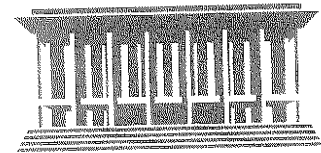
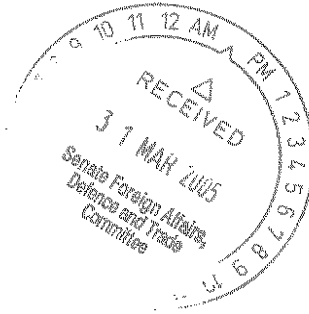


23 March 2005



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Dr Kathleen Dermody
Committee Secretary
Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and
Trade References Committee
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Dr Dermody

Submission to the Inquiry into Australia's relations with China

Please find attached a submission from the National Library of Australia to the above Inquiry for lodgement with the Committee Secretariat.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jan Fullerton".

Jan Fullerton
Director-General

cc: Sharon Burrell, DCITA

Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee Inquiry into Australia's relations with China

Submission from the National Library of Australia

The Chinese language collection of the National Library of Australia (NLA) is the largest in Australia, with 250,000 monographs, 5,100 serial titles, 250 newspaper titles, 10,000 reels of microfilm and 15,000 sheets of microfiche in Chinese, as well as a number of online resources. The emphasis is on modern and contemporary China, with the major strengths in the subject fields of the social sciences, especially economics, statistics, politics and government, foreign relations and law; Chinese modern history, biography and archaeology; and fine arts.

The annual acquisitions budget for Chinese collection materials amounts to \$450,000. The NLA deals regularly with six major commercial suppliers and up to ten smaller ones from the People's Republic of China, Hong Kong and Taiwan. In addition major book exchange programs have been developed with the National Library of China, the National Central Library in Taipei, and with over 50 other libraries and institutions.

Over the years the collection has been used extensively by students and researchers, including the recipients of the Harold White Fellowships.

The NLA's Kinetica CJK Service provides access to the Chinese, as well as Japanese and Korean language material in Australian libraries. With contributions from Australian universities, public libraries and bibliographic agencies, the Kinetica CJK database is an invaluable tool for librarians and researchers.

The NLA celebrated its Chinese collections in a 2004 public exhibition *Xanadu: encounters with China*. The exhibition, based on some 150 items chosen exclusively from the Library's collections, was viewed by over 23,000 visitors. They were able to gain a greater understanding of the history of China and its society through the drawings and photographs depicting all aspects of court and street life from 13th century to the eve of World War II in 1939.

Person-to-person contact has been a major part of building Library's relationships with China's libraries. It has included formal library delegations exchanged between China and Australia, and short staff exchanges between the NLA and the National Library of China. Over the last ten years four staff from the National Library of China were seconded to the NLA, and one NLA staff member was seconded to National Library of China. In addition there is a regular flow of visitors from a range of Chinese libraries wishing to discuss with NLA staff various aspects of library service provision.

Since the National Library of China has embarked on a large scale digitisation programme it takes a keen interest in the development of digital services in Australia, including the NLA's digitisation and web archiving services.

The relations between the NLA and the National Library of China have recently been formalised by a letter of intent, outlining the principles of collaboration in the areas of exchange of publications, staff visits and exchanges, and exhibitions.

The NLA has developed a cordial relationship with the Embassy of China in Canberra. In March 2005 the Embassy formally presented the Library with a replica of a Chinese terracotta warrior. The replica has been placed on display in the Asian Collections Reading Room.

Relations with Taiwan are limited to the commercial book trade and receipt of book gifts from the National Central Library in Taipei.