

06 November 2015

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Dear Ms Monahan

Review of .nz WHOIS Service

The National Library of New Zealand was made aware of the review of the .nz WHOIS service through the .nz Newsletter, October 2015. As a regular user of the WHOIS service, the Library submits the following comments to the four questions provided.

1. Why .nz registrant data should / should not be collected

- The National Library of New Zealand believes .nz registrant data should be collected
- The registrant data is part of the provenance of the website. From a library and archival perspective it is important to know who registered the site, as that helps determine the authorship and other relationships regarding published web information.
- The National Library archives websites and other items published on the Internet under the National Library of New Zealand Act 2003 and the National Library Requirement (Electronic Documents) Notice 2006. There are many national libraries and other memory institutions in other jurisdictions that archive websites and other web publications, according to their mandates. The .nz registrant information appears to be included in aggregated services like <https://whois.domaintools.com> among others, where collecting institutions go to find relevant registrant data, especially the name and some level of place information, to assist with decisions on whether websites or publications will be collected, and whether they meet the scope of their mandates. Information on name and place is valuable to the international web archive community.

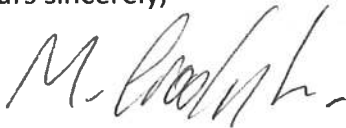
2. Why .nz registrant data should / should not be publicly available

- The Library understands the need to balance rights around privacy or security, with the benefits of having an open and transparent web publishing framework in New Zealand, and would be happy to talk more with the Domain Name Commission about this.
- Some reasons for ensuring an appropriate level of publically available registrant data include;

- supporting international web archive initiatives; and
 - providing provenance and contextual information on who may have created a website or web content, which can be helpful to researchers when analysing merits of the information provided on a website.
3. Why the display and availability of .nz registrant data should / should not be the same for all parties
- There may be legitimate reasons for having different levels of information available to certain parties, depending on use of that data.
4. Why the current approach does / does not raise concerns for some
- Again, the Library understands the need to find a good balance between privacy and transparency.

The Library wishes you well with your review.

Yours sincerely,



Mark Crookston
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National Library of New Zealand Te Puna Mātauranga o Aotearoa