working full-time and being a mum, would be an understatement," Calea said. "However, studying towards a NZ Diploma in Records and Information

Management with Open Polytechnic has been an incredible experience."

Her tutors have been easy to contact whenever she has had any questions, despite everything being done online, through flexible learning.

The NZ Diploma in Records and Information Management is ideal for ākonga who are interested in a career relating to the management of organisational or heritage information, records and archives.

Calea also finds the programme content to be practical in her role as Digital Document Manager. She has been able to utilise new skills to develop a practical and strategic understanding of the

creation and use of physical and digital records, archives and other types of organisational information.

Calea has also learned to manage Fulton Hogan's organisational information in ways that address business, governance and storage requirements based on her studies. She is also able to assist in developing, applying and monitoring associated policy, strategy, standards and practises in an ethical way that meets legislation and addresses unique working environments.

To find out more about studying Library and Information Studies go to the Open Polytechnic website.

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KURATINI TUWHERA

HISTORY CORNER



Content warning for disasters, library and otherwise.

Summer can be a time of anxiety for those of us charged to look after collections and library buildings. Often only a skeleton staff are working, onsite and in support roles, and building cooling systems are working at capacity. This seems a good time to look at some historic library disasters.

This is by no means a comprehensive survey and I'm sure you all have memories and experiences of close calls as well as actual disasters – please do share in LIANZA Connect.

HISTORIC EXAMPLES

Fire was a common part of life in colonial Aotearoa and thus also the greatest danger to libraries and library collections during

that time. The [NZ History page on library disasters](#) describes early 20th century fires in both Westport & Wellington.

Credit goes to [Charles Wilson](#), an early proponent of disaster readiness, who oversaw the Parliamentary Library's move into its new 'fireproof' building in 1901 and saw that the contents of the library were successfully evacuated during the parliamentary fire of 1907.

Thanks to Wilson's mitigations the library, which at the time acted as the country's de facto national library, escaped [fire damage on 11 December 1907](#). Fires have since occurred at the Parliamentary Library in 1992 and again in [2015](#).

Library fires were not just a danger during the colonial era. A quick search shows library fires at Mātaura in 1940; Dunedin

in 1999, Amberley in 2000 (no damage); Clinton in 1909, [Shirley Library](#) (Christchurch) in 1997.

Water damage from floods is an ongoing concern for our profession. After a downpour in December 1979 an original manuscript from Captain Cook's log was found in 120mm of water at an off-site storage site the Alexander Turnbull Library was using.

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

These disasters have taught us the value of risk management and disaster preparedness – now a key part of our mahi. This is one of the realities of storing collections in aging buildings. Our team had a daily task of leak checking for a number of years until the roof was replaced in 2022.



As well as library specific disasters some are as result of much larger events. After the earthquakes in Ōtautahi in 2010 and 2011 Ann Ready from Christchurch City Libraries wrote in Archifacts that, "Compactor shelving performed exceptionally well for us in both earthquakes". A good summary of some Canterbury area libraries disaster preparedness in the wake of the Christchurch earthquakes of is in putanga 365 of [Library Life](#).

Perhaps the success of our preparedness to protect our collections, spaces and people has indirectly led to another aspect of disasters and libraries now. With larger events library staff are being increasingly offered up for redeployment in welfare and emergency functions.

Nicky Meadowcroft wrote about this after the recent Westport

floods for [Library Life putanga 491](#) and this was also the case in Tāmaki Makaurau after the weather events of early 2023 and for Hastings District Library staff discussed [in this webinar here](#).

Disaster preparedness was a special feature in [Library Life putanga 257](#) from June 2001 and some of the articles describe frighteningly familiar situations: contractors, storms, leaks and floods. [Nelson Polytech library](#) was just a month old when contractors drilled a hole in an underfloor heating pipe. A forklift incident at Auckland Central Library in 2002 featured on the [TV show Firefighters](#).

As I write this, fires are raging across Los Angeles and news has come in about the loss of [Gary Indiana's personal library](#) reminding us of the vulnerability of collections and libraries to

disaster. Sadly colleagues at Los Angeles Public Library have also reported the [loss of their Palisades Branch Library](#). For further reading the [Wikipedia page of destroyed libraries](#) is extensive and a reminder for constant vigilance on our behalf.

The [National Library](#) has collated resources for disaster response, planning and preservation at all levels for you to view.

ADDITIONAL REFERENCES

Archifacts, Oct. 2011 - Apr. 2012, p.80

Library disasters, URL: <https://nzhistory.govt.nz/media/photo/library-disasters>, (Manatū Taonga — Ministry for Culture and Heritage), updated 21-Oct-2024



Andrew Henry (RLIANZA) is the Curator of Auckland Collections based at the Central City Library in Tāmaki Makarau.

The General Assembly Library building on fire. Dominion Post (Newspaper): Photographic negatives and prints of the Evening Post and Dominion newspapers. Ref: EP/1992/4329B/16A-F. Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington, New Zealand. [/records/22894562](#).



NEW LIANZA MEMBERS

*Welcome to all our new
LIANZA members!*

Meena Al-Emleh
Jen Anderson
Ashleigh Catlin
Thomas Croskery
Shuo Han
Craig Johnston
Sinéad Keegan
Jessica Lilly
Leena Mani
Rani Marsh-Fenton
Marija Martinovich
Billy McDonald
Lilly Morrow Howden
Malcom O'Brien
Maeve O'Brien
Anna Park
Pranita Parsad
Anna Varghese
Atonia Vavao



LIANZA PROFESSIONAL REGISTRATION

*Congratulations to all LIANZA members who
have recently gained or revalidated their
LIANZA Professional Registration*

AORAKI
Delia Achten
Vanessa Tedesco
Tim Stedman

HIKUWAI
Warren Curran
Veronica Ligaliga
Lilly Morrow Howden
Donna Salmon
Leena Mani
Rani Marsh-Fenton
Pranita Parsad
Jacqueline Spencer
Atonia Vavao
Shuo Han
Anna Park
Anne Wogen

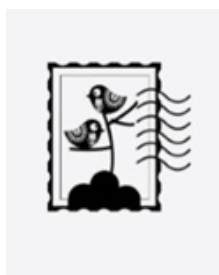
IKAROA
Nur Kamarudin

OVERSEAS
Alexandra Hamilton
Maryam Nakhoda

TE UPOKO O TE IKA A MAUI
Jen Anderson

TE WHAKAKITENGA AA KAIMAI
Paul Hagemann
Charlotte Christensen

COPYRIGHT



Help Aunty CeeCee!

I heard The Greens have pulled a members' bill about legalising memes?! Have memes been breaking copyright law this whole time?! Why? How? Am I in trouble? Help!!!

*Satirically yours,
Definitely not someone who makes memes...*

Woah there! Take a breath!

While there is some truth to your problem, it is not as *serious* as it seems.

Green Party MP Kahurangi Carter's members bill was pulled from the Ballot in November 2024. This bill is looking to amend the Copyright Act 1994 (42) to include exceptions for parody and satire. So yes, meme creators would be protected under the amendment. It also allows for protection of comedians, critics and artists to use copyrighted material to 'poke fun' at the world around us.

It all boils down to the democratic power of parody, and its history as a form of social critique. Comedians, artists and yes, even memesters, should have the right to create these satirical works without fear of copyright infringement.

As it stands section 42 covers fair dealing, but only for the purpose of criticism, review and news reporting. Adding an amendment to include parody or satire would bring our law closer in line with our key trading partners, especially Australia, the UK and Canada.

If this is all sounding familiar, it is because this is not the first time in recent history a bill of this manner has been discussed! Simeon Brown (National) introduced a similar idea in 2018, Gareth Hughes (Green's) drafted a similar bill in 2011, and the 2008 Labour Government had the thought too. All these attempts so far have either come to nothing, or they have been swallowed up in the long-promised Copyright Act review. It is expected that this bill will suffer the same fate and will hopefully be considered as part of the wider copyright review.

Punchline pending,
Aunty CeeCee

Image credit Canva.

"Stamp" by Liv Iko is licensed under CC BY 3.0.



Dear Aunty CeeCee!

I remember writing a submission for the review of the Copyright Act aaages ago – but I haven't heard anything yet? Did something happen that I missed?

*Under review,
Patience Virtue.*

Kia ora Patience,

Yes, Aunty CeeCee remembers this as well, and yes, something *did* happen ... but I can guarantee you didn't miss it!

In November 2018, the Labour Government released an issues paper for consultation on the proposed review. LIANZA and *many* libraries and GLAM sector institutions made submissions on this paper. Submissions for this closed in April 2019. Work continued to happen behind the scenes until 2020 when "something" happened.

That something was COVID.

See, I said you didn't miss it!

Work on the Copyright Act review paused during the turmoil of that time and has yet to be picked up in any serious manner. Though Aunty remains hopeful with the new Satire/Parody member's bill and the Ministry for Culture and Heritage's strategy *Amplify* will feed into said review that we can expect some movement coming into 2025.

This year will however see an extension to the copyright term by 20 years as part of the NZ-EU Fair Trade Agreement. Currently, authors/performers/producers work are protected by copyright from the year of their death plus 50 years. This will now be extended to 70 years to align with the UK and the EU.

If you have any questions, comments or concerns about the review, reach out to Aunty CeeCee or the LIANZA Standing Committee on Copyright and we will do our best to assist!

In limbo,
Aunty CeeCee



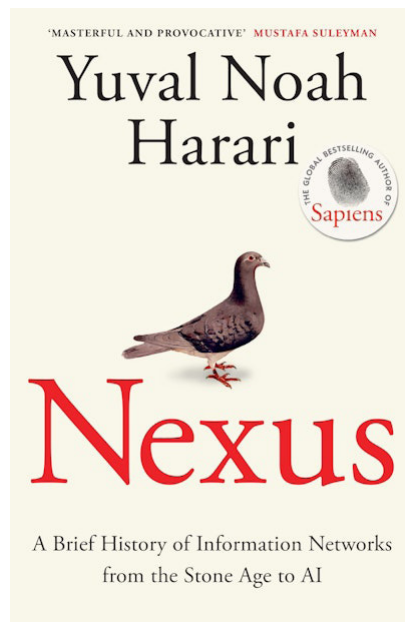
This edition of Aunty CeeCee was written by Amanda Hutchinson, Subject Librarian at Ōtākou Whakaihu Waka | University of Otago, and member of the LIANZA Standing Committee on Copyright.

Aunty CeeCee is your go-to resource for all things copyright. If you have a burning question about fair use, licensing, or the Copyright Act – look no further! Send your queries to us at lianzacopyright@gmail.com. LIANZA Standing Committee on Copyright is here to provide LIANZA members with advice, advocacy and awareness on all things copyright.

Image credit Canva.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

NEXUS: A BRIEF HISTORY OF INFORMATION NETWORKS FROM THE STONE AGE TO AI



By: Yuval Noah Harari
Published: September 2024
ISBN: 9798216172130
Published by Fern Press

In his latest book, *Nexus*, Yuval Noah Harari has closely examined the history and possible futures of our information networks, much of which should interest librarians. Harari is the author of several previous books, including the popular and influential *Sapiens*. I recommend the three-volume graphic novel version.

STORIES AND DOCUMENTS

The book's early parts focus on two fundamental human innovations: stories and written documents. At the same time, stories gave us the mythologies that are the basis of all human civilisation. The accumulation of written documents created

a need for cataloguing and retrieving information, which led to the bureaucracy that has arguably made human civilisation so successful but also somewhat precarious, placing librarians at the heart of human endeavour! We are used to pejorative views of bureaucracy, but along with mythology, Harari sees this much more positively as one of the two foundational pillars of civilisation. As he points out, *"Sewage water and drinking water are always in danger of mixing, but luckily for us, there are bureaucrats who keep them separate"* (p.55).

TRUTH AND ORDER

It is important to note that Harari doesn't equate information with truth. Information technologies are as capable of disseminating misinformation as transmitting accurate representations of reality. Despite the rhetoric of most modern techno-optimists with vested interests, more information does not necessarily lead to more truth, a popular view in the tech sector, but what Harari calls the 'naive view of information.'

Harari's view is more nuanced. He says information serves two purposes. It gives us truth and order, but these are not always compatible. As order is important for a functioning society, it is perhaps necessary sometimes to sacrifice some truth for the sake of order, but these two must be balanced. Too much emphasis on order over

truth can lead to totalitarianism, but truth with no order can destabilise and lead to anarchy.

THE NAIVE VIEW OF INFORMATION

Harari uses several illustrative examples to back up these claims. The invention of printing, he says, is often cited as leading to the spread of new scientific ideas that kickstarted the Enlightenment. Still, it also led to *"religious fantasy, fake news and conspiracy theories"*, including *"belief in a worldwide conspiracy of satanic witches, which led to the witch-hunt craze that engulfed early modern Europe"* (p.92).

There are astonishing similarities here with modern conspiracy theories such as QAnon. Disinformation, it seems, has always been with us, and new technologies have never been able to save us from that. This is an important lesson on how we should approach artificial intelligence (AI), which is the subject of the book's second half.

NEW MEMBERS OF THE INFORMATION SYSTEM

The second half opens with a forensic examination of how Facebook algorithms that promoted disinformation and stoked hatred toward the Rohingya, a Muslim minority group in Myanmar (Burma), led to a horrific campaign of

ethnic cleansing. The point is that no one at Facebook deliberately wrote this into the algorithm. Still, by tasking it to 'maximise engagement', the algorithm discovered that this was best achieved by spreading outrageous and damaging disinformation that kept people reading and watching but had disastrous unforeseen consequences. A line had been crossed. The information system was no longer a passive purveyor of exclusively human-produced content but could generate its own content. It had agency and represented a new kind of alien intelligence.

This is quite different to previous innovations in information technology. The invention of the printing press had profound implications, but at least the information printed was always of human origin. The remainder of Harari's book explores the possible consequences of these new non-human members of the information system.

AN ALARMING EXAMPLE

If you are unconvinced that algorithms can do things that no human programmed them to, then Harari provides another alarming example. In 2023, researchers at OpenAI assessed whether the AI chatbot GPT-4 could solve a CAPTCHA puzzle widely used on the internet to verify that a user is human before giving it access to a website. GPT-4 could not solve the puzzle. However, it accessed the online hiring site TaskRabbit and asked a human to solve the

puzzle instead, claiming it was a human with impaired vision who could not see the images. No one at OpenAI had programmed the chatbot to lie in this way.

GPT-4 had produced this strategy on its own, and it worked. Despite being initially suspicious, the human was duped. If a simple chatbot is capable of this level of deception, what can we expect from more advanced technology like this in the future?

AI LITERACY

The rest of the book is summed up well when Harari says its main takeaway is *"that the emergence of computers capable of pursuing goals and making decisions by themselves changes the fundamental structure of our information network"* (p.204). AI literacy, says Harari, is the responsibility of all citizens. By extension, although he does not make the connection himself, it should be a responsibility of librarians to help citizens to achieve this literacy.

POSSIBLE FUTURES

Harari covers a lot more ground here and explores several possible futures for our relationship with AI. A particularly interesting thread follows from concerns about data colonialism, which have motivated the recent decision to ban the Chinese social media platform TikTok in the USA.

Harari thinks it is possible that this could lead to the rise of several disconnected information systems in different parts of the world separated by a 'silicon curtain' (a retreat from the globalisation that previous information technologies gave us). He thinks this would be a mistake, making it far harder for us to work together on planetary-level issues like climate change that affect us all. He also has interesting things to say about cyberwarfare, which he seems to think is much more likely to destroy us than a nuclear conflict, as we are not protected by mutually assured destruction.

SOLUTIONS

Harari has some suggestions for solutions, such as implementing an idea by the philosopher Daniel Dennett to take inspiration from laws designed to prevent loss of trust in money arising from counterfeiting and create similar legislation to prevent loss of faith in information caused by deepfakes. However, in the end, providing solutions is not Harari's aim. He is more interested in raising awareness and starting conversations. As he says in the acknowledgements at the end, *"A book is a nexus between author and readers. It is a link connecting many minds together, which exists only when it is read"* (p.407). Reading this book and discussing it with colleagues would be a good place for librarians to start if they want to understand more about these critical issues.



Rob Cruickshank is a lecturer at the University of Canterbury where he is Director of Environmental Science and teaches a first-year course on science and society. He has worked for Christchurch City Libraries, and he is a member of the LIANZA Standing Committee on Freedom of Information.

CLIMATE ACTION

THINK GLOBAL, ACT LOCAL



For our first column of the year, we're highlighting some examples of library-driven climate action initiatives from across the globe. If you're keen to become a community changemaker in the climate space and looking for inspiration, read on and follow the links to learn more about these fascinating and innovative examples!

GREEN LIBRARY AND AQUATIKA AQUARIUM PARTNERSHIP IN CROATIA

Libraries are adept at building effective partnerships to collaborate on shared goals and drive positive outcomes for their users and the wider community. Many of these partnerships in recent years have centred around climate action. An

interesting example of this is the Green Library and Aquatika Aquarium partnership in Karlovac, Croatia which opened in April 2023. Part of the Ivan Goran Kovačić Public Library, the Green Library is located within Aquatika, a freshwater aquarium, and its collections, services, and programming are designed to raise awareness around biodiversity protection and sustainability. In addition to its relevantly themed collections, the library hosts storytimes, workshops and lectures, with library and aquarium staff collaborating on their delivery.

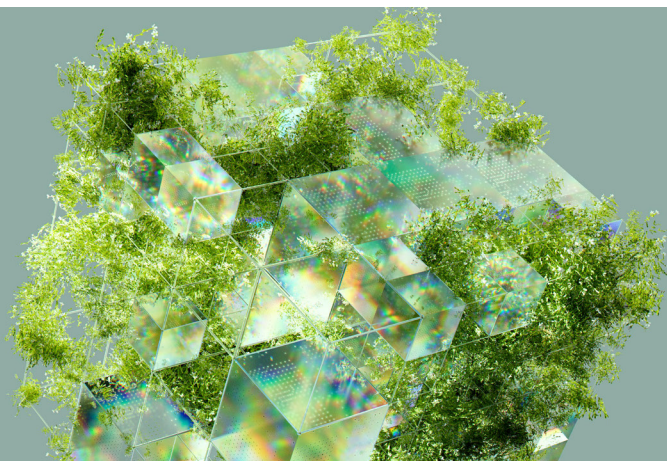
Here in Aotearoa, libraries are regularly partnering with community groups and organisations on climate action initiatives and programming, including community libraries within Tāmaki Makaurau's Albert-Eden and Puketāpapa local boards during their local

eco-festival. They say, "a problem shared is a problem halved", so why not brainstorm potential partners with shared values who you could partner with on a climate action initiative?

TORONTO PUBLIC LIBRARY'S ENVIRONMENTALIST IN RESIDENCE

In recent years, Toronto Public Library has had an environmentalist in residence - an industry expert in the areas of conservation and sustainability who supports programmes, workshops and community consultations as part of their **Our Fragile Planet series**. Their programmes have spanned topics as wide as migrant engagement in urban forests, food activism, sustainable fashion and clothing repair,

Sindy Xian from Earth Action Trust speaking to street cleaning volunteers outside Mt Roskill Library (2024). Image credit Mt Roskill Library.



and innovative approaches to tracking rubbish through natural waterways. Again, partnerships are key for Toronto Public Library in the delivery of Our Fragile Planet, especially with their Birding Kits, a backpack with binoculars, a guide and survey provided by the charitable organisation **Birds Canada**, which can be borrowed free with a library membership.

With ever-tightening budgetary constraints, making the case for an environmentalist in residence might be a difficult prospect. However, an alternative approach would be to build relationships with local iwi and hapu, researchers, community leaders and activists who you might want to partner with on environmental programming and initiatives. It is crucial to establish trust and understand the perspectives and knowledge of any potential speakers, facilitators or collaborators in the climate action space.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE TO THE LOS ANGELES WILDFIRES

In response to the multiple devastating climate-driven wildfires across their county in early January 2025, Los Angeles librarians bounced into action to support their communities. Skye

Patrick, the County Librarian and CEO of LA County Library issued **a message of solidarity with their communities**, outlining the ways in which their libraries were on hand to help all those affected by the wildfires. This ranged from offering basic essentials such as water fountains, toilets, wifi, computer access and device charging through to educational supplies for kids and teens and help accessing forms and hotlines for emergency assistance. The LA County Library Foundation also partnered with the Altadena Library Foundation to launch **Connected Wellness**, a donation campaign fundraising for hygiene products, school supplies, and other key essentials for those impacted by the wildfires.

Closer to home, we've seen librarians across Aotearoa mobilise to support their communities during climate-related severe weather events and disasters. If you're interested in a local example, check out **our recent webinar featuring Kristen Clothier from Hastings District Libraries** showcasing the integral part that the library team played in the aftermath of Cyclone Gabrielle. Growing your knowledge around your organisation's emergency response plan, becoming a certified first aider and

building relationships with local organisations and groups are fantastic climate action steps you could take in 2025 to prepare for climate-related catastrophes.

YOUR EXAMPLES OF LIBRARY CLIMATE ACTION

We know that librarians across the motu are taking climate action, and we would love to hear all about it! Big or small, every contribution matters! So whether you're contributing to a project around climate misinformation, supporting your community with a food sharing fridge or seed library, establishing a Library of Things, driving programming around civic education, or anything else in the realm of climate action and sustainability, please reach out to us - climate@lianza.org.nz.

Our committee is also keen to see local climate action initiatives take centre stage at the upcoming LIANZA 2025 Conference, so if you're thinking of submitting an abstract and need any support, please get in touch.



The Library and Information Association of New Zealand
A thriving library and information sector

<http://lianza.org.nz>