



15 May 2008

Digital Strategy 2.0 Submission  
Digital Development Group  
Ministry of Economic Development  
PO Box 1473  
Wellington

Dear Sir/Madam

**Submission on Draft Digital Strategy 2.0**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the Draft Digital Strategy 2.0.

I congratulate the Digital Development Group and all the agencies involved in implementing the 2005 Digital Strategy – a lot has been achieved in building the digital capability of New Zealand and New Zealanders over the past couple of years. Archives New Zealand is encouraged by the progress to date and the government's continuing commitment to this area of work.

*Archives New Zealand's focus*

At Archives New Zealand we focus on achieving the following 3 key outcomes:

- government agencies keep good records;
- archives are well managed; and
- archives are accessible and well used.

A digitally savvy national community and infrastructural setting will greatly support these outcomes.

In working towards these outcomes our current strategic priorities are:

- accessible services;
- responsiveness to Maori; and
- digital transformation.

Our *accessible services* priority has a direct link to the *Archives are Well Used and Accessible* outcome and the State Services Commission's Accessible State Services development goal. It focuses on responding to the needs of our users and delivering our services in ways that make it as easy as possible for them to access our services.

Our *responsiveness to Māori* priority recognises that Archives New Zealand holds many records of value to Māori, researchers of Māori history, and to all the people of New Zealand, in particular the Treaty of Waitangi. We are working to ensure our Māori users are aware of what we hold, that archives are accessible in ways that meet expectations, and that our policies and processes are developed with appropriate Māori input and respect for tikanga. There are also an increasing number of whānau, hapū and iwi-based groups with an interest in establishing and managing their own archives. Much of this material will need digital formatting and support. Archives New Zealand is working on developing a training programme that supports Māori aspirations.

Our *digital transformation* priority affects all areas of our work and involves utilising the benefits offered by technology and responding to the use of information and communications technology by others. Archives New Zealand is developing capability to preserve digital records over the long term, ensuring they remain accessible to users and also leading other public offices in how to deal with their records in this changing world. Other benefits to be found in the digital world include use of digitisation and online access to existing physical archives and catalogues to improve access to our holdings.

#### *Archives New Zealand's feedback*

Key points within the Draft Digital Strategy 2.0 that resonate well with Archives New Zealand include -

- Acknowledgment of the importance of collaboration. Archives New Zealand agrees that communities, businesses and government need to be better connected and their interests better aligned on digital matters. We also agree with the importance of providing for the interests of Maori, local government and the research community. Pg 14.
- Acknowledgment of the importance of our research communities. Pg 26 notes the importance of New Zealanders being able to easily discover and use the research and knowledge we generate as a nation. Archives New Zealand understands the wealth and value of the information contained in New Zealand's public records and archives, and the relevance of this information to the public sector, the broader social community, and to fostering understanding of our heritage.
- Acknowledgment of the world-wide growth of digitising and distributing vast amounts of cultural and heritage content.
- Acknowledgment of New Zealand's Digital Content Strategy. Archives New Zealand is very supportive of efforts to digitise existing content of national significance and to make digital content more accessible to New Zealanders. This also supports our focus on the management and preservation of valuable records.

With respect to Chapter 7, *Achieving our digital potential*, we note that public records and archives offer the opportunity to learn from our past experiences and decisions (i.e.

avoid the inefficiencies of reinventing or undertaking activities that have previously been tested); and to tell the stories and develop understanding of our past cultures and lives. These records and archives are an immensely valuable resource that can contribute to *enriching and valuing New Zealand communities and cultures, and promoting our unique national identity (7.3)* and can influence the development of a *creative knowledge-based, high-income economy (7.2)*.

With respect to your Chapter 7 action tables, related actions of Archives New Zealand over the 2008-2011 period include:

- working closely with the Ministry of Economic Development's Digital Strategy Team on long term digital sustainability matters;
- supporting collaborative interagency approaches to joined-up digital systems, i.e. building a digital environment where multi-agency material can be accessed through a single portal;
- operate an interim digital repository and research appropriate methods for receiving, storing, and making available digital records on an ongoing basis;
- develop and implement a business case for digital sustainability;
- establish new repository management and ordering system and integrate this with our website so that systems for ordering archives are more streamlined and accessible;
- digitise non-electronic finding aids and link them into the online searches to improve discoverability;
- digitise fragile and frequently used archives;
- improve wider accessibility to archives through our website, including ability for our users to contribute to descriptions of our holdings;
- increase accessibility to the archives for Maori e.g. by developing reference guides to records of significance to Maori;
- re-develop the online interface for the National Register of Archives and Manuscripts, which will be informed by the results of the Community Archives Survey.
- undertake digitisation projects to improve access, with planning work having started on making a selection of photographs, Social Security shipping lists and some probates and finding aids available online;
- have accurate information in our repository management system to ensure archives can be readily located and the repositories can be efficiently managed;
- publish good practice recordkeeping standards and guidance for government offices and deliver recordkeeping training courses – including management of digital records;

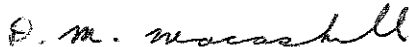
- promote the importance and benefits of archives to the people of New Zealand and advise them of the services we offer;
- make our holdings easier to discover by adding descriptions of the archives onto our finding aids; and
- play a leadership role in supporting communities and local authorities to make their own archives accessible, using digital options where appropriate.

Archives New Zealand would be happy to discuss these actions further with the Ministry for Economic Development should this assist.

Another matter worth considering in the development of the Digital Strategy 2.0 is the Ministry of Culture and Heritage led review of audiovisual archiving arrangements in New Zealand. The outcomes of this review may impact on the discovery and use of some audiovisual material. The Ministry is proposing to make recommendations to Cabinet in the 2008 calendar year.

For further information with respect to the Digital Strategy 2.0, please contact Greg Goulding, Group Manager Government Recordkeeping, ddi 496 1390.

Yours sincerely



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