

Newspapers Search and Delivery Beta – Design and Development Overview

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Background

A Newspapers Prototype search and delivery system was developed by the National Library of Australia and released to State and Territory Libraries for testing and feedback in December 2007. (Design brief:

http://www.nla.gov.au/ndp/project_details/documents/ANDP_SearchDeliveryPrototypeBrief.pdf)

The Prototype was authenticated, had minimal interface design and initially contained 50,000 pages of data that did not meet the Library's content analysis and OCR specifications, therefore affecting search results. Functional requirements for the system are outlined in the functional requirements document on the projects webpage:

http://www.nla.gov.au/ndp/project_details

In January 2008 State and Territory Libraries provided very useful and wide ranging feedback on the pilot data, the service and the system. This feedback was reviewed by the Library during March and April. At the same time the pilot data was re-processed to meet the Library's specifications. The new data was loaded into the Prototype overwriting the previous data.

In May 2008 it was agreed to develop the Newspapers Prototype into Newspapers Beta. This document outlines the design and development of the Newspapers Beta service.

Newspapers Beta Overview

The next version of the Newspapers search and delivery system will be released as a Beta service because:

- It is necessary to differentiate it from the Newspapers Prototype released in December 2007.
- There is still a requirement not to brand the service at this stage.

The *service* is Beta in the sense that:

- It will contain only a relatively small volume of data (50,000 pages). More data will be added as it is processed, however there may be a delay of several months before additional content is added.

The Beta *system*:

- Will contain well developed rather than limited functionality.
- Be stable and fully tested for bugs.
- Will be fixed immediately should any significant bugs be discovered after release.
- Will be publicly accessible

Authentication, Access and User Management

The Newspapers Beta service will have a 'soft' public release. It will be accessible from the ANDP website at <http://www.nla.gov.au/ndp/index.html> and the Library Labs wiki at <https://wiki.nla.gov.au/display/LABS/Home>. Authentication by the user will be optional,

however it is desirable for users to register if they perform OCR correction, add notes or add tags. The authentication will implement the User Management System currently being developed for the Library wide User Management Project.

Out of scope for Beta

- Integration of other Library resources.
- Developing a single service interface.
- Integration of newspaper indexes.

It is intended that these will be addressed in the next development stage - Search and Delivery version 1.

Timeline

Development will commence in April 2008 with anticipated completion in July 2008. The development is dependant upon the User Management Project.

Methodology

The ANDP team will work with a web design consultancy to achieve the following:

- Assessment of Prototype feedback obtained from State and Territory Libraries.
- Modification of existing functionality based on feedback.
- Design of a user interface based on user testing.
- Implementation of a user interface.
- Development of a User Management System and implementation in Beta.
- Setup of Beta on a new server for public access.

Functionality

The Newspapers Beta service will contain slightly more functionality than the Prototype and there will be some minor enhancements to existing features to make the system more usable. Functionality requirements document is on the ANDP webpage.

User Interface Design

The most significant difference for the Newspapers Beta service, in comparison to the Prototype, will be the implementation of a professional user interface design based on user testing. This will enable the Beta service to be easier and more intuitive for users. The company engaged to assist the Library with the user interface design is Oxide Interactive <http://www.oxideinteractive.com.au>. The principles identified for the user interface design are available at: http://www.nla.gov.au/ndp/project_details/documents/ANDP_UI_principles.pdf

Feedback and Next Steps

Feedback on the Newspapers Beta service will be encouraged and also formalised through use of a web feedback form. It is likely that further development and enhancements to the service will occur based on user feedback. The next version to be released will be Search and Delivery version 1. The data made available through the Beta service is live data and user added content such as OCR corrections, notes and tags will be retained in the service from hereon in.