



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

Comment on [Amplify: A Creative and Cultural Strategy for New Zealand](#)

Thank you for the opportunity to submit on Amplify: A Creative and Cultural Strategy for New Zealand. Te Rau Herenga o Aotearoa the Library and Information Association of New Zealand Aotearoa believe that a national creative and cultural strategy is important for the growth and continuation of cultural and creative sector in Aotearoa.

We believe that developing the right support and infrastructure to support this strategy is crucial.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Te Rau Herenga o Aotearoa, ([LIANZA](#)) has provided leadership to the wider library and information profession for over 122 years.

With a strong national network, active member communities and volunteer base, an established profile, and strong international connections, LIANZA spans all parts of the diverse library and information sector. This includes public, school, tertiary, health, prison, tertiary, special libraries and information services. LIANZA is the peak body for the library and information sector.

LIANZA works closely with [Te Rōpū Whakahaui](#), the professional body supporting kaimahi Māori in libraries. LIANZA also maintains a strong relationship with Te Puna Mātauranga o Aotearoa the National Library of New Zealand. We have strong links to the wider galleries, archives, museums, marae, iwi and records (GLAMMIR) sector. We are a member of the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA).

We believe library and information services add significant value to communities and citizens in Aotearoa, enabling them to prepare for the future.

THE ROLE OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES IN THIS STRATEGY

Taonga and other cultural heritage collections of immense significance are cared for by local government through its libraries, museums, archives and galleries. These collections contribute to cultural, social and economic wellbeing. They:

- tell stories of place which support a sense of pride and identity
- support Te Tiriti research and claims

- underpin the new local history curriculum
- attract visitors and researchers - for example specialist cruises for genealogists visit places such as Dunedin to make use of their local history collections.

We would expect this strategy to recognise the place that cultural heritage collections have and believe that they deserve greater recognition and support.

The library and information sector is a diverse and multi-variate sector of interdependent parts. We encourage you not to neglect the important role our libraries, heritage and information brokers play in supporting the culture and creative sector. Whether it be through providing culture and heritage collections, through the provision of digital and creative opportunities in our Maker Spaces and programmes, through the promotion of literacy or through reading for pleasure programmes and book promotion opportunities. These activities all have a significant impact across multiple stakeholder areas and outcomes.

SPECIFIC COMMENT ON THE STRATEGY

LIANZA asserts that library, heritage, archive and knowledge services are fundamental to the sustained growth of the wider culture and heritage sector and that this should be acknowledged in the strategy.

Cultural heritage services and Te Tiriti o Waitangi

As stated earlier, many libraries house taonga in their collections and have a responsibility to develop close relationships with Māori as kaitiaki who guide decisions about appropriate care, access, digitisation and ownership of these treasures. Their relationships with Iwi and role as kaitiaki are based on acknowledgement of Te Tiriti o Waitangi partnership principles. Te Tiriti o Waitangi should guide this strategy and Iwi Māori should lead the way in the protection of their cultural rights, tikanga and taonga tuku iho.

New Zealand libraries and archives hold extensive documentary heritage collections which are currently inaccessible as they are only in hardcopy format. We encourage funding to be prioritised for the digitisation and digital storage of New Zealand documentary heritage content locally and nationally to enhance access to this valuable and irreplaceable taonga.

We encourage the government to extend the collection and preservation of New Zealand digital content for the benefit of current and future researchers, and for local communities to preserve and provide access to their cultural and community heritage.

Workforce issues

The low wage of creatives is noted on page 8. LIANZA would point out that this situation is mirrored by many kaimahi working in the library and information sector, who, despite often being highly qualified with Master's and university degrees, are often earning close to the minimum wage. Pay equity endorsement is strongly encouraged for our sector, and we would note the inclusion of this in the strategy.

Public Lending Rights

Public Lending Rights are of key importance for the library and information sector. A LIANZA representative sits on the advisory group for Te Tari Taiwhenua advising on the scheme which was set up to provide annual payments to New Zealand authors in recognition of the fact that their books are available for use in New Zealand Libraries.

Commented [AC1]: Mark can you add further comment

Copyright **Act**

The Copyright Act 1994 has not been reviewed for thirty years and apart from minor tinkering, does not recognise the virtual library or users accessing resources online. Without meaningful and consistent input into the review process, there is every chance that the legislative changes could severely disadvantage libraries.

The voice of library and information services is crucial to be heard in any such review. A thorough and considered review of the Copyright Act is fundamental to ensure the protection of intellectual property created by New Zealand writers and researchers, as it is for access to this creative content.

Digital equity and digital inclusion

Libraries' digital response is part of their core role in ensuring equity of access to information and equitable opportunity to participate. This response has been funded almost entirely by local government, with some central government support through the Aotearoa People's Network – the [APNK Network](#) in support of e-government. The APNK Network provides more than 1,100 free public devices, and access to the internet that supports more than 7,000 users daily.

P12 notes that digital growth is part of the Amplify strategy. The place of library and information services in ensuring digital inclusion and digital equity for their communities is highlighted in [the 2024 International Federation of Library Associations \(IFLA\) Trend Report](#). With the Trend Report IFLA launched a global conversation on broader trends in how people are accessing, using, and sharing information and knowledge.

Libraries play a unique and important role in bridging the gaps to improve digital inclusion and digital equity. They provide the infrastructure, they provide access to online information and generate content, they build skills and confidence, and they are trusted. Libraries offer this service both within their buildings and remotely.

Digital services offered by libraries are heavily used and highly valued. Almost all libraries offer digital skills programmes, one-on-one or in groups, and thousands of people take advantage of these programmes because they feel confident to do so. They see libraries as safe digital spaces within an increasingly unsafe digital world.

[Makerspaces](#) have emerged as dynamic environments within libraries, responding to the opportunities presented by new technologies and serving as vital platforms for fostering digital literacy in our communities. A growth area in libraries, makerspaces are important for the growth of digital literacy and creativity in communities.

Libraries' digital response is part of its core role in ensuring equity of access to information and equitable opportunity to participate. This response has been funded almost entirely by local government, with some central government support. LIANZA believe there is a strong case for central government funding support of libraries where they are delivering national benefits. Ongoing support of digital inclusion and equity through public libraries is a case in point.

Literacy and growing a generation of readers

Commented [AC2]: Copyright cttee will be sending some comment

This strategy provides opportunities for increasing the involvement in literature and reading for New Zealanders. Opportunities can be found in support for such events as the NZCYA Book Awards, and local events such as Verb Wellington and Writers Festivals.

The right infrastructure to support growth

Equity of access to library and information support is not assured for all Aotearoa New Zealand citizens. An inequity exists between areas with large and well-funded local government funding through rates, and therefore have well-resourced libraries, and those rural areas that don't. There is also inequitable access to library and information resources in under-resourced areas such as prison and school libraries.

LIANZA believe there is a strong case for central government funding to support public libraries where they are delivering national benefits. For example, in relation to digital equity and inclusion, civic participation, literacy, learning, social wellbeing and care of cultural and documentary heritage.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Amplify Strategy

*Ivy Guo
LIANZA President
December 2024*