



First Nations Media Archives

Its not just about digitisation
and manuals!

Susan Locke, Indigenous Remote Communications Association
23 April 2018

Cultural warning

- ▶ Content contained in this presentation may contain the voices and images of deceased peoples.
- ▶ Content is primarily from Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara, Ngaanyatjarra and Warlpiri lands of Central Australia.

Acknowledgement

- ▶ I pay my respects to the Wodi Wodi custodians of the land on which I am located and pay my respects to elders past, present and future of the Wodi Wodi nations.
- ▶ I extend my respect to the nations of the First Nations people participants in this webinar and to the peoples represented in the content of this webinar.

Susan Locke

- ▶ Research and Policy Officer of the Indigenous Remote Communications Association. National peak body for First Nations broadcasters and media based in Alice Springs. For more information www.irca.net.au
- ▶ Have been working in the remote First Nations broadcasting and media sector for over 12 years, including 7 years with Warlpiri Media Association at Yuendumu in Central Australia.
- ▶ Manage policy development and responses plus a range of projects at IRCA, including the Archiving Project.

This webinar

- ▶ Background to the Remote Indigenous Media Collections Archiving Plan
- ▶ Developing the archive – localisation and partnerships
- ▶ The power of an inventory
- ▶ Deeper plunge into metadata (if time and interest)
- ▶ An access platform: the bump in the road

Remote First Nations Media Archives

- ▶ Primarily producers, rather than collecting agencies
 - ▶ Create videos, audio recordings, images, paintings, reports.
 - ▶ Some contain donated materials especially photographs

■ Storage environments

- Dust, lots and lots of dust
- High humidity
- High temperatures
- Tape media especially vulnerable

■ Types of media

- Analog and tape formats: VHS/SVHS, Betacam, mini-DV, DV-CAM, DVDs, CDs, reel-to-reel, audiocassettes
- Analog image formats: photos (b&w, colour), negatives, slides
- Digital formats: whole gamut of formats from digital devices



And so a Plan!

The National Remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Audiovisual Collections Plan

- ▶ Stakeholders identified at a forum in Ntaria (Hermannsburg) in September.
 - ▶ Key stakeholders: Indigenous Remote Communications Association (lead), Remote Indigenous Media Organisations, National Film and Sound Archive, Australian Institute for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, Northern Territory Library, Batchelor Institute, academic researchers including Dr Michael Christie (Charles Darwin University) and Lyndon Ormond-Parker (University of Melbourne), Indigenous Community Television, Strehlow Research Centre, Mulka Project.
- ▶ Reference group of stakeholders formed:
 - ▶ Input into a basic schema for a Plan
 - ▶ Stakeholder workshop over 3 days in Alice Springs in July 2014 fleshed out the content for the Plan and developed by IRCA into Plan.
- ▶ Plan launched November 2014 in Canberra
 - ▶ Continuing Working Parties on metadata, digital formats, training and preservation.

The Plan

- ▶ Can be downloaded from the IRCA website at <https://www.irca.net.au/projects/archiving-project>



The screenshot shows the IRCA (Indigenous Remote Communications Association) website. The header features the IRCA logo and a navigation menu with links to HOME, ABOUT, OUR INDUSTRY, NEWS, PROJECTS, EVENTS, and RESOURCES. Below the header, a sidebar on the left lists various projects and reports, including inDigiMOB, Indigitube, Audience Survey 2016, Broadband for the Bush, Ngaanyatjarra Media - Remote Indigenous Public Internet Access, Archiving Project, and About the Archiving Plan. The main content area is titled 'Archiving Project' and features a sub-header 'A strategy for culturally important First Nations media collections'. The text describes IRCA's role in leading a National Archiving Strategy for digitisation and seeking funding partners. A list of key outputs is provided, including the development of a First Nations Cultural Collections Archiving Strategy, standards for digitisation formats and metadata, promotion of cultural management principles, baseline data development, and lobbying for funding. A red box highlights the project's goal: 'Preserving our heritage; caring for our future'. Below this, a section titled 'The Remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Audiovisual Collections Plan 2014-2018' is shown, accompanied by a photograph of people in a traditional setting. The plan is described as 'A national plan for sustainability, engagement and growth'.

IRCA
Indigenous Remote Communications Association

HOME ABOUT OUR INDUSTRY NEWS PROJECTS EVENTS RESOURCES

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inDigiMOB
Indigitube
Audience Survey 2016
Broadband for the Bush
Ngaanyatjarra Media - Remote Indigenous Public Internet Access
Archiving Project
About the Archiving Plan

Archiving Project

A strategy for culturally important First Nations media collections

With sector organisations holding archives of culturally rich and historically valuable video content in old formats, IRCA is leading a National Archiving Strategy for digitisation; and seeking funding partners for this important national work.

Key outputs of the project are:

1. Development of a [First Nations Cultural Collections Archiving Strategy](#).
2. Development of standards for [digitisation formats and metadata](#).
3. Promotion of principles of cultural management and operation of remote archives
4. Development of baseline data (quantitative and qualitative) of remote archives as at 2014 and identify archives at risk of damage or loss or closure
5. Lobbying for funding of archives, including strategic funding for archives at risk.

+ Preserving our heritage; caring for our future

The Remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Audiovisual Collections Plan 2014-2018

A national plan for sustainability, engagement and growth

IRCA
Indigenous Remote Communications Association



Goal of the National Remote ATSI Media Collections Plan

- ▶ To keep archives on-country.
- ▶ To maintain the cultural and linguistic heritage contained in the archives under appropriate cultural authority.
- ▶ To contribute to national cultural and linguistic heritage within the context and fluidity of local Indigenous knowledges and protocols.
- ▶ To contribute to community pride and well-being.
- ▶ To support inter-generational transmission of knowledge.
- ▶ To foster culturally appropriate employment opportunities in remote communities.
- ▶ To build capacity of local First Nations archive organisations in digitisation, cataloguing and preservation.
- ▶ To establish standards to support future migration and interoperability

What's been done?

- ▶ Training workshops:
 - ▶ November 2014 in Canberra supported by NFSA and AIATSIS
 - ▶ UNESCO funded workshops in Darwin and Alice Springs in 2015. Acknowledgements to NFSA for significant in-kind support including Mick Newnham as a trainer.
- ▶ Metadata standards for still image, moving image and audio recording in collaboration with Northern Territory Library.
 - ▶ Based on Dublin core with customisation for cultural metadata
 - ▶ Further development by IRCA of a music metadata set
- ▶ Digitisation standards for preservation masters and access copies
 - ▶ Based on open standards to provide for future migration
- ▶ Archiving Fellowships for First Nations broadcasting/media organisations - NFSA and AIATSIS supported by IRCA for First Nations broadcasters and medi
- ▶ Progress hampered by lack of funding
 - ▶ Had planned a manual - hasn't been able to be done.
 - ▶ Wanted a mobile digitisation suite and training support - hasn't been able to be achieved.
 - ▶ Now provide support one on one to First Nations media organisations when funding flows fom actions such as the Archiving Fellowship



**Decision points in developing the
archive:
its all about localisation
and also about partnerships**

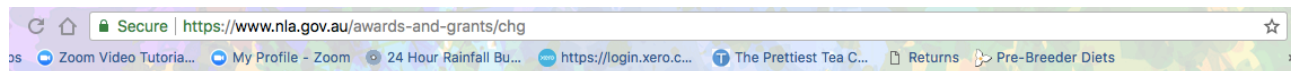
Thinking about the Archive: 10 organising principles



Taking a deep breath

Since the 2015 training programs, IRCA has been providing localised support to First Nations media organisations starting the Archive journey.

Our recommendations include first applying for a Community Heritage grant from the National Library of Australia. Current round closes 7 May. <https://www.nla.gov.au/awards-and-grants/chg>



Home / About us / Awards and grants / Community Heritage Grants

COMMUNITY HERITAGE GRANTS



Community Heritage Grants

- Projects funded by CHG
- Guidelines and application form
- Grant recipients
- Significance assessments
- Preservation needs assessments
- Conservation activities and collection management
- Useful resources
- Contact us
- 2017 Community Heritage Grants assessment report

Fellowships and scholarships

Local support - connecting up

The process and outcomes of a social significance report:

- ▶ Brings buy in from cultural custodians and community members
- ▶ Supports the prioritisation of media objects for a digitisation program
- ▶ Starts a condition assessment
- ▶ Starts a collection “statement” about what is of value in the collections to support planning.
- ▶ Starts thinking about who can use the Archive - in whole, parts of it
- ▶ Starts the process of looking at what it is actually in the collection
- ▶ Helps connecting up with national collecting agencies

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Working locally - connecting up

The outcomes of a social significance report also help with identifying preservation issues and providing evidence for applying for a Preservation Needs Assessment

A Preservation Needs Assessment:

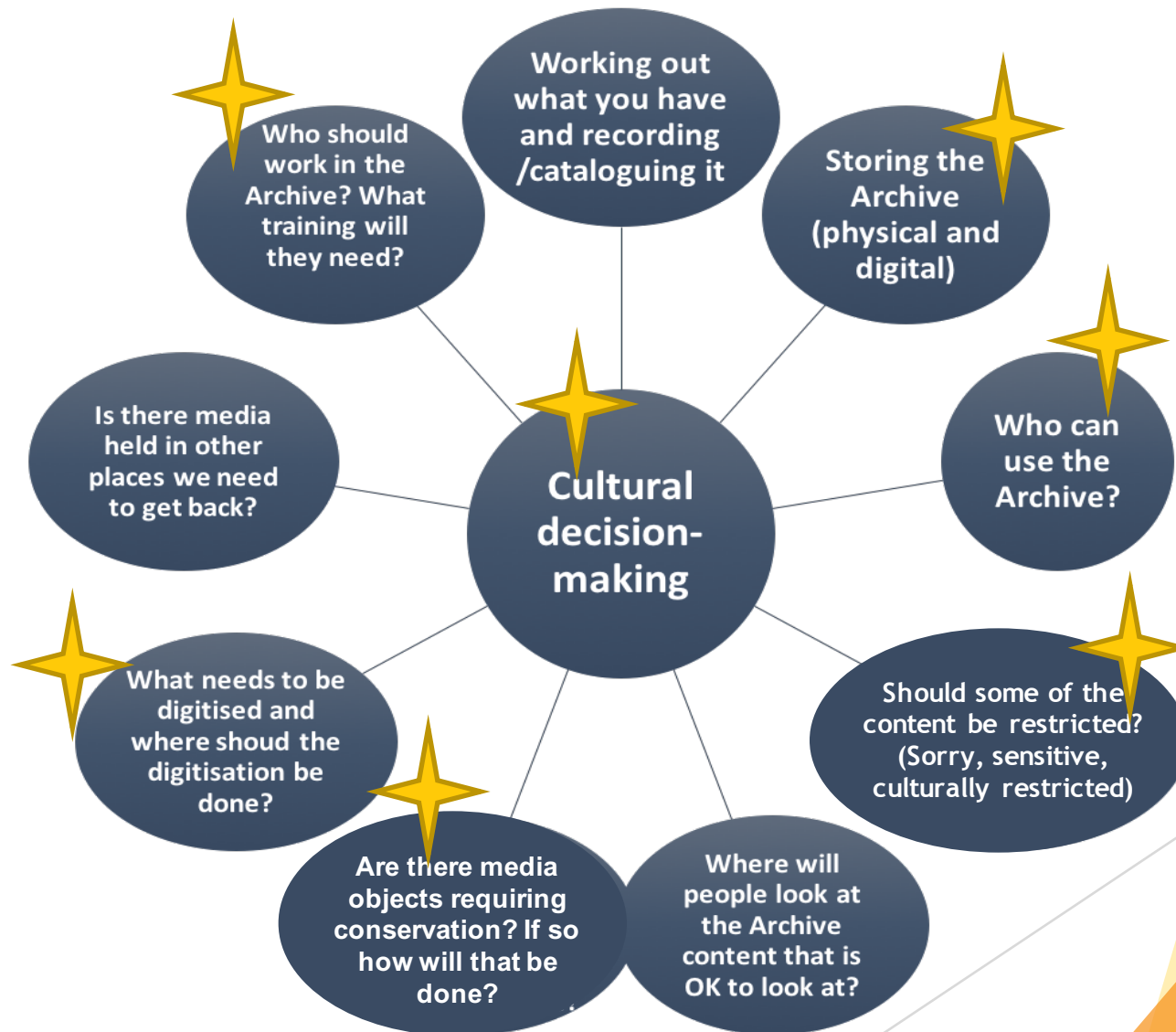
Assesses the quality of the archive housing plus assesses the state of the objects in the archive. These are critical issues in both preservation into the future and handling the objects for digitisation.

intensive digitization program at preservation quality (within the current technical capacities of the organization) and to consider the two options of digitization and dedicated storage in relation to the relative costs, timelines and preservation outcomes. **It is recommended that funding is sought to undertake a Preservation Needs Assessment. This assessment needs to be undertaken by a collections professional with specialized knowledge of digitization processes.**

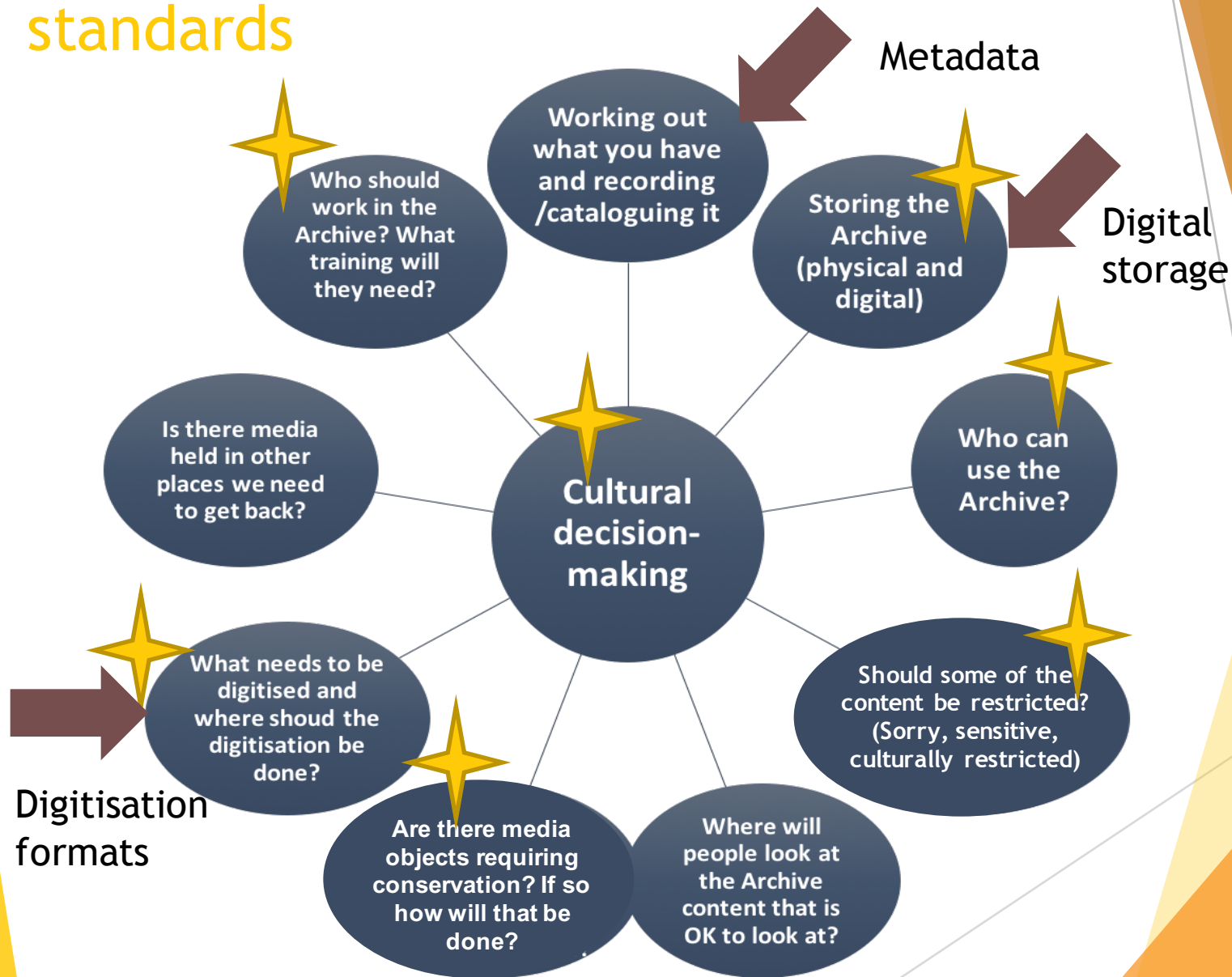
The paper based archive is currently in poor preservation conditions and the still photography collection has only been partially digitized to unknown standards. It appears that for the pre 2000 material in particular there has been no attempt to systematically manage this aspect of the collection and record its provenance. **It is recommended that the Preservation Needs Assessment provide advice on improving storage and care of the paper based collection material and digitization, storage and care of the still photography collection. It is also recommended that a simple item based accession catalogue be developed for the paper based and still photography collection to record any known details of provenance for**

From the Warlpiri Media Significance assessment

So the foundations start to be laid



Other foundations for the journey: standards



Recommended Digitisation standards through the Plan

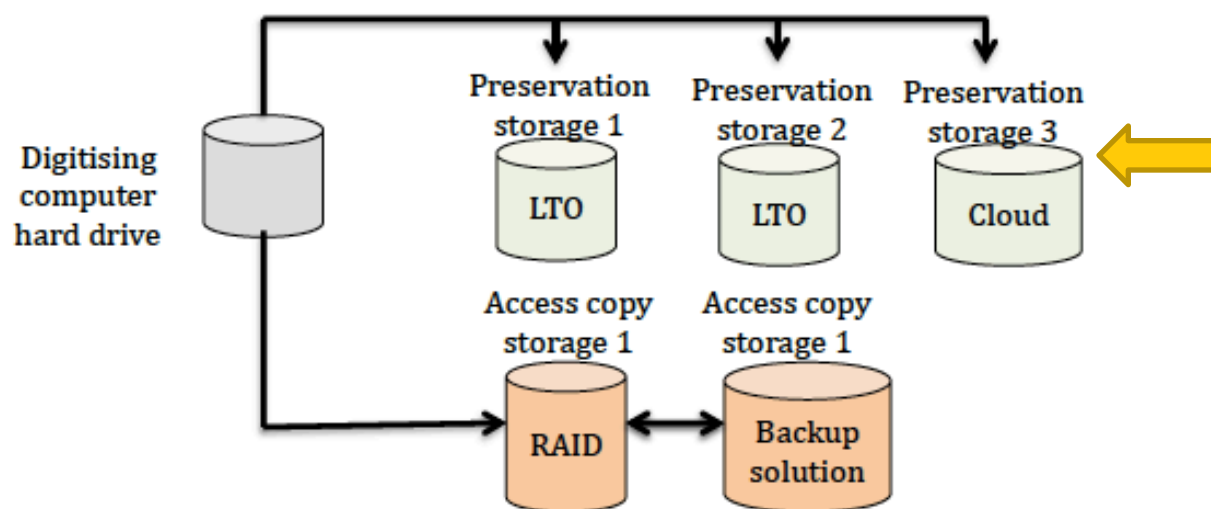
Preservation masters		
Moving image	Still images	Audio
Digitised video	Digitised images	Digitised audio
Codec and settings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Codec: MPEG2 • Video Bit rate: 25 Mbits per second • Frame rate: iFrame (25Hz) • Chroma: 4:2:2 • Interlacing: Progressive • Audio type: PCM • Audio sample rate: 48kHz Wrapper <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quicktime (.mov) 	Codec and settings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Codec: TIFF or JPEG2000* ▪ 1:1 actual size of original ▪ Resolution: min 400 dpi ▪ Bit rate: 1 bit bitonal, 8 bit grayscale, 16 bit colour ▪ Adobe RGB (1998) Colour space for colour images; Gray gamma 2.2 colour space for B&W images. 	Codec and settings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Codec: WAV • Encoded to Linear Pulse Code Modulation (LPCM) • Sampling frequency: 96 kHz • Bit depth: 24 • Sound field: as in original recording • Byte order: Little endian Wrapper <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broadcast WAV (.wav).

Recommended Digitisation standards through the Plan

Digital access copies		
Moving image	Still image	Audio
Appropriate to the player platform(s) being used.	Appropriate to the viewer platform(s) being used.	Appropriate to the player platform(s) being used.

Recommended storage approaches through the Plan

Digital Storage Options



3 clones (not back up) for preservation masters. Could be hard drives rather than LTO

Example only. Organisations should determine their own storage mix after independent research.

Metadata (cataloguing)



Our Bedtime Stories: Nellie Roberts - Tjangara Kutjarratjarra (Two Giants Story)

Our Culture

Added by ICTV

Description

Our Bedtime Stories consists of 20 cultural, bedtime stories for children delivered in Indigenous languages.

In this episode Nellie Roberts tells the story of Tjangara Kutjarratjarra (Two Giants), in the Ngaanyatjarra language.

Remember to breathe

Location: Blackstone, WA, Australia

Genre: Kids

Language: Ngaanyatjarra, Ngaatjatjara

English Subtitles: Yes

Duration: 00:12:28

Year Completed: 2018

Producer or Facilitator: Alan Nash

Director: Alan Nash

Camera: Matthew Lewis, Duane Foster, Alan Nash

Editor: Alan Nash

Narrator: Nellie Roberts

Talent: Nellie Roberts

Other Crew: Production Assistant: Marcia Mitchell

Translator: Inawantji Scales, Hinerangi Tukere, Ramath Thomas, & Safrina Lyons

Soundtrack: Stephen Pigram, Raymond Dixon

Music & Musician: Raymond Dixon

Sound Recordist: Duane Foster, Marcia Mitchell, Nathan Brown

Metadata (cataloguing)

Under the Plan metadata profiles have been recommended for:

- ▶ Moving Image
- ▶ Still Image
- ▶ Audio recordings

Further development in IRCA associated with IndigiTUBE resulted in a metadata profile for music.

Metadata (cataloguing): start by creating an inventory

- ▶ Early in the Archive work an inventory is needed (after the cultural work about who can use the Archive).
- ▶ Under the Plan, a minimum set of metadata fields have been recommended.
- ▶ These fields can be used for creating your inventory: and still be able to be used within a larger set of metadata for a full cataloguing system.
- ▶ Spreadsheet templates are available for this from IRCA.

Metadata (cataloguing): Minimum set of fields (in general)

- ▶ Title
- ▶ Date
- ▶ Genre
- ▶ Content summary
- ▶ If Analog object:
 - ▶ Format of original analog object
 - ▶ Physical format of original analog object
 - ▶ Location of original analog object
- ▶ If Digitised or Born Digital
 - ▶ Digital Container format
 - ▶ Location/file name
 - ▶ Encoding format
- ▶ Cultural rights category
- ▶ Administrative fields
 - ▶ Record created date
 - ▶ Record created by
 - ▶ Processing complete

The metadata inventory approach

- ▶ Do the work with a Cultural custodian/cultural archive worker so that you can identify the Cultural Access value (Open, Closed, Sensitive, Restricted for example).
- ▶ Work from the label - don't play moving images or audio recordings at this stage.
- ▶ Make an initial decision on whether you plan to digitise or not.
- ▶ Assign a proper shelf order for analog objects.
- ▶ Store the analog object properly - archive boxes, archive storage sleeves, etc) - see for example Conservation Resources.
<http://www.conservationresources.com.au/html/home/products>
- ▶ Assess the condition of the object - don't digitise straight away. This is where partnerships are important
<https://www.nfsa.gov.au/preservation/guide/handbook>
- ▶ Check whether you have a working and quality player for the media formats you have.

Summary

- ▶ Apply for a Community Heritage Grant for funding of a Social Significance Statement
 - ▶ Gather cultural custodians to be part of the process
 - ▶ Identify an overall picture of what is significant and what isn't in your collection - this will help with a digitisation plan
- ▶ After the Social Significance State apply for a a Community Heritage Grant for funding of a Preservation Needs Assessment
 - ▶ Implement any facility improvement recommendations in the assessment
 - ▶ Start forming a relationship with NFSA to deal with media condition issues
- ▶ Do an inventory (and associated work) - contact IRCA for metadata profiles and Excel inventory sheets.
- ▶ Start planning how you are going to store the digitised preservation masters and access copies.
- ▶ Start planning if you are going to do in-house digitisation for all or some of the collection, or whether some specialist media forms need to sent to a digitising company (cultural considerations may prevent this or require that a law person travel with the object)

The metadata full plunge?

Metadata field groupings

- ▶ Description fields
- ▶ Technical fields (analog object)
- ▶ Technical fields (digitised object)
- ▶ Ownership rights fields
- ▶ Cultural access rights fields
- ▶ Administrative fields

Metadata “sets”

- ▶ Minimum set - around 16 fields (not all are mandatory depending on the object)
- ▶ Recommended set (41 fields) - provides for more “object creation” fields, as well as more fields for ownership and cultural rights.
 - ▶ Particularly important for media archives as they are both about the creation of the object as well as about its content
 - ▶ For born digital many of the expanded fields can be completed as part of the post-production workflow so that the archiving effort is integrated with the media production workflow.
- ▶ Full set (68 fields) - provides for more fields of everything
 - ▶ This requires a lot of community input and much more detailed analysis of the object.
 - ▶ “Community cataloguing”

Cultural metadata breakdown

Cultural Rights				
Cultural use category	Type of Cultural Use Restrictions	Restriction Start Date	Restriction End Date	Restriction notes

Ownership Rights			
Copyright owner	ICIP - Language Group	ICIP - Information	Conditions of use

Languages, Nations and Subjects

AIATSIS Thesauri - <http://www1.aiatsis.gov.au/>




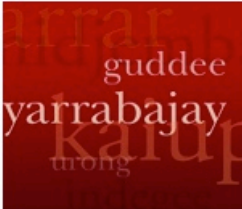
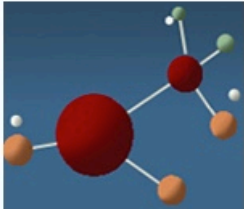
AIATSIS Pathways
Gateway to the AIATSIS Thesauri

- Subject Thesaurus**
 - Search / Browse By Letter
 - Browse By Top Term
 - Subject Help
- Place Thesaurus**
 - Search / Browse By Letter
 - Place Help
- Language Thesaurus**
 - Search / Browse By Letter
 - Language Help
- Download The Thesauri**
- AIATSIS Catalogue**
- Contact Us**

Pathways

Pathways contains the terms we use to describe the items in the AIATSIS Collections. Including, a thesaurus for subjects relating to Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander studies, language groups and people, and place names.

Before entering this website, please take a moment to read our [sensitivity message](#).



Subject	Language	Place
+ Search / Browse	+ Search / Browse	+ Search / Browse
+ Browse By Top Term	+ Download	+ Download
+ Download	+ Help	+ Help
+ Help		

The barrier we currently face: cataloguing/access platform

Haven't found one that suits as yet. Either:

- ▶ Not Dublin Core compliant
- ▶ Too expensive
- ▶ Doesn't allow for shared value sets across fields
- ▶ Not flexible enough to contain the range of media forms in media archives
- ▶ Requires too much technical know how to install and maintain
- ▶ Still looking ...

An important issue we haven't got time to address in this webinar: Indigenous data sovereignty

Access issues are not just about the object but its also about:

- ▶ Access to the metadata.
 - ▶ There is a lot of ICIP in metadata
 - ▶ Therefore consideration needs to be given to whether a catalogue will be online even if the object isn't online.
- ▶ Access to the Archives themselves and how access is controlled.
- ▶ How ICIP in the Archives is used by others.
- ▶ How access is about the wellbeing of the people to whom the ICIP in the Archive belongs.

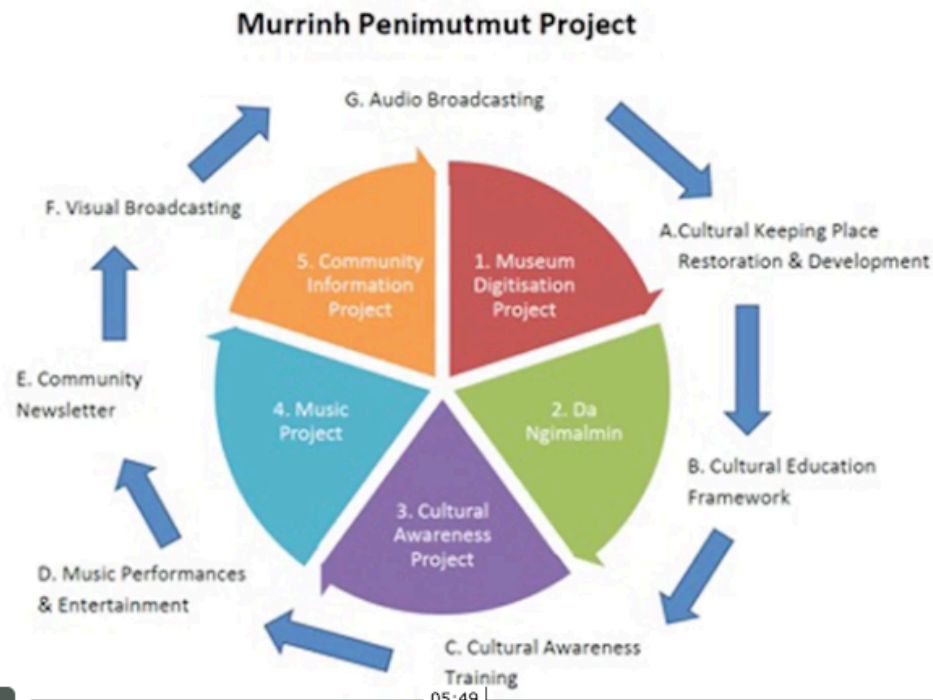
The barrier we currently have: cataloguing/access platform

- ▶ There may be synergies with IndigiTUBE however and we are doing work in that space.
- ▶ There can also be simple solutions:
 - ▶ Excel spreadsheet for inventory
 - ▶ Public access content uploaded to local computers (or innovative devices such as a Raspberry Pi) in an archive room with suitable players.
 - ▶ Search function not as powerful through this approach but can be an interim solution

Summary

- ▶ Align with the Plan to support funding applications and partnership development
- ▶ Apply for a Community Heritage Grant for funding of a Social Significance Statement
 - ▶ Gather cultural custodians to be part of the process
 - ▶ Identify an overall picture of what is significant and what isn't in your collection - this will help with a digitisation plan
- ▶ After the Social Significance State apply for a a Community Heritage Grant for funding of a Preservation Needs Assessment
 - ▶ Implement any facility improvement recommendations in the assessment
 - ▶ Start forming a relationship with NFSA to deal with media condition issues
- ▶ Do an inventory (and the associated actions) - contact IRCA for metadata profiles and Excel inventory sheets.
- ▶ Start planning your digitisation strategy.
- ▶ Start planning how you are going to store the digitised preservation masters and access copies.
- ▶ Network with others.

And its not just about the Archive
- its more importantly about how
it fits into community



Wadeye Community
Archive Project,
Kanamkek-Yile Ngala
Museum and Wadeye
Aboriginal Languages
Centre

<https://vimeo.com/243765174>

Questions?