



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

## Questions for Political Parties

Formed in 1910, and registered as an association by act of Parliament in 1939, LIANZA is the premier national organisation supporting library and information professionals in New Zealand. As a national body, LIANZA supports its members to deliver a robust and effective library service across all sectors – from public libraries to university libraries, from prison libraries to school libraries.

We are seeking your Party's views on the following issues important to ensuring New Zealand citizens benefit from a healthy and effective library and information service.

### Community Digital Hubs – Libraries helping to Bridge the Digital Divide

Despite ranking 8<sup>th</sup> in the OECD for internet accessibility a recent study shows there are 9% of kiwis who don't currently access the internet<sup>1</sup> and that 5% of New Zealanders have never accessed the internet<sup>2</sup> at all. Those groups most likely to have no internet access are Maori and Pacific Islanders, and those who live in rural communities<sup>3</sup>.

34% of New Zealanders have still not accessed public services online, with 83% of New Zealanders feeling that if access were made simpler it would remove barriers to access<sup>4</sup>.

Public libraries are playing a pivotal role in the provision of internet access to disadvantaged groups. In the year ending June 30, 2013 95% of public libraries offered some form of free internet access, with over 7 million internet sessions provided to the public<sup>5</sup>. Librarians are also key in developing digital literacy in the community, supporting and upskilling individuals in this area.

**Question 1: How will your party support the important role that public libraries play as community digital hubs including the provision of internet access?**

**New Zealand First recognizes and supports the important role that public libraries currently play as digital hubs in their communities for those who have no, or limited, internet access. New Zealand First is interested in having a wider conversation that enables more of our citizens to**

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<sup>1</sup> *Kiwis Count Channel Report 2013*, Retrieved from <http://www.ssc.govt.nz/kiwis-count-channels-report-2013-on-june-20>, 2014.

<sup>2</sup> Gibson, A., Miller, M., Smith, P., Bell, A., Crothers, C., 2013. *The Internet in New Zealand, 2013*. Retrieved from <http://media.nzherald.co.nz/webcontent/document/pdf/201347/nzworldinternet.pdf> on June 20, 2014.

<sup>3</sup> Gibson et al, *ibid*.

<sup>4</sup> *Kiwis Count*, *ibid*.

<sup>5</sup> NZ Public Library Statistics, Retrieved from <http://www.lianza.org.nz/resources/lianza-publications/public-library-statistics-on-june-20>, 2014.

**access the internet in their own homes and therefore not being dependent upon libraries for this provision. We also see the need for a reintroduction of ACE in many of our townships to assist with the up-skilling of our citizens. We are however very aware that the traditional concept libraries is rapidly changing and would look to be part of that wider discussion.**

**Question 2: How will your party ensure New Zealanders are digitally literate? Do you support the roles that libraries are playing in meeting this need?**

**We see the role of libraries as being complementary to other educational provision e.g. the re-establishment of ACE in our communities. Who plays what role is a conversation that needs to take place across many sector players e.g. ACE, schools and libraries.**

**Question 3: How will your party ensure that schools and public libraries have ongoing access to quality, low-cost internet access?**

**The “how” is the details that drops out of a will, a commitment and a belief that these things are important. New Zealand First believes that ongoing access to quality, low cost internet access is vital for our schools and libraries in the first instance with a view to spread this to our population as a whole.**

## Access to Research

There is a growing international movement for free and open access to publicly funded research including data with many international central governments and individual funding bodies insisting that all funded research be made freely available.

Increasing access to taxpayer-funded research benefits not only the researchers, institutions and nation but society as a whole through; raising the profile and maximising the impact and sharing of research, an increased return on investment for funding agencies, allowing businesses to innovate and produce new knowledge and an increase in public engagement.

In New Zealand, while some institutions are realising the value of open access and are moving towards implementing open access policies, the New Zealand government has not yet announced a position on open access research.

**Question 4: What is your party’s position on ensuring that all publicly funded research, including data is accessible to all New Zealanders?**

**New Zealand First is committed to ‘public good’ research and will provide a pool of funding specifically for this purpose.**

## The Important Role of the School Librarian

There is a large body of research that demonstrates that quality school library programs, with a school librarian who is engaged in the learning process, can drive significant improvement in the reading and

writing abilities of students<sup>6</sup>. The role of the school librarian is critical in supporting information and digital literacy, and evolving in the 21<sup>st</sup> century into that of a media specialist.

**Question 5: Does your party support the presence of a school librarian in schools? What steps will your party take to ensure that all students have access to appropriately qualified school librarians?**

**New Zealand First supports the retention of school librarians and would look to discuss with the sector the best method to ensure that this important role was supported inside schools, including a way to address this issue for small rural schools through possible cluster support for a multi school librarian.**

## Copyright

Australia, the United Kingdom, and Canada have all recently moved to modernize their copyright legislation. A comprehensive review of New Zealand copyright legislation has yet to occur. Copyright law is critical to society for two reasons – as a means of protecting intellectual property, but also in ensuring fair use for educational and creative purposes. Despite the update to our act in 2008 to address the growing challenges to copyright created by our increasingly digital society, New Zealand copyright law is not fit for purpose in the digital age.

**Question 6: What approach does your party plan to take to the review and updating of New Zealand copyright legislation? In what timeframe will you complete a review of the Act?**

**This conversation is part of a much larger piece of work that New Zealand First is calling for cross party talks on. This is part of the challenge of the digital age that many nations are attempting to address but for which none has a singular solution.**

## The importance of a strong National Library

The National Library of New Zealand plays a key role in the preservation of this country's culture and heritage by collecting New Zealand's documentary taonga in words, sounds and pictures, by connecting New Zealanders to resources through knowledge networks and helping New Zealanders working together to turn knowledge into value<sup>7</sup>.

As well as administering New Zealand's legal deposit scheme and providing digital access to New Zealand's cultural heritage, the National Library has a key purpose to supplement and further the work of other libraries in New Zealand<sup>8</sup>. It does this by contributing significantly to key initiatives such as taking the lead on delivering internet access to the public through the Aotearoa People's Network Kaharoa and providing whole of country services such as EPIC, Any Questions and Te Puna.

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<sup>6</sup> Kachel, D.E., & Lance, K.C. (2013) *Latest study: A full-time school librarian makes a significant difference in boosting student achievement*. School Librarian Journal. Retrieved from <http://www.slj.com/2013/03/research/librarian-required-a-new-study-shows-that-a-full-time-school-librarian-makes-a-critical-difference-in-boosting-student-achievement/> on June 23, 2014.

<sup>7</sup> The National Library of New Zealand, Retrieved from <http://natlib.govt.nz/about-us>

<sup>8</sup> National Library of New Zealand (Te Puna Mātauranga o Aotearoa) Act 2003 url <http://legislation.govt.nz/act/public/2003/0019/latest/whole.html#DLM191997>

In 2011 the National Library of NZ and Archives NZ were restructured to become a part of the Department of Internal Affairs. In 2012 VOTE National Library was rolled into a single VOTE Internal Affairs which also covers Internal Affairs, Community and Voluntary Sector, Emergency Management, Local Government, Ministerial Services, National Archives, and Racing<sup>9</sup>. There is now no separate Annual Report issued by the National Library and it no longer reports separately to a Select Committee.

The Library and Information Commission (LIAC) advises the Minister on Library and Information matters including Mātauranga Maori. It is not, however, charged with monitoring the National Library to ensure it meets requirements under the Act.

**Question 7: How will your party ensure that the National Library is appropriately funded to meet its role as a leading cultural and heritage institution, a critical enabler of the educational and research communities of New Zealand; and as a leader in the information and knowledge sector for the country?**

**New Zealand First would look to reinstate the separate reporting by the National Library as we believe that through this separate reporting, the pivotal role of the Library is recognized. The country can then be confident that funding is not syphoned sideways to other projects as can happen when reporting of entities is lumped together.**

## Pay Equity

Despite 80% of all librarian roles requiring a LIS qualification<sup>10</sup> librarians are still significantly underpaid in comparison with equivalent professional roles. Even within local government librarian salaries are up to 8% lower than other equivalent roles, with this discrepancy increasing to 14% in managerial positions.

**Question 9: What is your party's position on creating pay equity for the Library and Information sector?**

**New Zealand First does not have a position on this issue.**

**Question 10: Will you address the discrepancy of School Librarians being classified as Support rather than Core Staff in schools?**

**New Zealand First would welcome a discussion with the sector as a whole regarding this issue, but as indicated in previous answers we see this role as an important one and therefore would lean toward a recognized funded position.**

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<sup>10</sup> Stone, L., 2013. *LIANZA Careers Survey Report*. Retrieved from [http://www.lianza.org.nz/sites/lianza.org.nz/files/lianza\\_careers\\_survey\\_report.pdf](http://www.lianza.org.nz/sites/lianza.org.nz/files/lianza_careers_survey_report.pdf) June 23, 2014