



## Queensland University Libraries Office of Cooperation

### **Working Party Report to the University Librarians' Committee**

#### **Working Party: Information Resources and Access Working Party**

**Convenor: Carolyn Young**

**Date Submitted: 12<sup>th</sup> July 2006**

**Meetings Conducted to Date:** 19<sup>th</sup> May - QUT Carseldine Campus  
7<sup>th</sup> July - University of Qld. Ipswich  
Campus

**Membership Changes:** Nil

#### **Report on Strategic Actions with Recommendations (if applicable):**

1. Digitisation of 23 priority scholarly serial titles published in Qld.

Following the WP's preparation of a draft letter, the QULOC Convenor wrote to the publishers of the selected journals. About 4 letters were returned to the Executive Officer by Australia Post as undeliverable, and she has redirected these to new addresses. The Working Party intends to review outcomes on the digitisation of these titles in 18 months ie October 2007.

2. RQF

The Working Party has added the RQF to its Standing Agenda items.

Belinda Weaver, UQ Eprint Archive Coordinator gave a presentation to the Working Party at its 7<sup>th</sup> July meeting. Belinda's presentation was on the University of Qld's Research Quality Assessment Trial in 2006 (RQF Lite) and outlined the process undertaken in the trial and lessons learnt. Members found it extremely valuable. The QULOC Executive Officer had made Belinda's Powerpoint available to the members on teleconference ahead of time so that they were able to participate fully in the presentation.

3. Preservation and access to Australian government publications.

The Working Party discussed this matter following a referral from Janice Rickards to a report by Griffith University librarian Collette Smith-Strong on the Digital Amnesia Seminar, Canberra April 2005.

<http://alia.org.au/events/moreinfo.html?933>

*(Collette's report is available from the Executive Officer.)*

Collette reported that the seminar noted serious deficiencies in the way that electronic government publications in Australia were accessed and preserved. Collette's report recommended that QULOC needed an official presence at these forums as very few Queensland librarians had attended.

The WP Convenor contacted one of the seminar organizers from the ALIA Expert Group on Government Publications who advised that apparently little action had resulted from the seminar, although our enquiry had prompted her to follow up with relevant staff in ALIA and the Australian Government Information Management Office (AGIMO). The Working Party discussed the issues and agreed that ongoing access and preservation of Australian government publications is very unclear. While the permanence of digital federal and state government publications was an issue for the National and State Libraries, it was also a matter of concern for academic libraries whose current and future researchers will require access to these documents.

**Recommendation: The Working Party recommends to the University Librarians that QULOC raise with CAUL and ALIA its shared concern about the issues and problems identified in the Digital Amnesia Seminar eg development of plans for preserving and providing ongoing access to government publications in digital format, and indicating its support in lobbying for national or state initiatives which address these problems.**

#### **Report on QULOC Events:**

##### Successful Repository Seminar, 28<sup>th</sup> June, Customs House Brisbane.

The University Librarians agreed by email to cosponsor this one day seminar organized by APSR. Since it was seen that the content largely overlapped, plans for the proposed QULOC Digital Repository Seminar to be held around the same time were cancelled. There was no cost to QULOC for the seminar. Participants from all over Australia and some from New Zealand attended. Informal feedback from attendees indicates that they found the content valuable and the speakers very well informed. Members who attended did not consider that there was a need for a further QULOC seminar on institutional repositories at this time.

APSR advise they intend to continue holding seminars on institutional repositories as part of their brief to *“contribute to national strength in this area by encouraging the development of skills and expertise and providing coordination throughout the sector”*.

**Recommendation: The Working Party recommends to the University Librarians that QULOC keeps a watching brief over information needs in the area of institutional repositories.**

Seminar on Challenges in Collection Development and Acquisitions. The Working Party is developing a program for a one day seminar on this topic to be held in April 2007. An Expression of Interest Form will be presented to the QULOC University Librarians' meeting in late July – *see attachment*.

#### **Other Issues/Activities Arising:**

Nil.

#### **Attachments:**

Events Expression of Interest Form for *Challenges in Acquisitions* – submitted for approval by ULs Committee.