



AIATSIS

Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies

Manuscript Finding Aid

MS 5316

AIAS Informant Cards

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Collection Summary

Creator:	Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies
Title:	AIAS Informant Cards
Collection no:	MS 5316
Reference code:	MAR 14/059
Date range:	1965
Extent:	0.5 linear metres (2 x archival index boxes)
Repository:	Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies

Cultural Sensitivity Statement

Use of the material

When using this finding aid, and the collection described within it, clients are encouraged to be mindful and sensitive to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples; particularly with regard to the use of this material. This includes:

Language

This finding aid and collection may contain words and descriptions which may be culturally inappropriate and insensitive. The language used in this collection may not normally be used in certain public or community contexts. Clients may encounter terms and descriptions, which reflect the author's attitude or that of the period in which the manuscript was written, that may be considered inappropriate today.

Deceased persons

Clients using this finding aid should be aware that in some Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, seeing images of deceased persons in photographs, film and books or hearing them in recordings etc. may cause sadness or distress; and in some cases offend strongly held cultural beliefs.

Access to the Collection

Access conditions for this collection

Closed access – Depositor’s permission. Open copying and use – communities only. Not for Inter-Library Loan.

Access is available to the person for whom there is a record, their nominated delegate or an approved member of their family. For all others seeking access to personal records, permission in writing is required from those whose records are held or Executive Director, Collections. For assistance please contact: collectionenquiry@aiatsis.gov.au.

Access and use conditions - further information

Clients are advised that the collection materials listed in this finding aid may be subject to particular access and use conditions required by Indigenous communities and/or depositors. Materials are provided for private study and use, in accordance with the Copyright Act 1968, Section 51 if they have been digitised. AIATSIS Manuscripts are not available for Inter-Library loan, however they may be available via document supply, subject to access conditions.

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Obtaining access, copying and quotation permissions

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Although Manuscripts are not available on Inter-library loan, they may be available via document supply, subject to access conditions, if they are already digitised.

Preferred citation

Items from this collection should be cited as: Title or description of manuscript item, Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, MS Number, Series Number, Subseries Number, Item or Folder Number.

For example:

Index card for Smith, Roger, Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, MS 5316, Series 2.

Collection Overview

Scope and contents note

This card index was created by the Bibliographical Section of the Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies (AIAS). The bulk of these cards were created by Mrs C. Burton, Research Officer. The index was created in 1965, though it is not known for how long the index was maintained.

Each card represents an Indigenous person or organisation who contributed knowledge to AIAS researchers, staff and projects. These people or organisations were also known as 'informants.' Each card contains information on the 'informant' such as names, places of birth and residence, family members, occupations, dates of birth and death, areas of specialised knowledge and references to grants and research projects in which the informant assisted. The cards cover all geographical areas of Australia, as well as overseas.

References

AIAS Report for the Period 1st July 1965-30th June 1966 in Box 1, S 06.1/AIAS/1 [1964/65-1965/66].

Provenance

No material in this collection was accessioned by AIATSIS' registration processes, and therefore no deposit forms exist for this material.

Material separated from the collection

No material has been separated from this collection.

Related material

For a complete list of works by the Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies (AIAS), held by the Library, and for other related material consult [Mura®](#), the AIATSIS catalogue.

Important: Before clicking on the links to the catalogue entries please read our sensitivity message found on the 'Search the Collection' page on the AIATSIS website at aiatsis.gov.au

Biographical note

The Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies was established as a Statutory authority under an Act of Parliament in 1964. The aim of the Institute was to undertake research and studies to preserve 'what remained' of Indigenous cultures of Australia. Located in Canberra, ACT, it undertook such activities as archaeology, linguistics, anthropology and ethnomusicology, as well as maintaining a library and archive. It published literature on these studies, and held conferences to bring together white scholars to discuss these areas of academia. With an emphasis on what was then seen as 'traditional' culture, most of the research that AIAS commissioned took place in remote Australia. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples were positioned as 'informants' to this research.

The Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS) Act was passed by parliament in 1989, replacing the AIAS Act, and therefore replacing the AIAS with AIATSIS.

Controlled Access Headings

Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies
Libraries - Reference materials - Indexes
History - Genealogy and family history

Archivists note

The arrangement and description of this collection was completed by Angela Schilling in July, 2021.

Series Description

Each series contains informant cards from one Australian state or territory, apart from Series 1 (overseas). Within each series, cards are tagged with names, townships, and geographical areas based on Arthur Capell's Linguistic Area Map (1966). Each area is denoted by a single letter and listed below:

Area A: Arid Zone (Western Deserts)

Area C: Central and South Central (interior Northern Territory to Bight)

Area D: Darling-Murray Basin (interior New South Wales & South Queensland)

Area E: Eastern Coastal Plain (Townsville to Hunter River)

Area G: Gulf Country (Northern Territory border to Gilbert River)

Area K: Kimberleys & North West (Roebuck Bay to Victoria River)

Area L: Lakes and Central Queensland Riverine (Queensland to South Australian Coast)

Area N: North Coast and Arnhem Land (Victoria River to Queensland)

Area S: South East Coast and Riverine (Hunter River to Murray Mouth)

Area T: Tasmania

Area W: West and South West Coast and Riverine (Roebuck Bay to Esperance Bay)

Area Y: Cape York and North Queensland (Gilbert River to Townsville)

Other arrangements within each series include:

Institute contacts / references;

Possibly not on base;

Possibly on base; and

Other geographical areas.

Series 1 Overseas

Series 2 ACT

Series 3 Tasmania

Series 4 Western Australia

Series 5 Northern Territory

Series 6 New South Wales

Series 7 Victoria

Series 8 South Australia

Box List

Series	Box
1-6	1
7-8	2

Finding aid compiled by Angela Schilling, July 2021.

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