Day 2 Strategic Workshop
Friday 11 May 2018

Summary of Outcomes

Introduction: About *Share it* 2018

In collaboration with ALIA, Libraries Australia held *Share it*, a two-day resource sharing futures event, on 10 and 11 May 2018, at the National Library of Australia in Canberra.

The aim of *Share it* was to discuss the current Australian resource sharing landscape and issues around the complex world of modern resource sharing. A further aim was to determine whether there is still a need for a national resource sharing service and, if so, to develop a resource sharing road map and action plan for Australia.

Day 1 of *Share it* was an open conference for practitioners and thinkers across the resource sharing spectrum. Local and international speakers set the scene and discussed the current Australian resource sharing landscape.

Day 2 was an invitation-only strategic workshop for leaders, thinkers and experts in the Australian resource sharing arena, and provided an opportunity to elevate their thinking around the future of resource sharing.

Thinking Differently … Not One Inevitable Future

Day 1 of *Share it* brought together international, national and local speakers to grapple with resource sharing futures, discuss national requirements and consider the way forward, providing context, input and stimulus for discussions at the Day 2 strategic workshop.

Delegates at Day 1 heard about the different challenges and drivers for resource sharing faced by the academic, public, and special library sectors. Sector representatives questioned what their sectors were looking for from a national resource sharing platform. Each sector noted the diversity of resource sharing networks that add to the complexity of resource sharing. They highlighted the connections between collection development and resource sharing activities, managing access to print and e-collections, service sustainability, and the full costs (staff, systems, and resources) associated with delivering resource sharing services.
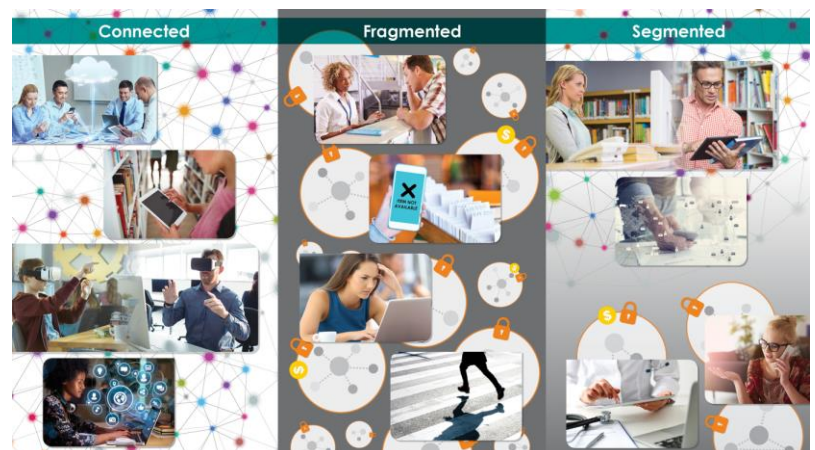
Delegates were challenged to consider the possibility that, rather than one inevitable future for resource sharing in Australia, there were a number of possible futures.

The 'Into the Future? Where Will ILL Be?' hypothetical, for example, brought to life three versions of our resource sharing future: Connected, Fragmented and Segmented.

Speakers and panel members at Day 1 also provided insights into:

- The national framework for ILL and Document Delivery
- how Australia's national service compares with other national resource sharing services (in New Zealand and South Africa)
- how various libraries are using different collaborative tools and services.

What We Know … and Don't Know

Delegates to the Day 2 strategic workshop built on insights and perspectives from Day 1, as well as their own experience, to tackle challenging issues and questions around the future of resource sharing in Australia.

At the beginning of the day, delegates helped shape and confim the program of the day. Member input from the pre-conference survey and topics proposed at the conference on Day 1 were also discussed and considered during the day.

A number of key issues, concerns and trends emerged over the course of the two-day conference:

- there is a need for a clear vision for the future direction of Australia's resource sharing framework

- resource sharing in Australia is complex and fragmented, and is evolving without planning or structure

- libraries are utilising and accessing myriad local and sectoral networks as well as the national system to meet their resource sharing needs—often loading the same data into numerous systems

- there are problems with the current national system and model that we need to address: how do we do that?

- decisions about the national service need to be evidence based and have 'buy in' from the different library sectors

- a better understanding of the whole resource sharing landscape, beyond the national service, is needed to enable the ILL community to plan for the future and make evidence-based decisions

- sectors have different perspectives and drivers. It is challenging to achieve common definitions for concepts such as 'equitable'

- e-resources have brought benefits and challenges. Into the future, providing user access will be strongly determined by developments around access to electronic materials. This is affecting different sectors in different ways

- constrained budgets are having an impact on the delivery of library services

- there is goodwill among libraries, as well as a desire to collaborate

- there is a general desire to move from a segmented network to a more connected future—but connected is likely to look very different into the future to now.

- It is timely to have focused strategic attention upon resource sharing, as changes and challenges have grown while library leaderships have often been focused elsewhere.

Where to from Here? Next Steps

As a collective, delegates to the *Share it* Day 2 strategic workshop agreed that Libraries Australia, ALIA, strategic workshop delegates and other stakeholders take the following steps:

1. write up and distribute a summary of outcomes of the *Share it* strategic workshop so that delegates can report back to their sectors and continue the conversation about the future of resources sharing in Australia **(Libraries Australia; *Share it* Day 2 delegates)**

2. publish a series of articles on resource sharing in Australia and the *Share it* events **(Libraries Australia; ALIA; *Share it* Day 2 delegates)**

3. establish a steering group to bring together the different viewpoints and needs of sectors. Using evidence-based information, develop a vision and identify and investigate options for the future of national resource sharing in Australia post VDX **(Libraries Australia to establish/convene)**

4. complete the analysis of the Libraries Australia member survey and the ALIA ILL Advisory Committee survey, and make findings available **(Libraries Australia; ALIA ILL Advisory Committee)**

5. collect and analyse institution and sector statistics and data on transaction costs by networks and systems. Share findings and work with the steering group (once established) **(delegates; sector groups; steering group)**.