

Chapter 3: Collection management and development

Highlights 2004–05

- Three-year funding for major digitisation program
- Ground-breaking research on placing cultural materials on the Internet
- Images from The Aboriginal and Islander Sports Hall of Fame donated
- Vinegar syndrome copying project saves nearly 1000 negatives
- Funding assured for Family History Unit until 2005–06
- More than 2000 free copies of *Dawn* CD-ROM distributed

Together, the Library and Audiovisual Archives constitute a unique and ever-growing body of materials that form the world's most extensive collection of printed, audio and visual materials on Australian Indigenous peoples. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, researchers, museums, galleries, and many others, including the general public, use these materials on a regular basis.

The Library's collection includes manuscript materials, serials, language materials, books, rare books, art catalogues, newspapers, maps, posters and kits. The Library includes a Family History Unit, which provides assistance to Indigenous people to trace their relations. The Audiovisual Archives comprise almost one million items of materials: audio, video, photographs, motion picture film, artefacts and works of art. Within the Audiovisual Archives are the specialist services of an Access Unit, Return of Materials to Indigenous Communities (ROMTIC), and archival training for indigenous communities.

Digitisation

FUNDING FOR THE DIGITISATION PROGRAM

AIATSIS has received funding from the Australian Government to undertake a major digitisation program. This generous funding, \$13 million over three years, will allow a greatly expanded program for digitising collections under threat and provide access to collection materials on the AIATSIS website.

The news was all the more welcome as the Library Digitisation Unit had lost all but one of its staff at the beginning of 2004–05 due to the uncertainty of funding. Although re-establishing the unit took much time during the year, with new staff being recruited and trained, a successful team is now functioning and will be able to make good use of the newly available funding. For example,

mission magazines *Our Aim* and *Australian Evangel* are currently being digitised and will be made available in 2005–06.

The audiovisual collection is ageing and extremely vulnerable to deterioration. The music and film industry-driven move to digital format, coupled with the rapid obsolescence of analogue technology, has meant there is an urgent need to digitise these collections quickly.

During the next three years a significant percentage of the audiovisual materials in the collection will be digitised. The new funding will also allow a number of important subsidiary activities to be undertaken, including research and documentation of the materials and cataloguing for retrieval and access.

Another project, to be undertaken concurrently, is research into the copyright conditions on the archival collections and work with Dr Jane Anderson (Research Fellow, Intellectual Property) to interpret existing conditions and renegotiate easier access, especially for Indigenous clients.

The other significant output from the new funding will be the three-year Brewarrina Community Consultation Project (see page 71). The outcome will be an ongoing relationship of trust with the community, return of copies of material held by AIATSIS to the community, and a 'how-to' manual that will be a benchmark for effective and sincere consultation.

DIGITAL ASSET MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (DAMS)

Collections staff spent considerable time in 2004–05 evaluating software and hardware for the Digital Asset Management System (DAMS), which will preserve, store, retrieve and provide access to the digital objects created by AIATSIS. The DAMS will connect with the Mura® catalogue to make search processes as easy as possible for clients.

DAWN AND NEW DAWN CD-ROM PROJECT

This historic project was made possible with financial and other support from ATSI, the NSW Department of Aboriginal Affairs and the State Library of New South Wales. The CD-ROM was released in October 2004. Copies were distributed to Indigenous organisations, high schools, and public libraries throughout New South Wales. It provides unprecedented access to a unique family and community history resource for Aboriginal people living in New South Wales (see page 64).

Dawn CD a source of priceless memories

It has been characterised as paternalistic and reminiscent of the government policies of the times. But to thousands of people like singer Jimmy Little, the magazines *Dawn* and its successor *New Dawn* were eagerly awaited as they arrived each month—they were a way for the Aboriginal people of New South Wales to keep in touch.

Jimmy—then an aspiring performer who appeared on the cover of *Dawn* in 1954 with his guitar—was present when the *Dawn* CD-ROM was formally launched at the Redfern Community Centre in October 2004. The successful launch followed several years of work by

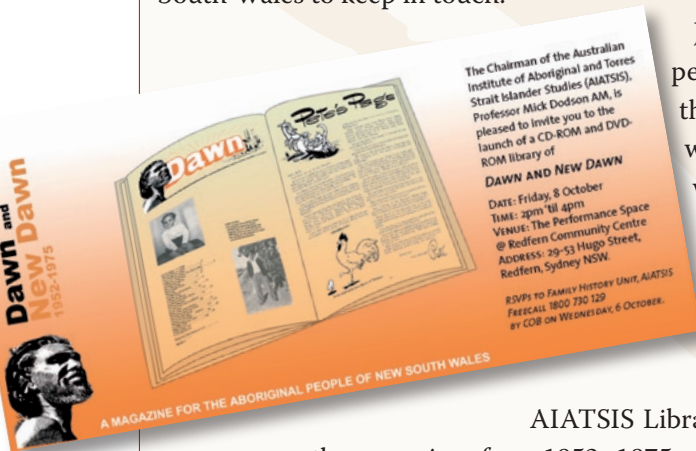
AIATSIS Library staff to make all issues of the magazines from 1952–1975 ready for people to read, search every word and print out photographs of family members and friends.

This important project was made possible by financial and other support from ATSIS, the NSW Department of Aboriginal Affairs, the National Library of Australia and the State Library of NSW.

Dawn and *New Dawn* were published by the then NSW Aboriginal Welfare Board, and the 252 issues contain priceless photographs and information about Indigenous people. More than 2000 free copies have been distributed to Indigenous organisations, correctional centres, libraries and high schools in New South Wales and to Link-Up offices and Indigenous study centres in universities throughout Australia.

The CD-ROM has had a profound personal impact on people's lives, with many finding photographs of family members, some of which are the only images that exist. Reading through the issues of *Dawn* has brought back memories of life as it was for Indigenous people during those times, in particular a group of participants at the launch who had been in the Cootamundra Girls Home or the Kinchela Boys Home.

The *Dawn* CD-ROM will also be a valuable resource for schools studying social conditions of the times. The *Dawn* magazines will be on the AIATSIS website and will be fully searchable from late 2005.



Cooperation between AIATSIS and National Library makes vital records available online

History meets histograms: musty volumes of 19th and early 20th century legislation are stacked neatly beside today's high-technology scanners waiting to be processed into digital images. It's an everyday scene during a major digitisation project, but the images being captured tell of a multitude of experiences important to Indigenous Australians.

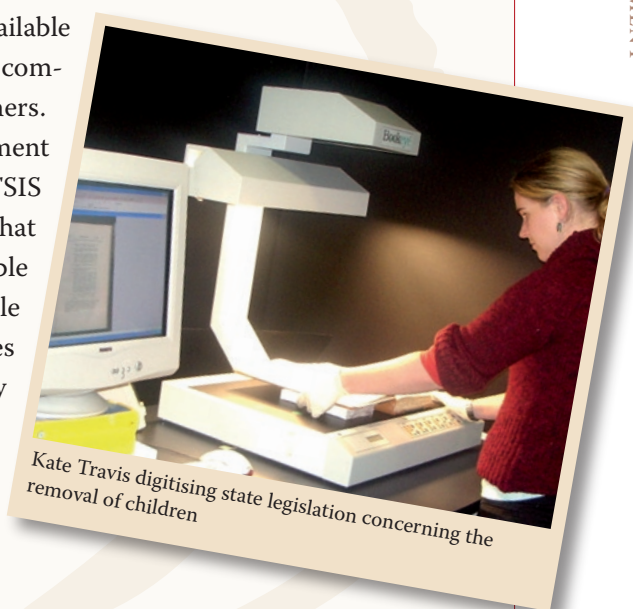
As part of a three-year project the Library staff have been searching for and digitising a wide range of materials held in the National Library of Australia. These materials include state legislation used to enable the forced removal of Aboriginal children from their families, and these Acts, previously only available as hard copies from some of Australia's larger libraries, are among the first documents to be processed.

'As the digitisation project progresses, we will also digitise documents such as the reports of Government Protectors who were responsible for administering the system that controlled the lives of so many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people,' said Acting Library Director Rod Stroud. 'Reports of committees of inquiry into Indigenous affairs will also be captured in digital form. We will also be making materials such as mission magazines and language wordlists available.'

These materials will be available online and on CD-ROM for communities and individual researchers.

A mutually beneficial agreement has been reached between AIATSIS and the National Library that will allow such rare and valuable material to become available online. The resulting digital copies are sent to the National Library for its collections.

'This agreement with the National Library has been critical in undertaking the digitisation program,' said Rod Stroud.



Kate Travis digitising state legislation concerning the removal of children

NEW ONLINE EXHIBITIONS

New online exhibitions created this year include the NAIDOC Posters and Rare Books collection. Projects that are currently under way and will be completed in 2005–06 include:

- annual reports of all state government protectors
- removal legislation from all states
- *Our Aim* and *Australian Evangel* mission magazines
- language wordlists.

The online exhibitions have been very successful, with a combined total of 1,746,116 page views on all digitisation web pages (see Table 6).

TABLE 6: ONLINE EXHIBITION WEB STATISTICS

ONLINE EXHIBITION	NUMBER OF HITS*
Community newsletters	1 545
<i>Dawn</i> and <i>New Dawn</i> magazines	6 645
Ethnomathematics	872
Freedom Ride	1 129
NAIDOC Posters	3 567
Rare Books Collection	941
Sorry books	2 046
Treaty historical documents	2 034
Wentworth lectures	1 009
TOTAL	19 788

* Number of times home page accessed

CAAMA PRESERVATION AND DIGITISATION PROJECT

The Central Australian Aboriginal Media Association (CAAMA) holds a unique and valuable collection of analogue tapes of radio broadcasts that are in various stages of degradation and in urgent need of preservation and archiving. The tapes are of various lengths and were produced from the inception of 8KIN FM in 1980 until 2000. The tapes contain a mixture of language, music and oral history recordings, many of which were recorded for speakers who are now deceased.

AIATSIS provided funding for the CAAMA Preservation Project in 2004 for a four-month period, to copy and digitise a proportion of the original radio

broadcast tapes. In return for this funding CAAMA provided AIATSIS with 445 original reel-to-reel tapes and accompanying digital copies on CD. AIATSIS was also given the discretion to make the material available to its clients in accordance with the AIATSIS Act and any special handling requirements identified by CAAMA. The historical collection includes parts of the *Bushfire Radio* series, traditional stories in English and other languages including Pitjantjatjara and Arrernte, the *Reading Black* show, Arrernte songs, and various language reels.

Access and return of materials to Indigenous communities

FAMILY HISTORY UNIT

AIATSIS provides a family history information service to Indigenous clients Australia-wide. The service is well regarded and assists Link-Up caseworkers in the tracing of family and reunion for Indigenous people who were removed. The Unit can also assist anyone of Indigenous heritage with their family history research.

Responsibility for funding the service was transferred in 2004–05 to the Office of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health (OATSIH). This has proved to be a productive relationship and the funding agreement has been extended to 2005–06. Family History Unit staff attended a successful National Link-Up Forum in Alice Springs, convened by OATSIH, which set positive directions for family tracing services for the Stolen Generations.

The Family History Unit negotiated to give staff access to indexes of records held in the Western Australian Family Information Records Bureau. This example highlights the stronger networks that are being developed amongst record-holding organisations and is a strategic direction of the Unit that serves to support Link-Up caseworkers.

A significant backlog of inquiries was carried over from 2003–04 and has been reduced by 20 per cent.

Two Family History Unit skills training workshops were delivered to Link-Up caseworkers in July 2004 and April 2005. Visitors to the Unit included Link-Up caseworkers from New South Wales and Queensland, as well as 'Bringing Them Home' counsellors from Victoria and Western Australia. A combined list of groups that visited the Institute is available on the AIATSIS website.

The Family History Unit also provides web-based information for Australian Indigenous family history research on its page on the AIATSIS website. This is a comprehensive site that is always kept up-to-date and is well used by the public as well as other related libraries and archives.

Indexing for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Biographical Index (ABI) was restarted in July 2004 after being suspended during the previous financial year when resources were redirected to answering client requests. Nearly 8,000 records were added in 2004–05.

TABLE 7: FAMILY HISTORY UNIT STATISTICS

USAGE STATISTICS	
Enquiries	481
Visitors	120
Link-Up training courses	2
1800 free calls received	2 311
Website visits	136 256
Number of ABI records added during the financial year	7 881
Number of ABI records modified during the financial year	16 202

COMMUNITY ACCESS AND RETURN OF MATERIALS TO INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES (ROMTIC)

The Audiovisual Archives conducts community access and return of materials to Indigenous Communities (ROMTIC) programs. These programs are aimed at publicising AIATSIS collections and services to the Indigenous community and making AIATSIS relevant to the community. Their value is exemplified in the following email from a client:

A few of the people interviewed are relations of mine and it was fantastic to hear their voices again as some have since passed on. For my children and I to learn our native tongue especially from relations (even though it is from a recording) is absolutely brilliant, incredible and simply mind blowing. When we play one of the CDs with a relo talking, I keep stopping it and tell my children about the person and about stories when we were growing up. You will never ever know how much me and my family appreciate receiving this material and especially when it's free of charge because I'm sure I would not be able to afford it if you were to charge even half price. God bless you all at AIATSIS.

— John

Examples of activity during the reporting period

The Audiovisual Archives represented AIATSIS at the **Garma festival** at Gulkula, near Nhulunbuy, Northern Territory, in August 2004. Staff took copies of more than 600 photos from eastern Arnhem Land in albums, including those taken at Garma 2002, and showed them to local people (but not before they had been checked by Mandawuy Yunupingu and Raymattja Marika). Copies of hundreds of images were requested.

The **Dubbo Aboriginal community** in New South Wales held its NAIDOC week celebrations in September 2004. Five staff from the Audiovisual Archives travelled to Dubbo at the invitation of Mission Australia. The staff took photographs and hundreds of hours of audio with them, as well as information about the AIATSIS collection and services including a DVD copy of the soon-to-be-launched *Dawn* and *New Dawn* magazines. The event was a major success, with more than 30 requests for copies of photographs and around 3,000 hours of audio CDs handed out free of charge.

In all, more than 2,000 free copies of the *Dawn* and *New Dawn* CD-ROMs were distributed in 2004–05 to Indigenous organisations, high schools, public libraries and correctional centres, mainly in New South Wales.

A group from **Tennant Creek** of four women and four men visited AIATSIS to access the collection. The women researched 42 collections of photographs and videos, while the men listened to secret/sacred ceremonial songs and stories. The group has set up a cultural centre at Tennant Creek and are struggling to manage their collection. We were able to provide them with advice on the storage of digital photographs and we discussed the possibility of holding an archiving workshop in Tennant Creek in the next financial year.

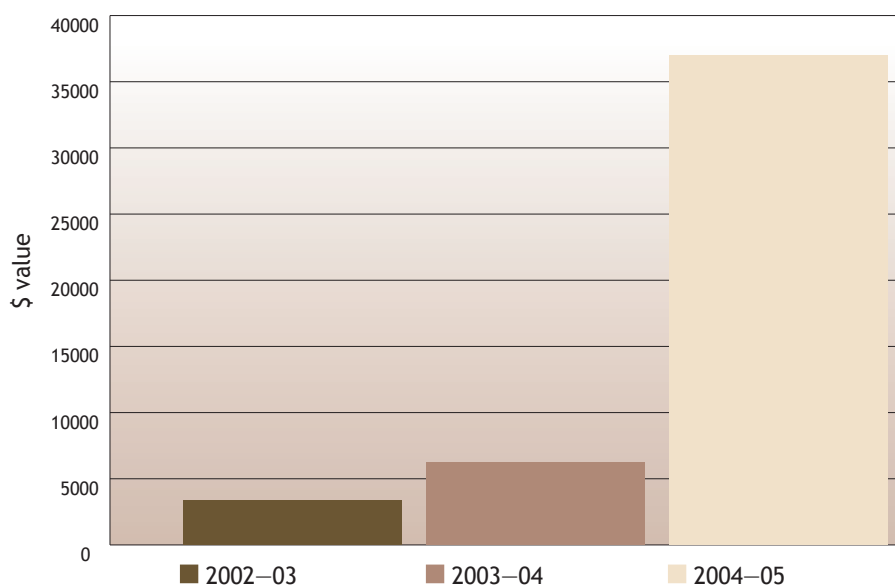
The **Many Rivers Aboriginal Language Centre** was provided with digitised copies of all audio recordings of the Dunghutti/Thungutti and Kattang languages, which will be used for language revival programs and community access.

Ms **Thelma Coconut**, a **Napranum Elder** from the Weipa area, Queensland, spent time in the Audiovisual Access Unit researching the history and traditional culture from her area. Ms Coconut and Audiovisual Access staff discussed a community access visit to AIATSIS for six women from Napranum later in the year.

There has been an enormous increase in demand for material from the Audiovisual Archives by Indigenous people during the reporting period. This year, material with a production cost of \$37,000 has been returned to Indigenous people free of charge, compared with \$6,200 in 2003–04 and \$3,400 in 2002–03.

This represents an increase of 167.5 per cent in demand and materials returned.

FIGURE 4: VALUE OF AUDIOVISUAL MATERIALS RETURNED TO INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES



Benchmarking community access: the Brewarrina project

Who owns Australia's cultural treasures? It's a question never far from the minds of those in charge of the collections at AIATSIS, especially since they include images and other records of individuals—such as photographs, film, sound recordings and personal documents.

In June, staff of the AIATSIS Audiovisual Archives travelled to Brewarrina in NSW to talk to members of the local community. It was the first step in a three-year research project to investigate Indigenous attitudes to cultural materials being made accessible through the Internet, research made possible by special funding provided by the Australian Government.

'Brewarrina was chosen as the focus of the project because it has an extremely complex social structure historically, and the intellectual property issues are difficult, although typical of hundreds of areas around Australia,' said Di Hosking, Director of AIATSIS's Audiovisual Archives. 'Further, Brewarrina was one of the towns represented in a photographic essay, *After 200 Years*, created by AIATSIS for the Bicentenary celebrations in 1988.'

The staff carried with them a selection of some of the 4,000 images held in the archives from that project. 'They attracted great interest, and many reminiscences and requests for copies,' Di said.

One important aim of the project is to return all relevant materials—audio, video and other photographic images held by the AIATSIS archives—to the Brewarrina community. It also aims to establish an ongoing relationship of trust with the Brewarrina Aboriginal community members.

Other important goals are to negotiate with family members the copyright and intellectual property conditions for access to the material, and supporting initiatives in Brewarrina to provide training and encouragement to talented young people.

'If community members agree, one result could be a community-owned product, possibly for web access, with community members themselves choosing how they wish the community to be represented,' said Di Hosking.

COPYRIGHT AND DIGITAL RIGHTS

A research project is being undertaken into the copyright of materials in the Audiovisual Archives. The project has been researching the background of materials in the archive. Ms Paddy Naughton has been working with Dr Jane Anderson to clarify the AIATSIS position in relation to many of its holdings.

Audiovisual Archives staff are also undertaking liaison with relevant copyright holders with a view to further facilitating access to the collections by Indigenous researchers. During the reporting period, more than 150 depositors were contacted requesting new deposit forms. All but one depositor have responded to the suggestion that they make their collections more accessible, particularly to the relevant Indigenous people. A delay in responding can, in many cases, be caused by depositors needing to check their material, which may have been collected many years ago. Some depositors have indicated a willingness to sort through their material, and make it more available to clients. In a few cases, they can only do this by visiting AIATSIS; to that end, visits are planned over the next 12 months. Successful resolutions have been reached regarding some significant collections.

Margaret Lawrie's audio collections: These are significant collections of Torres Strait Island music. Mrs Lawrie is deceased and copyright issues have never been clearly stated. Copyright now resides with the State Library of Queensland, which has put the collections on open access for personal and research purposes.

The *Identity* photographic collection: This collection is extremely popular with Indigenous clients wanting photos of their family members. Copyright ownership has been virtually impossible to establish. The Australia Council, which was the funding body of the magazine, has agreed that we can now supply copies of photos to family members for non-commercial use.

Several scholars, including Professors **John Mulvaney** and **Les Hiatt** and the widow of the late Professor **Ken Hale**, have transferred copyright to AIATSIS.

Liaison with Dr Julie Waddy about collections of **Groote Eylandt material** continues, with a view to transferring copyright to the Anindilyakwa Land Council. The material has been collected by three researchers, including Dr Waddy, over 50 years, under the auspices of the Church Missionary Society.

Finally, the rights of the Institute in grantee material have now been established. Existing deposit forms signed by Institute grantees will of course be honoured, but where no form exists, the material will be made available to the relevant Indigenous people on request. Access to other clients will be at the discretion of the Director Audiovisual Archives.

SERVICES TO LIBRARY CLIENTS

The Library provides a wide range of services to clients. An inter-library loan service and a document delivery service are available; these are provided in accordance with copyright provisions and access conditions. Specialist reference staff provide information services to visitors and access to collections in the Stanner Room. Remote clients access information services by telephone, mail, fax and email. Indigenous Studies Centres in Australian universities are kept up-to-date on the Library's activities and its services to remote clients through regular mailouts.

Highlights of the year include:

- Electronic document delivery was implemented in 2004–05, with responses to requests being sent via email wherever possible.
- Digitisation on demand has been implemented as the main means of document delivery for rare materials.
- Web-based access to the ATSIROM database (a collection of Indigenous studies databases of commercially available bibliographic data and Australian full text newspapers) has been set up to provide clients and AIATSIS staff with access to these and other databases with Indigenous studies content.
- Networked access to a wide range of CD-ROM databases has now been provided to Research Program staff.

The Library will have group research facilities for clients when the refurbishment of the Library's work area is completed around October 2005.

BIBLIOGRAPHIC ACCESS

Mura[®], the online collections catalogue, provides bibliographic access to all materials held in the Audiovisual Archives and the Library. Together they hold the world's premier collections relating to Australian Indigenous Studies. The total number of bibliographic records in the catalogue is 295,862.

Bibliographic access is provided to all newly acquired collection items. Online access, when available, is provided through catalogue records. Physical access is provided in accordance with copyright provisions and in accordance with conditions determined by depositors and donors in consultation with the collection management staff.

There are now automatic catalogue search links to researchers' profiles on the AIATSIS website. The Library is also incorporating similar automatic catalogue search links into finding aids for manuscript collections. Links are made to Mura[®] entries for other works by or about the creator of a manuscript

TABLE 8: PHYSICAL AND ELECTRONIC LIBRARY ACCESS

USAGE STATISTICS	
Entries in visitors book	632
Group visits	32
Reference desk enquiries from visitors	1 599
Enquiries requiring a written response	632
Phone enquiries	925
ONLINE FULL TEXT ACCESS	
Number of full text documents accessible through catalogue records	777
Cumulative total of full text documents accessible through catalogue records	2 240
DOCUMENT DELIVERY (INTERLIBRARY LOANS)	
Requested by Institute from other libraries	262
Requested by clients and other libraries from Institute	200
On-site delivery (number of items delivered to clients in the Stanner Room)	10 607

collection or to specific subject areas or specific works that may be of particular relevance to clients using the finding aids.

In improvements during the reporting period, the Mura® Manager has been investigating linking the catalogue with the software selected for the Digital Asset Management System (DAMS); all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Biographical Database (ABI) entries relating to *Dawn* and *New Dawn* magazine now contain links to the *Dawn* website; two files, one containing place names and the other containing language headings, have been exported from the system for importing into the thesaurus software; and a file of catalogue records has been exported from the system to test uploading into Kinetica. The file is currently with National Library of Australia's staff for review.

The Mura® Manager has been providing assistance to Audiovisual Archive staff to review and update their cataloguing procedures for sound recordings.

The online catalogue was accessed a total of 16,398 times during 2004–05, making a cumulative total of 138,284 'hits' since 15 February 1999. Downtime was kept to a minimum (less than 1 per cent).

The collections

GROWTH IN THE COLLECTIONS

Audiovisual collections

Since 1 July 2004, 131 audiovisual collections have been registered for potential deposit in the Audiovisual Archives.

Significant acquisitions

In February 2005, AIATSIS received a large donation of **Gurindji oral history tapes** from Ms Yuki Hokari Sim. The tapes were recorded by Ms Sim's brother, Dr Minoru Hokari, between 1997 and 2000 in Daguragu, Timber Creek, Kalkarindji and Yarralin in the Northern Territory.

Minoru Hokari was born in Niigata, Japan in 1971. After successfully completing a Masters of Economics in Tokyo, he received a scholarship that enabled him to move to Australia to pursue his passion for history. Minoru Hokari was awarded a PhD by the Australian National University in 2001. Sadly, Dr Hokari passed away from lymphoma in 2004. His book, *Doing History!: Paying Attention to the Historical Practices of Indigenous Australians* was published (in Japanese) posthumously in September 2004.

AIATSIS acknowledges Minoru Hokari's outstanding contribution to collaborative historical research and thanks his family and friends for donating his important tape archives to AIATSIS. The tapes are a much-welcomed addition to the AIATSIS Audiovisual Archives and represent a valuable cultural resource for the Gurindji people now and into the future.

Audiovisual Archives staff travelled to Kempsey on the mid-north coast of New South Wales to record and video an oral history with **Mrs Victoria Archibald and her three daughters, Helen Archibald-Simmons, Mavis Robinson and Elva Badger**. Victoria Archibald was born in 1914 at Batemans Bay and was sent to the Cootamundra Girls Home at the age of eight to be trained in domestic work. She is believed to be the oldest living survivor of the home.

AIATSIS Audiovisual Archives purchased two video masters from award-winning documentary film-maker Bob Plasto. *A Shifting Dreaming* is a dramatised documentary using original transcripts of the inquest into the alleged massacre of Aborigines at Yurrkarrn, 1928. In 1981 Bob Plasto obtained permission to film an Aboriginal land rights hearing to be held south of Alice Springs. Also purchased was a re-edited video master containing 45 minutes of footage not included in the production, *A Town like Alice* (1996), which deals with the mythical and romantic qualities of Australia's central region. Both films were purchased with perpetual screening rights.

Island photographs from the past an 'outstanding pictorial record'

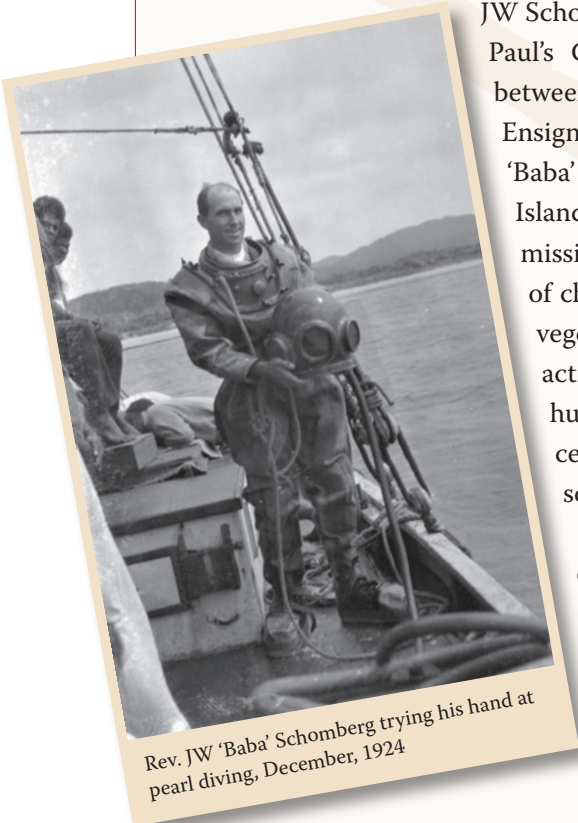
In 2004 the AIATSIS Audiovisual Archives received a donation of over 500 photographs from Mr Neil Schomberg of Southport, Queensland. This valuable collection of large format negatives and glass plates constitutes an outstanding pictorial record of the people of Moa and Badu Islands and their activities in the 1920s and 1930s.

The photographs were taken by Neil Schomberg's father, the Reverend JW Schomberg, during his time running St Paul's Church of England mission at Moa between 1921 and 1936. Using his trusty Kodak Ensign camera, Reverend Schomberg, or 'Baba' as he was affectionately known by the Islanders, recorded the development of the mission facilities (for example, construction of church and other mission buildings and vegetable gardens) as well as everyday activities such as dugong and turtle hunting, pearl diving, school activities, ceremonial dance, basket-making, village scenes and weddings.

There are also images recording official visits to the Torres Strait Islands by the Queensland Governor, Sir Leslie Wilson; the Queensland Attorney General, Mr J Mullen and the founder of the Scout movement, Lord Baden Powell.

This is a remarkable collection.

Conservation work has been undertaken on the fragile negatives prior to digitisation with a view to both preserving the originals and making the images more accessible for family history and research purposes. Digital copying is scheduled for completion in early 2006.



Rev. JW 'Baba' Schomberg trying his hand at pearl diving, December, 1924

Ellie Gilbert, widow of the late **Kevin Gilbert**, lodged a large number of recordings for deposit and digitising. The collection includes poetry readings and songs by Kevin Gilbert and recordings of numerous important events, such as the eviction of protestors from Parliament House following the delivery of the Aboriginal Declaration of Sovereignty on 28 January 1992.

A significant addition to the AIATSIS Art and Artefact collection has been the photographic images from the *Aboriginal and Islander Sports Hall of Fame* donated by Colin and Paul Tatz. A selection of the 102 poster-size images has been on public display at AIATSIS since November 2004. The current photographic exhibition of 36 images spans the late 1800s to the present day and portrays Indigenous individuals from 19 different sports. Other additions to the collection include a work by Danny Raymond from the Larrakia Arts Centre in the Northern Territory; a painting by Sam Wickman Juparulla from Alice Springs, and two spears donated by Yirrkala dancers, used in the Naming Ceremony of the DM Mununggurr Ralkan Council Room at AIATSIS in February 2005 (see page 14).

The AIATSIS Audiovisual Archives took delivery of pieces of **Bagot pottery** formerly held in the Janice Haynes Collection at the Powerhouse Museum. Mrs Haynes donated the pottery to AIATSIS in recognition of the digitisation work undertaken on the slides she deposited in 2003 of her Aboriginal traditional technology project. Copies of the digitised images were sent to the Powerhouse Museum to augment their collection of traditional artefacts in the Janice Haynes Collection.

During the reporting period Mrs Janice Haynes also deposited 81 cans of film made in the **Maningrida and Liverpool River** regions of Central Arnhem Land between 1965 and 1969 by her late husband, Professor LM Haynes. The research team that documented Aboriginal traditional technology consisted of JM Grant, JM Waddell and LM Haynes. The research method involved asking people to make an artefact while the team took notes and still photographs. The process was then repeated for capture on 16mm film. Professor Haynes used 6,000 feet of Ektachrome and 2,000 feet of black and white film while recording these practices.

Professor Haynes documented the construction of a goose-necked stringy bark canoe, believed to be the same type that Thompson described in his work on the Arafura Swamp; a burial pole; a bone pole manufactured under the supervision of Gunavidji elders; a flat woomera; and a round stick. Also recorded was the making and repair of a fish net using bush string made by John Godowa; shaping of a dugout canoe; and the sculpting of stingrays, fish and debil debil figures, also by John Godowa. The film collection had been stored in

a well-ventilated garage in Sydney's northern beaches for many years and has survived remarkably well, with only a small proportion of the 81 cans showing significant levels of deterioration.

The **ATSIC photo collection** was transferred to AIATSIS on 28 April 2005. The collection of over 35,000 images consists primarily of photographs taken for ATSIC between 1990 and 2004 and also includes Aboriginal Development Commission images taken during the 1980s. The collection contains a wide variety of subject matter including images of:

- the first ATSIC Board with then Minister Gerry Hand
- ATSIC and Aboriginal Development Commission (ADC) meetings
- ATSIC and ADC portraits
- regional Council group photos and meetings
- native title and pastoral lease transfers
- land claim and handover ceremonies
- Aboriginal remains returned from Edinburgh in 1991
- Aboriginal sports and NAIDOC awards
- community activities including dance, art and crafts, and Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) relating to housing, education and health
- business funding schemes and enterprises
- Corroboree and People's walk for reconciliation in Sydney, 2000
- the Public Interest Advocacy Centre (PIAC) conference in Sydney, 2001
- racism conference in Sydney, 2001
- MOU signings, agreements and meetings between ATSIC and federal and state government departments (health, army, housing, sport).

Library collections

The Library aims to collect all materials relating to Australian Indigenous Studies including published and unpublished materials. The acquisition budget for 2004–05 was \$53,500.

Priorities for the acquisition program include:

- materials of Indigenous authorship
- archives of people significant in Australian Indigenous affairs
- archives of people prominent in Australian Indigenous studies
- materials to support family history research.

A total of 4,255 items was added to the collection in the reporting period, including:

- 574 items purchased
- 1,270 serial issues received
- 8 items received through the Research Grants program.

The Library's collection development policy has been updated and will be presented to Council for approval in 2005–06. It will incorporate digitisation and conservation as appropriate within existing resources. The Library's collection development policy is available on the AIATSIS website.

The collections have continued to grow substantially as a result of the closure of the **ATSIC Canberra Library** and the **Hobart Office Library**, from which selected materials were received. The **Western Australian Department of Indigenous Affairs Library** also ceased to exist in 2004 and further selected materials were received by the Institute's Library. These closures, together with many duplicate copies of books with Indigenous content received from the **National Library**, have greatly added to the Library's collections, and there is a backlog of material to process. A report on the impact of collection growth on storage is in progress.

Substantial work has been done to update the **database of manuscript depositors**. The aims of this project are to update details, and to modify access conditions to facilitate easier access by researchers.

Significant acquisitions

One of the most important acquisitions in 2004–05 was the first instalment of the private papers of former **Senator Aden Ridgeway**, including materials relating to reconciliation and many of his speeches. A finding aid will be produced in 2005–06.

The Library acquired a database of the published papers of **RH Mathews** and copies of all his 171 papers. This will provide a most valuable tool for researchers as his articles are constantly being requested. The majority of his articles will be digitised for access via the website.

The Library received the first stage of a potentially extensive donation from **Betty Meehan** of books from the library of the late **Rhys Jones**. The Library will receive copies of both his and Betty Meehan's field notes, their photographs and serials collection.

In August 2004 the Library's collection of **Sorry Books** was accepted for the Australian Memory of the World Register. The citation stated in part:

The collection of 461 Sorry Books has powerful historical and social significance as the personal responses of hundreds of thousands of Australians to the unfolding history of the Stolen Generations...

A full list of donations and gifts is available at Appendix 4. A list of items that were added to the Rare Book collection through purchase is available on the AIATSIS website.

One hundred and fifteen items were treated in 2004–05, with the total reduced by the long-term absence of the conservator.

TABLE 9: LIBRARY ITEMS ADDED TO MURA[®] DURING 2004–05

TREATED ITEMS	
Manuscripts	16
Books and Rare books	36
Pamphlets and Rare pamphlets	16
Posters	35
Serials and Rare serials	4
Other	8
TOTAL ITEMS TREATED	115
Analytics (book chapters or journal articles)	776
Annotations added to monograph records	1 115

COLLECTION DOCUMENTATION

The Recorded Sound project, initiated in 2002, continued this financial year. This complex and painstaking project consists of a full inventory check on all the component parts of each individual sound item in the collection. The inventory includes both the physical copies and intellectual control of all the sound items (field tape originals, preservation masters, digital copies, client access copies and all paper and electronic documentation and corresponding database records). The work involves a systematic assessment of these items with the primary aim being to update the database record so that it more accurately reflects the holdings and their contents. This has an immediate impact on the efficiency of client access to the recordings. A secondary aim is to compile a comprehensive set of data that can be used to assist with future planning in relation to the sound collection. To date, approximately 80 per cent of the collection has been assessed and updated.

Audiovisual Archives staff have been working with Library staff to develop a new approach to documenting unpublished sound and film or video collections. There is a plan to implement finding aids in place of item-level catalogue records, while collection-level records will be maintained and improved. The finding aid format allows for the storage of hierarchical and detailed information. The purchase of the Digital Asset Management System will allow the Archives to exploit the XML (EAD) documents and deliver them in a variety of layouts and formats, enhancing remote searching of the collections.

Since June 2004 more than 1,500 caption lists have been converted to html documents and attached to the relevant photographic collection-level

records in **Mura**[®], the online collections catalogue. This project has now been completed, allowing users of the catalogue to access all individual descriptions of photographs within a collection where such descriptions have been provided by depositors.

The Library controls materials in its collection through library stock-control practices. Documentation of materials is in accordance with standard bibliographic practices, and in line with Indigenous cultural practices. Value-added documentation includes annotations and the use of specialist thesaurus terms to enhance bibliographic access. Manuscript records are added to the Register of Australian Archives and Manuscripts. Monograph and serials records are added to the National Bibliographic Database.

Substantial work has been undertaken to harmonise the collection's language thesaurus with the Research Program's AUSTLANG database. The language thesaurus will be available on the Institute's website from late 2005, with the subject and place thesauri to follow later in the year. These thesauri will become a major resource for Australian libraries to use culturally appropriate terms to describe their collections.

The incorporation of the items in the **Tom Austen Brown Collection** into the Library is an ongoing project. The Library has catalogued 729 items from this collection over the financial year, giving a cumulative total of 4,824 items. A priority list was developed for other major manuscript collections awaiting rehousing and documentation.

The **Alice Moyle Collection**, comprising 66 archival boxes of material relating to her work on music research, has been rehoused and an accompanying finding aid is available on the web. An online exhibition of a selection of materials from the collection will be available early in 2005–06.

More than 250 manuscript finding aids were added during 2004–05, mostly comprising many older guides that have been converted. A complete list of guides to manuscripts is available online at the AIATSIS website. New guides to manuscripts that were added during the year are at Appendix 5.

PRESERVATION, CONSERVATION AND MAINTENANCE

AIATSIS houses its collections to archival standards. They are held in a secure temperature and humidity controlled storage space. The Library's Stanner Reading Room has now been glassed in, resulting in more stable humidity levels for the collections held in this area.

A flagging system has been devised and implemented to tag records in Workflows, the staff interface of the collections management system, for items in the collection requiring conservation.

In another major development, the joint-use **Quarantine Room** for the initial receipt and processing of collections arriving at AIATSIS was opened in August 2004. Conservation staff played a major role in its establishment. The project included the selection and purchase of equipment and fixtures, including a freezer, shelving and benches. Procedures have been developed to handle collections received into this area.

Both the Audiovisual Archives and Library use the room to bring materials into the collection. Facilities, including a freezer to kill moulds and insects, ensure that contaminated materials cannot infect existing materials in the archive vaults.

During the reporting period, conservation staff provided expert advice to **Link-Up caseworkers** as a part of their training at AIATSIS. Advice was given on the preservation of documents and photographic records, with specific reference to preservation products that are readily available and low in cost. Much of this information can be found online in a series of home preservation information sheets on the AIATSIS website. A related display was mounted in the Stanner Room to complement the publication of a guide on caring for personal family history records.

In addition, conservation staff undertook a review of the New South Wales Link-Up office's physical collections, which was funded by the National Library of Australia's Cultural Heritage Grants program. A comprehensive report was submitted, which should become a basis for further assessment of other Link-Up offices.

The Art Gallery of New South Wales requested the **Margaret Preston** album for exhibition. This album is a valuable collection item and was conserved before being loaned to the Art Gallery of New South Wales.

Two artworks from the Audiovisual Archives have undergone conservation work in 2004–05: **Ewald Namatjira's** painting *Mt Sonder, Central Australia* and **Don Dixon's** painting *Massacre at Coopers Creek*.

A project to photograph **Elizabeth Durack's** sketchbooks has also been completed. Seven sketchbooks comprising approximately 50 images per sketchbook have been photographed, as a record for the archive and to provide access to this collection. CDs of these digitised images were sent to Mrs Perpetua Durack Clancy (Elizabeth Durack's daughter) after her visit to the Institute in September 2004, where she viewed these drawings for the first time.

Following routine condition monitoring of photographic collections under the **Vinegar Syndrome Copying Project**, nearly 1,000 photographic negatives held in the Audiovisual Archives were identified as being affected by 'vinegar syndrome', a term used to describe the characteristic vinegar odour of cellulose

acetate negatives in the process of deterioration. The negatives were isolated from other collection material to prevent further contamination, and dedicated scanning equipment was procured in order to digitise the material in a ventilated environment. All relevant depositors have been advised of the outcome and the affected negatives will be placed in the freezer unit in the Quarantine Room unless depositors have requested their return.

Testing of the audiovisual collections for vinegar syndrome is conducted on an ongoing basis. AIATSIS makes preservation copies of all materials in its Archives, which means there is always a safety copy of each item should the original be found to be deteriorating.

COLLECTIONS MANAGEMENT POLICY MANUAL

Audiovisual Archives staff have prepared a Collections Management Policy Manual, which incorporates policies governing acquisitions, registration, documentation, preservation, access and deaccessioning of archival audiovisual materials at AIATSIS, and a code of ethics.

The document also contains a Code of Ethics for the Audiovisual Archives staff, specifically relating to the care and management of audiovisual materials and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural materials. The Code of Ethics has been formally agreed upon by all Audiovisual Archives staff, who must adhere to its provisions. The manual brings together a range of documents recommended by the 2004 review of the Audiovisual Archives. The document will be made publicly available via the new AIATSIS website after endorsement by the Council.

Alliances with other organisations

KINETICA DOCUMENT DELIVERY

The Library is an active participant in the Kinetica Document Delivery system, an Internet-based system for inter-library lending and document delivery, managed by the National Library of Australia. All the Library's monograph and serial records are added to the database. This ensures wider access to printed materials on Australian Indigenous Studies for other Australian libraries and their clients.

PANDORA COMMUNITY WEBSITE

In 2004, the Library became the tenth Pandora partner. A main focus of the Library's selection policy is community websites. Pandora is an acronym for 'Preserving and Accessing Networked Documentary Resources of Australia.'

It is a collaborative online archive of websites and online publications, developed by the National Library of Australia, to ensure long-term access to selected Australian online publications and websites. Five sites have so far been archived. The Library will be increasing its commitment in 2005–06.

REGISTER OF AUSTRALIAN ARCHIVES AND MANUSCRIPTS (RAAM)

The Library contributes to the RAAM website <www.nla.gov.au/raam/>, a National Library of Australia guide to collections of personal papers and non-governmental organisation records held by Australian libraries and archives. While providing researchers with a convenient, centralised register of locations for primary research material, it does not provide detailed descriptions of the collections themselves. Rather, it alerts researchers to the existence of collections and enables them to pursue further inquiries about the material, either online or through direct contact with repositories.

WORK PLACEMENTS

A University of Canberra student, Ms Catherine Leddy, has undertaken work placement in the AIATSIS Library, working on projects including preparing a fact sheet on the Stolen Wages.

The Audiovisual Archives Unit hosted, as an intern, Ms Annie Doyle, an art history student from the Australian National University.

OTHER ALLIANCES

The Library is an active participant in the following organisations:

- Commonwealth Collecting Institutions Group
- ACT Sirsi Users Group
- Cross Agency Digitisation Forum
- Copyright in Cultural Institutions Group.

Conferences and seminars

Several AIATSIS staff attended the Libraries and Indigenous Knowledge Colloquium held at the State Library of New South Wales in December 2004. The AIATSIS Library has spent several months planning for a conference in August 2005—‘Deadly Directions: current and emerging trends in Libraries, Archives and Information Services for Indigenous knowledge’—that will bring together a wide range of people from organisations holding records of interest to Indigenous people and follow up on many issues discussed at the colloquium. The conference will also serve to further develop networks through the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Library and Information Research

Network (ATSILIRN) and promote their protocols <www.cdu.edu.au/library/protocol.htm>. These protocols are intended to guide libraries, archives and information services in appropriate ways to interact with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the communities that the organisations serve, and to handle materials with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander content.

Staff gave papers or presentations at the following conferences:

- Ms Joanne Taylor and Mr Rod Stroud, National Link-Up Forum
- Ms Rebecca Stubbs, SBS National Radio, Family history
- Mr Rod Stroud, Council of Australasian Archives and Records Authorities.

1965 Freedom Ride brought to life on the web

A Library online exhibition brings the 1965 Freedom Ride to life, with first hand accounts from the diary of one of the student participants, now Professor Ann Curthoys.

It was headline news: 29 students from the University of Sydney travelling 2,300 km by bus to investigate the plight of Indigenous Australians in rural and remote areas of New South Wales and southern Queensland. Two of the students were Aboriginal, one of them Charles Perkins, later head of the Department of Aboriginal Affairs.

The move was inspired by civil rights movement rides in the United States. The students wanted to interview Indigenous people about their living and working conditions, and to highlight instances of discrimination in the areas visited.

The Freedom Riders received a hostile reception in some areas where discrimination against Indigenous people was practically a way of life. Diary entries talk of people living crowded in tin sheds, with no running water or electricity, and denied access to businesses and to public facilities, such as swimming pools, on the grounds of their race. But the diary entries talk also of the successes of the Freedom Ride.

We went back to the hall, had tea, and then went off to the Memorial Hall for the public meeting we'd arranged. There were over 200 people there and at first the atmosphere was very hostile, with lots of jeering and interjection.



Jim Spigelman spoke first, about who we were and how we came to be there. Then John Powles, on the survey. Then Charlie. The questions were sometimes antagonistic but there were some very sympathetic ones too. Then a Mr Kelly got up and moved that the clause in the statute books about segregation in the swimming pool be removed. This was seconded by Bob Brown, and accepted 88 votes to 10. We were all thrilled to bits.

(Ann Curthoys, Diary entry, Moree)

Professor Curthoys recently deposited the research papers for her book *Freedom Ride: A Freedom Rider Remembers* (Sydney, Allen & Unwin, 2002) in the AIATSIS Library. Extracts from her diary and manuscript papers are featured in the online exhibitions area of the AIATSIS website.