



Australian Library and
Information Association

A specials perspective

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We navigate through tribal networks



NLM's ILL Request Portal



Relais™ Discovery to Delivery™ (D2D™)



Australian Library and Information Association



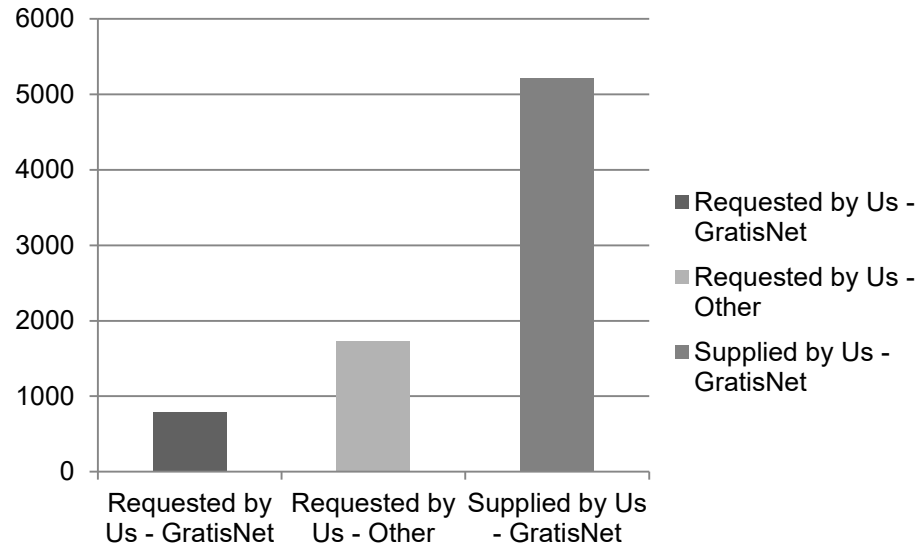
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A case study – Jan 2017 – Apr 2018



Library clients requested 2,521 items in total (most were articles).

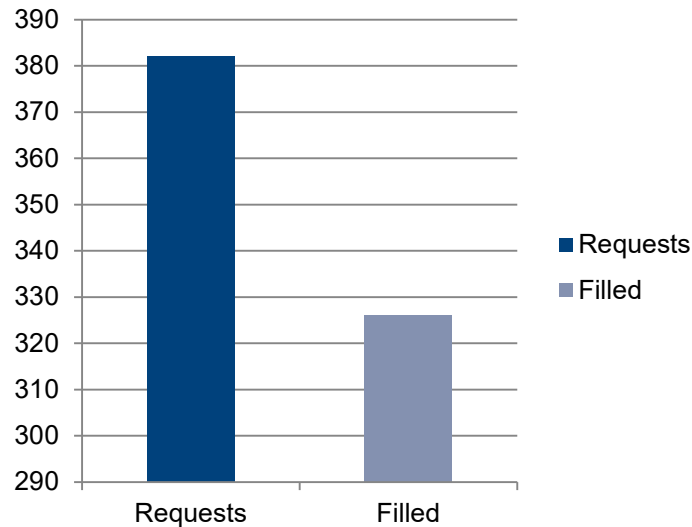
795 were supplied from GratisNet, 1,726 from other sources – 322 were freely available and 596 were supplied from own collection. The rest were obtained from LADD, NLM, Subito, PPV.

5,203 copies were supplied to GratisNet libraries



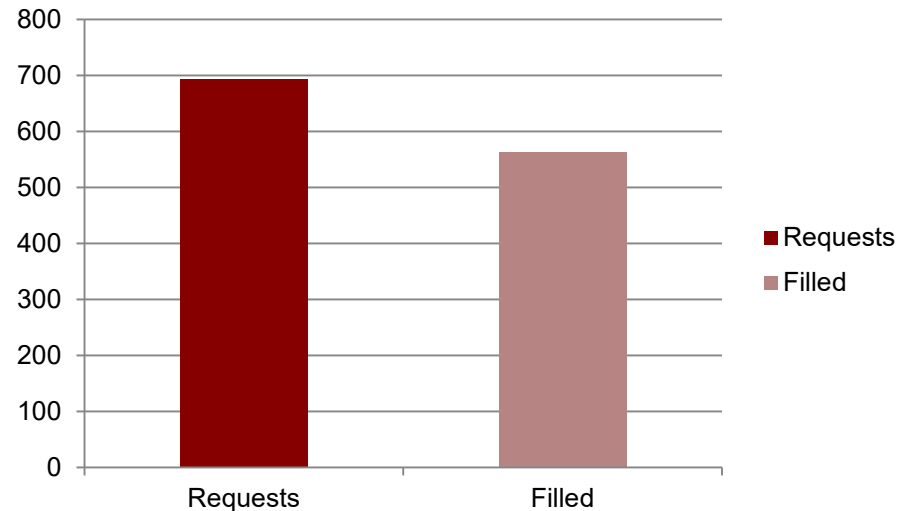
A case study – Jan 2017 – Apr 2018

LADD – requests for our clients



n= 382 & 326 (not filled = 56)

LADD – supplied by our Library



n= 693 & 563 (not filled = 130)



Sustainability of specials?

- Collections are shrinking, legacy print collections in particular
- Requesting practices are poor (ILLs staff report)
- Holdings records are patchy in quality
- It's too hard for many special libraries (1 or 2 person libraries) to navigate outside of their networks – to upload holdings, submit and receive requests from multiple systems
- Libraries that are net suppliers will be making cost/benefit calculations of staying in networks
- Do we have a system that requires different policy approaches – for legacy print and e-collections?



Sustainability of specials?

- Should there be differential charges for supply from print vs e-resources?
- Is it even possible to have a national sharing agenda or will it need to be organised by sector? What happens to special libraries that lack a national advocacy forum – no Australian NLM?
- In the move to an open access world, should our focus be on resource sharing or national licencing for e-resources?
- Is a common network system feasible (either one system or an interoperable system that links networks)?
- Would we really build systems such as this if we were starting over?



Lessons from Douglas Adams

Dirk Gently's Holistic Detective Agency

"I'm very glad you asked me that, Mrs Rawlinson. The term `holistic' refers to my conviction that **what we are concerned with here is the fundamental interconnectedness of all things**. I do not concern myself with such petty things as fingerprint powder, telltale pieces of pocket fluff and inane footprints. I see the solution to each problem as being detectable in the pattern and web of the whole. **The connections between causes and effects are often much more subtle and complex than we with our rough and ready understanding of the physical world might naturally suppose**, Mrs Rawlinson.

"Let me give you an example. If you go to an acupuncturist with toothache he sticks a needle instead into your thigh. Do you know why he does that, Mrs Rawlinson?"

No, neither do I, Mrs Rawlinson, but **we intend to find out**. A pleasure talking to you, Mrs Rawlinson. Goodbye."



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Lessons from Douglas Adams

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Let's think the unthinkable, let's do the undoable. Let us prepare to grapple with the ineffable itself, and see if we may not eff it after all.

