

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications

Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice

Additional Estimates Spill-over hearing March 2017

Communications Portfolio

National Library of Australia

Question No: 265

National Library of Australia

Hansard Ref: Page 12, 24/03/2017

Topic: Trove – Contributor Funded Content

Senator Gallagher, Katy asked:

Senator GALLAGHER: In terms of Trove, I think back in October estimates we were advised that in 2016-17 the Library anticipates adding 1.5 million pages of contributor funded content to the Trove service. How is that going? How many pages have been added for the year to date?

Dr Ayres: That is tracking very well for this financial year. We have a range of contributors who fund content, primarily the State Library of New South Wales. By the end of this financial year, the number will be considerably higher, partly because contributors are funding more digitisation this financial year.

Senator GALLAGHER: Can you step us through that? What is the detail there?

Dr Ayres: We have partners who fund digitisation of material for delivery through Trove—state libraries and some smaller organisations. At the beginning of each year, we make an estimate of what we think those organisations will want to do during the course of the year, and that varies depending on their priorities. The figure that we provided was the information we had at the time about what other institutions had told us they wished to do. I now anticipate that it will be higher, but between now and the end of the financial year there will still to be quite a lot of variation.

Senator GALLAGHER: Higher than that 1.5 million?

Dr Ayres: Yes, it will be higher.

Senator GALLAGHER: Perhaps if you could take it on notice and provide a bit more detail about what the arrangements are from contributors and if you are able to go back a few years to 2013 perhaps—whatever you could provide there would be useful.

Dr Ayres: Certainly.

Answer:

Since 2010 the National Library has partnered with many organisations such as libraries, historical societies, universities, schools, businesses, local councils, faith, cultural and community groups to digitise specific newspapers, journals and books. The partner organisations select publications they would like to be digitised onto Trove and the National Library provides end-to-end support for digitising, managing, preserving and delivering the content on Trove. The partnerships are typically formalised through a written agreement, with partners paying a per-page digitisation fee.

Individuals have also made donations to the Library through public appeal campaigns or private donations to digitisation projects.

Newspapers and journals make up the vast majority of content contributed to Trove. This includes metropolitan, regional and rural newspapers and community, education and industry newsletters.

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The number of newspaper pages funded by contributors in each financial year is:

Financial year	Number of pages digitised
2013-14	1,637,197
2014-15	1,894,010
2015-16	1,783,598
2016-17 (year to date)	702,522
Grand Total	6,017,327