Collection development and management

Highlights 2005–06

- Digitisation Program takes shape
- community consultation projects (Brewarrina and Cherbourg)
  help make connections
- seven new Indigenous traineeships initiated
- several major collections donated
- 'Deadly directions'—successful Library conference held in August 2005
- language and place name thesauri uploaded on the Institute's website

About the collections

One of the Institute's goals is to develop, maintain and preserve well-documented archives and collections, and to maximise access to these, particularly by Indigenous peoples, in keeping with appropriate cultural and ethical practices. AIATSIS works towards this goal through its Library and Audiovisual Archive (AVA).

The Library holds one of the most comprehensive collections of print materials on Australian Indigenous Studies in the world. The Library has adopted the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Protocols for Libraries, Archives and Information Services. It holds print materials in all formats. These include manuscript materials, serials, language materials, books, rare books, the records of organisations, art catalogues, newspapers and newspaper clippings, maps, posters and kits, microfilms and CD-ROMs.

Access to the Library collection is provided through a public reading room; Mura®, the collection catalogue; and inter-library loans.

The Audiovisual Archive holds the world's premier collection of moving image, recorded sound and photographic materials relating to Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and histories. Its vaults contain approximately 45,000 hours of recorded sound; 650,000 photographic images; 6,000 video titles; and approximately 6½ million feet of motion picture film. It also has a collection of around 1,000 artefacts and works of art. In total, the archive holds almost one million items.

The majority of items held in the Audiovisual Archive represent the primary results of field research funded by the Research Grants Program as well as historical and contemporary items deposited by individuals, families or organisations for safekeeping and appropriate access. The majority of the material—around 98 per cent—is unique and irreplaceable. It provides an invaluable link between past, present and future generations of Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians.

The role of the archive is to ensure the safety and longevity of the materials, and to constantly migrate the information onto the latest technologies so that the material remains accessible for future generations of Australians.

The Audiovisual Archive also offers the specialist services of the Access Unit, the Return of Materials to Indigenous Communities (ROMTIC) project, and archival training for Indigenous communities.

Collection management

Policies and documentation

The Library collects materials relating to Australian Indigenous Studies including published and unpublished materials. In 2005–06, the collection development policy was updated. It now incorporates digitisation and conservation policies and practices. The policy is available online at <www.aiatsis.gov.au/lbry/cllctns/collection_policy.pdf>.

Much work was done this year to improve the efficiency of audiovisual archival management. An archive-tracking spreadsheet was developed so that audio curators could see at a glance at their desks which collections needed to be digitised, auditioned and/or have finding aids generated.

A new collections management policy was developed as well as a code of ethics for Audiovisual Archive staff. All staff of the program signed the Code of Ethics, which requires them to adhere to international and AIATSIS-specific archival practices and cultural protocols. The Code of Ethics is published online at <www.aiatsis.gov.au/audiovisual_archives>.

The AVA Collections Management Unit adopted a revision to the Audiovisual Archive's Acquisition Policy in relation to the deposit of digital material. These changes, which focus on file naming and ordering conventions, were proposed in response to the increasing number of deposits containing a variety of digital files that are not organised in any logical way (for example, chronologically or by subject matter). Such deposits take staff many hours, sometimes days, to organise and prepare for preservation copying.

Staff concentrated on the large job of auditioning previously undocumented tapes held in the recorded sound collection. They began a stocktake of the archive's vinyl music records to ensure that each item was adequately stored, labelled and catalogued. Staff also began a stocktake of obsolete audiovisual recording and playback equipment.

The recorded sound project was completed during this reporting period. All corresponding Mura® collection records were updated, paper documentation was enhanced and detailed documentation was produced for future planning.

Staff also conducted a full inventory of all 13,000 AIATSIS audio preservation masters held in the vaults of the National Library. Each corresponding collection-level record on Mura® was updated to reflect the findings of the inventory.

Staff continued the ongoing work of cataloguing and assessing the photographic collections offered for deposit as well as oral history tapes created as part of the 'After 200 Years' project in the 1980s. The recordings are from Cherbourg, La Perouse, Brewarrina, Taree, Port Augusta, Perth, Leeton, Fitzroy Crossing, Minjilang, Ringers Soak, Robinvale, Malgawo and Kuranda, and have been largely inaccessible to the public until now. This material has been scheduled for digitisation and will then be more easily accessed.

Work is under way to amend 1,393 catalogue records of photographic collections to update hyperlinks to photographic caption lists on the new web server. All staff of the Collections Management Unit contributed to this project, which is scheduled for completion in 2006–07.

Work began on the enormous task of reorganising the film and video documentation files. Once all the information is in order, staff will begin work on updating catalogue records and physical holdings.

The AVA Collection management staff began investigating means of batch processing MS Word files to PDF format, and batch renaming files. This will streamline the printing of lists of deposited digital material and the reformatting and renaming of such items, when required.

The entire Artefact Collection has now been photographed, and the images added to the Artefact Collection database. This will greatly enhance the ease with which this collection is managed.

A video tape numbering schema was developed to identify and locate the new digital video masters being produced. All video and DVD material produced since the digital mastering project began was relabelled accordingly.

Institute cadets, Shannan Dodson and Danika Nayna, prepared a detailed inventory of the thousands of unregistered and undocumented photographs,

Online gateway for Indigenous studies

The AIATSIS catalogue, Mura® (available online at <http://mura.aiatsis.gov.au>), is the world's gateway to the Institute's collections, with more than 300,000 searchable records. It's also a major portal for staff and clients.

Mura® is an accessible resource for anyone researching Indigenous studies. It includes many valuable features, some unique to the Institute:

- indexes of individual journal articles and book chapters unavailable in other catalogues
- annotations, giving enhanced descriptions of many items
- an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Biographical Index (a personal name index to published material held in the Library)
- links to manuscript and audiovisual finding aids, and
- accurate and appropriate subject indexing using the AIATSIS thesauri.

The Library's in-depth cataloguing and terminology allows researchers to find items that may be held in other libraries catalogue—items that may not have been found in other searches.

Many of the Library's records on Mura® from 1992 onwards have been used to create the Indigenous Studies Bibliography database, available commercially from Informit at <www.informit.com.au>.

The Library's thesauri, another valuable resource, are constantly being updated and expanded and are available online for non-commercial use at <http://www1.aiatsis.gov.au/thesaurus/>.

The Institute encourages other libraries to use these to describe better their Indigenous collections.

videos and audio items in the ATSIC Collection. The collection was lodged with AIATSIS in April 2005.

Documentation of Library 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 provide a level of bibliographic access through Mura® that is unavailable from other library catalogues. Manuscript records are added to the Register of Australian Archives and Manuscripts (RAAM). Book and serials records are added to Libraries Australia, a free Internet-based service that provides access to the holdings of over 800 Australian libraries.

At 30 June 2006 there were 301,584 records in Mura®. In 2005–06, 847 analytics were added to Mura® and 657 annotations were added to book records. A new system for uploading catalogue records into Libraries Australia was tested successfully and resulted in productivity gains for cataloguing staff.

The Alice Moyle Collection, comprising sixty-six archival boxes of material relating to her work on ethnomusicology, were re-housed and an accompanying finding aid made available on the website. An online exhibition of a selection of materials from the collection is available at <www.aiatsis.gov.au/library/online_exhibitions>.

AIATSIS thesauri

The AIATSIS thesauri contain headings for language groups and people, subjects relating to Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander studies, and place names. These headings are used to describe all items held in Mura®.

The AIATSIS language and place thesauri were made available on the Institute's website in November 2005 after a year of editorial work, data checking and testing by many Library staff. The thesauri connect to Mura® allows automatic searches to be made from the selected heading. In 2005–06, all the place and language headings in Mura® were thoroughly checked for accuracy and consistency with the thesauri. Further work will be undertaken to address inconsistencies with materials published by other organisations.

AIATSIS promotes the usage of the thesauri by other libraries as a means of more appropriately describing their Indigenous collections. The thesauri should also be useful for Indigenous knowledge centres and keeping places. The full thesauri can be downloaded for non-commercial use from <www1.aiatsis.gov.au/thesaurus>. The subject thesaurus is currently being edited, and is scheduled for completion in 2006–07.

Acquisitions and donations

During the year, a total of 1,804 items were added to the Library collection. This includes 574 purchased items, 1,201 serial issues, and twenty-nine items acquired through the Research Grants Program. Purchases for the year cost a total of $71,425. A list of donations and gifts is at Appendix 4.

The Library's collections continued to grow substantially as a result of the continuing integration of collections from the former ATSIC Canberra Library and Hobart Office Library, and the Western Australian Department of Indigenous Affairs Library. Together with the Tom Austen Brown Collection and books received from the National Library of Australia, these added greatly to the collections and produced a backlog of material to process. The impact of collection growth on storage is constantly monitored.

Incorporation of items in the Tom Austen Brown Collection is an ongoing project. The Library catalogued 2,516 items from this collection over the financial year, bringing the number of items catalogued from the collection to a total of 7,340. Staff resources for this project are not expected to be available in 2006–07.

Priorities for the acquisition program included:
- 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.

The Library was able to acquire a rare copy of the *Voyage de découvertes aux terres australes,* by François Péron and CLD de Freycinet (Paris, L'imprimerie Impériale, 1807–1816). This is an account of the Baudin expedition to the Pacific from 1800 to 1804. The accompanying atlas contains a series of plates of, and related to, Tasmanian and New South Wales Aboriginal people, and in some cases identifies them by name. The work is highly prized for the accuracy and aesthetic qualities of the illustrations, some of which will be included in future online exhibitions.

Continuing progress was made in updating the database of manuscript depositors. This project aims to update details, modify access conditions and facilitate easier access by researchers.

During the year in review, 212 audiovisual collections—eighty-four audio, sixty-five photographic, and sixty-three film and video collections—were deposited, comprising around 20,000 items in all.

Staff filmed the Nakara—Indigenous natural healers from Western Australia—teaching traditional methods of healing at Royal Canberra Hospital. The film
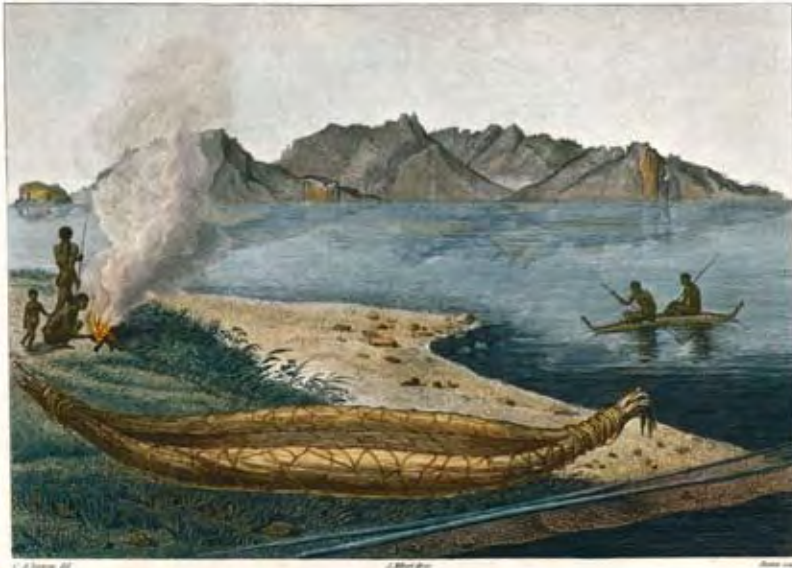
Lesueur CA and Fortier CF, 'Terre de Diemen, navigation, vue de la Cote Orientale de l'ille Schouten' in Peron F and Freycinet L, *Voyage de Découvertes aux Terres Australes*, Paris: De l'Imprimerie Imperiale, 1807–1817, plate XIV. Latukefu Collection, AIATSIS

will be used to train future medical students and will be deposited in the AIATSIS archive.

Negotiations are under way with the author, Dr WJ Peasley, concerning the existence and location of unedited footage from the documentary, *Last of the nomads.* The film tells the story of Warri and Yatungka of the Mandildjara people from the Gibson Desert, who married outside their tribal laws.

Important donations to the Institute during the year included:

- The papers of the late playwright, Jack Davis, including drafts of his plays, and the papers of Council member, Jackie Huggins, were donated. Finding aids for these valuable papers will be produced as soon as staff resources permit.
- Dr Betty Meehan deposited over 2,000 photographs from the personal archives of the late Emer. Professor Rhys Jones. This collection consists of images from archaeological sites and Indigenous communities where Professor Jones worked over three decades.
- Mrs Stanner donated another painting owned by her husband, the late Emer. Professor WEH (Bill) Stanner: *Two snakes*, 1959, by artist Nym Bandak.
- A bark painting by Nym Bandak was donated by Professor John Mulvaney.
- Ms Lillian Slade donated a collection of slides and papers collected by Mr HF Thomas. Subjects include canoe trees, artefacts, clay ovens, shell

Trust and intimacy seen in images

The challenges and rewards of anthropological research among Australian Indigenous peoples in the 1950s is brought to life in a collection of 135 photographs by Ruth Latukefu, donated to AIATSIS this year.

Ruth Latukefu (née Fink) began fieldwork in the Murchison–Gasgoyne region of Western Australia in 1955. Following the advice of Adrian Day, an administrator and welfare officer with the Western Australian Native Affairs Department, she started research among the camp people at Mullewa, where traditional practices and widespread use of the Wajarri language were still extant.

'Her initial research focused on recording the songs and traditions of the people before they were lost forever, but later shifted to interviewing people about contemporary concerns,' says David Jeffrey, Collections Manager. 'The rapport that Ruth Latukefu developed with the people is evident in the recordings and photographic portraits held by the Institute.'

The 135 photographs donated this year provide a valuable insight into camp life, housing conditions and recreational activities of the Wajarri people at different locations in the area, including Wooleen, Mullewa, Tarden and Yaloo. Scenes of Aboriginal men working in the pastoral industry are also featured, despite Ruth's having to contend with reluctant station owners suspicious of her motives.

It is the personal portraits of people, however, that are the most striking, and it is evident that Ruth Latukefu's down-to-earth, informal approach to her work was most successful.

'There is a level of trust, and indeed intimacy, apparent in many of these images,' says Di Hosking. 'Arguably it is this aspect that makes the collection so valuable, not only as a visual record of Australian anthropological research in the 1950s, but as a family record for the Wajarri people.'
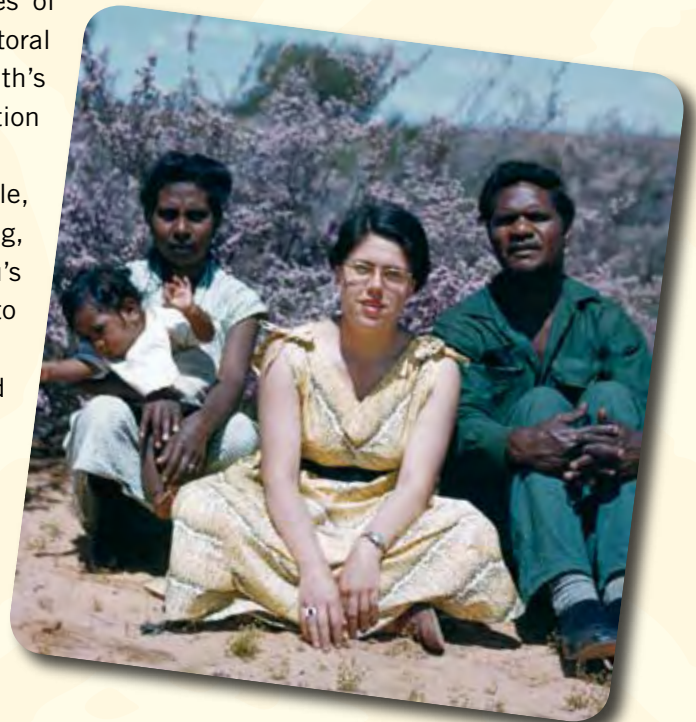
Researcher Ruth (Latukefu) Fink with Mallewa Camp residents Daphne Flanigan and child, and Tommie Phillips, 1955.

middens, sacred boards, human remains, ochre, burial grounds, and a flint mine.

- Two depositors donated glass slides of general scenes, individual portraits, missions and churches at various locations in the 1920s, as well as a collection taken by Ms Margaret Tuckson at Yirrkala in the late 1950s.

Preservation

AIATSIS houses materials to archival standards and collections are held in a secure temperature- and humidity-controlled storage space. Many new collections are initially housed in a specially equipped quarantine room for initial receipt and processing.

Audiovisual materials are delicate and vulnerable to deterioration from poor handling, climatic conditions and storage prior to lodgement as well as the natural chemical decomposition of the carriers on which the information is held. The archive undertakes conservation work on material in poor condition and makes preservation copies of each item to ensure its permanent accessibility. Each item must be researched, documented and catalogued for retrieval. Copyright, intellectual property and ethical cultural rights must be researched and negotiated. The archive's aims are to make the materials easily accessible according to ethical cultural protocols, respecting the rights of Indigenous peoples, and to educate the general public about Indigenous cultures and societies.

Conservation work was conducted on photographs taken by Dr Ruth Latukefu in the Murchison–Gasgoyne region between 1955 and 1957. This entailed removal of the transparency film from the deteriorating cardboard mounts and subsequent cleaning with ethanol. Conservation was undertaken on a kangaroo-skin cloak deposited by former AIATSIS Chairperson, Mr Ken Colbung. The cloak was worn by Mr Colbung when presenting a petition to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, at Government House, Perth, on 21 April 1988. A water colour by Ewald Namatjira, painted after the style of Albert Namatjira, received conservation treatment and has been reframed.

Testing for vinegar syndrome was conducted on three boxes of material in the AA Abbie Collection, stored in the rare books vault. Concerns were raised that the decomposing cellulose acetate material (which releases a vinegar smell) would contaminate surrounding collection material and get into the air conditioning system, thus 'infecting' material near the initial source of the decomposition. The strips recovered from the three boxes indicated that this collection had high levels of vinegar syndrome and early signs of decomposition. Accordingly, the material was quarantined.

Audio Archiving Services staff began work on a condition inventory of all recorded sound materials deposited in the last ten years that had not yet been scheduled for preservation copying. Of particular concern were fragile recent formats such as DAT, CD-ROM and poor-quality cassettes. Any materials found to be in poor condition, or thought to be in danger, will be added to the digitisation schedule.

The Library has engaged a conservator as part of the AIATSIS Digitisation Program (ADP). The conservator also provides assistance and advice to Audiovisual Archive staff. The ADP funding also allowed for modification to the conservation laboratory, which now has additional space to undertake conservation work.

The conservator began a review of disaster procedures and, as a result, a bulk store of materials that would be used in a major disaster is being set up.

The conservator provided expert advice to Link-Up caseworkers as a part of their family history-tracing workshops at AIATSIS. Advice was given on the preservation of documents and photographic records with specific reference to preservation products that are readily available at low cost. This information can be found online in a series of preservation fact sheets on the AIATSIS website.

The Snake Bay Settlement records were sent to a contract conservator for specialist treatment. The conservator worked on the treatment of several rare books purchased recently including John White's *Journal of a voyage to New South Wales* (1790).

In 2005–06, a total of 206 items were treated for conservation. Further information is available at online Appendices.

Digitisation

In May 2005, the Australian Government announced that it would allocate $13 million to AIATSIS over three years (2005–08) for the digitisation of a proportion of its film, video and audio collection and selected items from its paper-based collection. The AIATSIS Digitisation Program (ADP) was officially launched on 29 June 2006.

The ADP's goals are to

- provide better client access to primary research collections held by AIATSIS
- preserve a substantial proportion of vulnerable and deteriorating audiovisual materials
- create online exhibitions
- return materials to Indigenous individuals and originating communities

- undertake research and negotiation into the copyright, intellectual property and ethical cultural rights of the collections
- undertake community consultation projects, including production of a best practice handbook to assist agencies that need to undertake consultation with Indigenous communities.

Staffing

AIATSIS recruited over twenty new staff including seven Indigenous trainees to work on the ADP.

Extensive specialist training programs have been developed, including training on the Digitool software provided for the Digital Asset Management System (DAMS).

The Library Digitisation Unit lost most of its staff towards the end of 2004–05. A major recruitment exercise was undertaken in 2005–06 to fill vacant positions, with new staff requiring thorough training.

Infrastructure

Much of 2005–06 was spent developing the infrastructure required to undertake the scale of digitisation envisaged. This involved the selection and implementation of a digital asset management system, the upgrading of IT networks, and the acquisition and installation of over $3 million of technical equipment. The new technical equipment included a telecine transfer engine, an A1-size overhead scanner for the digitisation of maps and posters, a CD-ROM robot burner for the distribution of materials on CD-ROM and DVD-ROM, and an electronic film-winding machine. The telecine transfer engine, one of only two such machines in Canberra, allows AIATSIS to convert motion picture film into both digital betacam and betacam video. The electronic film-winding machine creates a tight machine wind, which is an essential preparation step before the film is placed on the film cleaner of the telecine machine. The Institute now boasts world-class digitisation facilities for all collections.

Substantial building works to accommodate this equipment were undertaken. The Audiovisual Archive area was completely redesigned to accommodate purpose-built audio, film, video and photographic rooms—the new area is now of the highest dust-free archival standard. The works include a new recording studio, which will allow recording of oral histories, language and songs from Indigenous visitors. Other possible uses of this studio in future may include a regular AIATSIS radio program for distribution to community radio stations.

Audiovisual traineeships – a big step forward

One of the most important and exciting outcomes of the digitisation funding provided to AIATSIS has been our ability to create traineeships in archiving, photography, film and video, and audio. The trainees introduce themselves:

Joanne Wood is a Wadyiginy woman from Darwin, Northern Territory. 'I was initially attracted to working with the Institute because of my interest in preserving Aboriginal culture and language generally as well as my mother's language and family history,' Joanne says. Her previous work experience includes desktop publishing at Batchelor College.

Bianca Peters comes from Brewarrina, a small country town in western New South Wales, and her language group is Ngemba. 'I'm a photographic trainee at AIATSIS, and hope to learn all the technology and software involved with the digitisation program,' she explains. 'Things like Adobe Photoshop and FlexColor, but also photographic restoration and black and white darkroom techniques. At the end of the traineeship I'd like to travel as a photographer both nationally and internationally, and hopefully exhibit my photographs.' Bee is already a talented photographer and her work has been exhibited in Sydney and Melbourne as well as Brewarrina.

Anna Ah-See is from Nanima Reserve in Wellington, New South Wales. She is a talented artist and has applied her newly-learned photographic skills as one of the official photographers for three recent important AIATSIS events. 'I'm a proud Wiradjuri Koori woman,' Anna says. 'My long-term goal in this traineeship, and for life in general, is to have a strong focus on education, so I can inspire other young Aboriginal people to take up opportunities like this one.'

Kerstin Styche is from the Wiradjuri mob, through her father's side of the family, and grew up in Canberra. 'I'm really excited to be a trainee here at AIATSIS and hope to achieve excellent training that can help me become a professional photographer,' says Kerstin. 'My special interests in this traineeship are digital photography and the use of Photoshop. Through working here at the Institute, I also hope to learn more about my culture.'

L-R Michael Weir, Adam Shipp, Kerstin Styche, Bianca Peters, Jo Wood, Anna Ah-See.

Michael Weir was born and raised in Queanbeyan, New South Wales, but belongs to the Wiradjuri country around Peak Hill, New South Wales. Michael says: 'I'm undertaking a traineeship as an audio technician. I've a strong interest in music production, so I hope to gain knowledge in this area as well as learn skills that can assist me in retrieving and preserving vital culture and family history information for other family members of the future.'

Adam Shipp is also a Wiradjuri man, who has lived in Canberra his whole life, but his country is around Dubbo in New South Wales. 'I've been working at AIATSIS for over a year but have just started a traineeship with the audio section,' Adam explains. 'I am very interested in performing and mixing music and hope to learn valuable skills in audio. I hope to be very competent in audio technology by the end of the traineeship, and have an even better understanding of my people's culture.'

Installation of the DAMS was completed during the year. When fully operational it will preserve, store, retrieve and provide access to collections digitised under the ADP. The DAMS will also connect to Mura® and other databases.

A new server to run Mura® was purchased and planning was initiated to migrate all the data and install the latest version of the Sirsi software early in 2006–07. This will improve the response time for clients searching Mura®.

Digitisation of collections

The Library's role in the ADP is to provide access to materials to communities, researchers, schools and the general public through the website and CD-ROM. ADP funding has allowed the Library to build on its past work and develop a program and supporting project plan that includes the themes of family history, language and Indigenous history. The Library has also been digitising the AIATSIS Council's minutes and other official records back to 1965.

As part of the ADP, the Library will be archiving a wide range of Indigenous websites and individual publications. ADP funding has enabled the Library to increase its commitment to PANDORA—Australia's Web Archive, managed by the National Library of Australia and its partner institutions. The Institute's Library became a formal PANDORA partner when AIATSIS signed a memorandum of understanding with the National Library. The Library will be able to use the copyright permissions already negotiated by the Attorney-General's Department for many other Australian Government agencies. This will save considerable time in obtaining permissions and will increase the productivity of staff archiving websites. Archived sites will also be catalogued in Mura® to provide enhanced access.

Audiovisual materials are selected for digitisation using criteria that include physical condition and age of the original material, rarity of the content, obsolescence, and level of demand.

Digitisation began of important photographic glass plates from the Basedow, Mitchell and Schomberg collections. Seventy glass plates and 15,063 photographic images were digitised.

By 30 June 2006, twenty-eight J-Format videos, 38,395 feet of Super 8 millimetre and 4,048 feet of 16 millimetre film footage had been transferred to digital betcam using the telecine machine. During the reporting period, 1,400 hours of audio recordings were digitised.

The Library Digitisation Unit scanned and preserved 14,525 digital files for preservation and access in 2005–06.

Rights management

Ninety-eight per cent of the audiovisual collection and 60 per cent of the print-based collection is unique unpublished material, which is lodged with AIATSIS under various conditions of deposit. Copyright holders must often be approached to give permission for access and copying of the material. In almost all cases the copyright is not held by Indigenous individuals or the communities of origin of the content of the materials.

In order to digitise the material and make it available to Indigenous peoples, copyright must be researched and negotiated. AIATSIS is also committed to ensuring the ethical and cultural property rights of the Indigenous peoples for whom we hold the materials in a custodial relationship. As part of the ADP, the aim of the rights management project is to contact copyright holders and relevant Indigenous individuals and communities to negotiate rights in the material and ascertain the most appropriate access to each item in the collection.

The project is progressing well and the AVA Rights Management Unit worked closely with Dr Jane Anderson of the Research Program and IPRIA to unravel the complex issues relating to the AIATSIS collections. In June 2006, the unit was drafting policy and a risk management strategy.

Some notable developments during the reporting period included the creation of copyright information sheets for use by Audiovisual Access Unit staff and an agreement with the New South Wales Department of Aboriginal Affairs (DAA) for improved access to the *Dawn*, *New Dawn* and Aboriginal Welfare Board photographic collections. Previously, permission had to be sought from DAA each time a client request was made, and there were sometimes delays of up to three months before copying approval was received. Under the new arrangements, AIATSIS is able to reproduce photos for people who feature in those photos or for their relatives. Agreements were also reached with Film Australia and Ronin Films for their commercial films to be screened to AIATSIS staff and visitors.

Professor Ad Borsboom visited to discuss his collections with regard to appropriate access and returning copies of audio materials to the relevant community at Maningrida. Professor Borsboom also agreed to provide captions for an as yet undocumented photographic collection.

Community consultation projects

The Audiovisual Archive is conducting an intensive three-year project with two communities—Brewarrina and Cherbourg.

These two communities were chosen for a number of reasons. Materials from Brewarrina and Cherbourg are strongly represented in the audiovisual collection. Brewarrina and Cherbourg were two of the twenty communities represented in the 1988 Bicentennial 'After 200 Years' photographic project undertaken by AIATSIS—a project that produced some 50,000 images from around Australia. Both Brewarrina and Cherbourg are centres to which Indigenous people from many areas were sent or settled. Both communities comprise people from many different language groups and represent extremely complex issues for community consultation and obtaining appropriate approvals.

The aims of the projects are to visit each community a number of times over three years and establish a relationship of trust between community members and AIATSIS. Materials from Brewarrina and Cherbourg held at AIATSIS have been digitised with the aim of returning copies of all materials to individuals and centres in both communities. Digital copies are being returned but many people have requested prints of photographs. Having the photographs digitised has enabled us to print the photos quickly and easily.

At 30 June 2006, project staff had visited Brewarrina three times and returned materials to the value of around $50,000, free of charge. We sat with one woman and her twenty-year-old son while she perused the photographs and discovered a photo of her son as a baby. She had never had a baby photo of him and was excited to receive one. Community members, Mr Brad Steadman and Ms Penny Johnson, facilitated our introduction to the Brewarrina community and with each visit we are reaching more and more of the Brewarrina Indigenous community. During the last project visit, 200 people accessed photographs. Audiovisual Archives staff made an initial visit to Cherbourg in February 2006 and further visits are planned for 2006–07.

Another aim of the project is to research the best and most effective methods of undertaking appropriate community consultation. The project's goal is to produce a best practice handbook to assist agencies that need to engage in sincere and appropriate consultation with Indigenous communities. This handbook will be especially useful for agencies wishing to consult communities like Brewarrina and Cherbourg, where identifying what the community actually consists of and who should be approached is a vexed issue.

Access

The Library is open to the general public for study and reference. Mura®, the AIATSIS online catalogue, includes bibliographic details of all catalogued AIATSIS collections materials. The AIATSIS Thesauri can be used to browse our

collections. The Audiovisual Archive is open to anyone who wishes to access and research audiovisual materials. Because of issues of space and equipment, appointments are necessary.

On-site access and copying of materials is provided in accordance with copyright provisions, and in accordance with conditions determined by depositors and donors in consultation with the collection management staff.

Assistance with access

Specialist reference staff provide information services to visitors and access to collections. Information on services and collections is regularly sent to Indigenous study centres and teaching units in the tertiary sector. The refurbishment of the Library, completed in June 2006, allows the provision of small group research facilities for clients within the Library.

During 2005–06, reference staff continued to produce bibliographies of the Library's holdings on individual Indigenous languages. The bibliographies have proved to be well used, with over 200 available on the AIATSIS website. They complement the other language resources added in 2005–06—the language thesaurus and the *Collectors of words* online exhibition.

The archive developed a new way of describing collections of recorded sound materials, which will enable clients to better evaluate the relevance to their research needs of certain recordings or parts of recordings. HTML finding aids will gradually be linked to Mura® collection records to provide an overview of each collection's history and structure, as well as a detailed outline of the contents, including timing points for segments featuring specific speakers, languages and places. The finding aids will be created in XML, allowing them to be presented in a variety of formats, including HTML; staff will only have to maintain the original XML document, avoiding duplication of work.

The Library began work incorporating 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 collection or to specific subject areas or specific works. The Mura® Manager has been investigating the options for linking Mura® with the software selected for the new Digital Asset Management System.

Mura® was accessed a total of 12,700 times during 2005–06, making a cumulative total of over 150,000 'hits' since it was first published. Down-time was less than 1 per cent.

Free copies of the *Dawn* and *New Dawn* CD-ROM continued to be distributed on request to Indigenous organisations. Access to these magazines has now

been increased with all of the CD-ROM content now available on the AIATSIS website. Mission magazines, *Our Aim* and *Australian Evangel*, are currently being digitised and many issues will be made available in 2006–07.

Indigenous Studies Centres in Australian universities were kept up to date on the Library's activities and its services to remote clients through regular mail-outs. The centres are a target group for the Library as potential long-term users of its services.

Statistics on access to library services are at online Appendices.

Community access and ROMTIC

During 2005–06, the decision was taken to make copies of film and video for access on DVD only, and no longer on VHS video format. This procedure has considerable benefits for storage and time management. However, the archive has retained the capacity to make VHS video copies for clients who require that format, as well as to produce client copies in international formats.

The demand for access to audiovisual material continued to increase almost beyond the resources available to service the requests. Despite being closed for a third of the year because of the risk to the collections from the dust of building refurbishments, the Audiovisual Access Unit received 544 requests.

The archive conducts the ROMTIC program through which copies of materials are returned to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander individuals and originating communities free of charge. During 2005–06, the archive returned materials with a production cost of over $70,000, double that returned in 2004–05 (see Figure 4).

Arthur Ridgeway and Abe Wright visit AIATSIS

Mr Arthur Ridgeway and Mr Abe Wright visited the Audiovisual Access Unit seeking language material relating to their respective countries (Anaiwan and Biripi). Over the years most of this language had been lost. After carrying out extensive searches of the audiovisual collection, they discovered that we held much relevant material including language elicitation, ceremonial material and spiritual stories relating to their country. Abe and Arthur became very emotional after their visit to AIATSIS and requested twenty CDs each for personal and family use. They hope to revive their language among extended family members. They have since remained in contact with the Access Unit and referred other clients to the Unit.
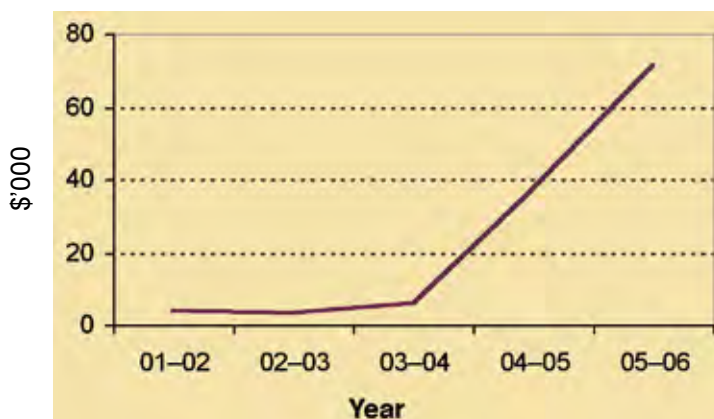
Figure 4: Value of audiovisual materials returned to Indigenous communities

Senior Australian of the Year

Dr Sally Goold, OAM was named Senior Australian of the Year in the 2006 Australia Day awards. Dr Goold was recognised for her nursing work with Indigenous Australians. A client requested early footage and images of nursing for use in a documentary on recipients of the Australia Day awards.

What's in a name?

The Audiovisual Access Unit received an urgent request from a young couple who wanted to give their baby a Guwamu or Mardigan name, these being two language groups with which the baby's father was associated. As the baby was three months old, still had no name and his birth needed to be registered immediately, the couple requested all the tapes of these two languages so that they could choose a name and know how to pronounce it properly by listening to the old people. The staff responded to this request as a high priority.

Family history tracing

AIATSIS has a Family History Unit (FHU) jointly funded with the Office of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health (OATSIH). The unit specifically assists Link-Up caseworkers in family tracing and reunion for Indigenous people who were removed. This is achieved through family tracing skills workshops and reference enquiry support. A family history skills workshop was delivered to Link-Up caseworkers in March 2006.

The unit also provides a general family history information service to Indigenous clients Australia-wide. This service is much valued by clients, many of whom live in regional and remote areas with limited access to resources and records. FHU staff attended a successful National Link-Up Forum in Sydney, convened by OATSIH, which set priorities and directions for family-tracing services.

The FHU also provides extensive web resources for Australian Indigenous family history research on the AIATSIS website. This site is rich in links and is constantly used by Link-Up caseworkers, libraries, archives and the public.

The backlog of family history enquiries carried over from 2004–05 remained constant, and was a persistent reality for the unit given the level of demand, available staff and the complexity of many enquiries. The absence of similar services in other states puts a disproportionate load on the unit.

Indexing for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Biographical Index (ABI) continued in 2005–06. Concerted efforts were made to ensure that the ABI was truly representative, with the Northern Territory given particular attention. A full list of titles indexed over the year in review is available on Mura®. The ABI also covers contemporary Australian Indigenous biography.

The Library Director was able to support the Western Australian Family Information Records Bureau to obtain funding from OATSIH to acquire a valuable records collection for Link-Up caseworkers. This highlights the strong connections that exist between the Family History Unit and record-holding organisations. The unit maintained these connections by attending the Aboriginal Family History Expo in Adelaide in July 2005; participating in the Special Interest Group, Indigenous Issues of the Australian Society of Archivists; and presenting papers at the Australasian Congress on Genealogy and Heraldry in Darwin in June 2006. Visits were also made to libraries and archives in all places where staff attended conferences.

A combined list of groups visiting the Library and the FHU is available on the AIATSIS website at <www.aiatsis.gov.au>.

Table 3: Family History Unit usage

Enquiries	551
Visitors	117
Link-Up training courses	1
1800 free calls received	2,404
Number of ABI records added during the financial year	3,641
Number of ABI records modified during the financial year	5,469

Indigenous Family History – all over Australia

Tracing your family tree—where do you start? For Indigenous Australians there is a ready source of assistance.

Word about the Institute's Family History Unit (FHU) has been spreading. Enhancements to the FHU's website have generated interest in the unit's services, publications and conference papers. Visit the site at (<www.aiatsis.gov.au/library/family_history_tracing>.

Australian Family Tree Connections magazine has run a special series on Indigenous genealogical research, and its February 2006 issue included articles by AIATSIS Family History Officers, Rebecca Stubbs and Rosemary Hotchkiss There has been good feedback on the articles. One highlighted the issues involved in tracing Indigenous family history. Another explained the way the FHU helps break down barriers to accessing information, and how the unit helps clients trace their Indigenous heritage. A brief outline of the major reference sources was also included.

In June 2006 Joanne Taylor and Rosemary Hotchkiss presented a paper, *Indigenous family history—issues, access and records*, at the 11th Australasian Congress on Genealogy and Heraldry in Darwin. The paper focused on the FHU, the records available to researchers interested in Indigenous genealogy, and the barriers to accessing these records. It also looked at positive steps being made by record-holding organisations and covered some of the major resources for Indigenous family history research, such as the Tindale Genealogies, Protection Board reports and the *Dawn* and *New Dawn* magazines. While in Darwin, the staff took the opportunity to visit the National Archives of Australia, the Northern Territory Archive Service and Karu Link-Up. Joanne and Rosemary also gave a lunchtime seminar to the Northern Territory Library Service on the FHU's services.

FHU officers, Rosemary Hotchkiss and Joanne Taylor, at the 11th Australasian Congress on Genealogy and Heraldry in Darwin, June 2006.

Exhibitions

WEH Stanner photographic exhibition

An exhibition of photographs taken by Professor WEH Stanner was developed by AVA Collection Management Unit staff and installed in the Rom Gallery and Mabo Room. This exhibition of fifteen black and white gelatin silver prints, from original negatives dating from 1932, required extensive research and many painstaking hours of darkroom work to produce the highest-quality photographic display ever held at AIATSIS. Significant assistance was received from Mrs Patricia Stanner and Mr Mark Crocombe of the Djomi Museum at Wadeye (Port Keats), who facilitated the consultation process with community members at Wadeye and Daly River.

Online exhibitions

In 2005–06, the Library created the following new online exhibitions:

- *To remove and protect: laws that changed Aboriginal lives:* This exhibition contains all state and territory legislation that enabled the forced removal of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children. It includes both specific laws and later general child-welfare laws. This exhibition will be a major resource for Indigenous history.
- *Collectors of words:* Initially this exhibition includes wordlists published in books by Robert Brough Smyth and Edward Curr. The exhibition will be added to in future to become a valuable language resource.
- *Musical connections: the life and work of Alice Marshall Moyle:* This online exhibition pays tribute to the life and career of the Australian ethnomusicologist, Alice Marshall Moyle (1908–2005), based on her manuscript collection deposited in the AIATSIS Library.

In 2006–07, the Library plans further online exhibitions on the annual reports of all state government protectors, and *Our Aim* and *Australian Evangel* mission magazines.

The online exhibitions have been very successful with around 1.4 million hits on all digitisation web pages. Home pages for the online exhibitions received 13,717 hits. Detailed statistics for online exhibitions are at online Appendices.

Conferences

The Library held a successful conference in August 2005, 'Deadly directions: current and emerging trends in libraries, archives and information services for Indigenous knowledge'. The conference brought together a wide range of people from organisations holding records of interest to Indigenous people. It also served to further develop the networks through the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Library and Information Research Network (ATSILIRN) and promote their protocols in providing library services to Indigenous people (available online at <www.cdu.edu.au/library/protocol.html>). The AIATSIS Library has proudly implemented these protocols.

Library staff gave presentations at a number of conferences, including the 4th International Indigenous Librarian's Forum (Canada, October 2005); Native American Protocols for American Libraries (Arizona, April 2006); and the Australasian Congress on Genealogy and Heraldry (Darwin, June 2006). Archive staff gave papers at the International Association of Sound and Audiovisual Archive Conference (Barcelona, September 2005); and the Ethics, Law and Intellectual Property Workshop (Melbourne, August 2005).

Strategic alliances

During 2005–06, the Library and the Audiovisual Archive fostered close working relationships with many important institutional partners. This section provides an indicative but not exhaustive outline of some of these collaborations.

The National Library of Australia was an important partner in the digitisation program, lending large sets of legislation, parliamentary papers and annual reports of government departments. The Audiovisual Archive worked closely with IPRIA at Melbourne University, providing expert advice and examples as input into the intellectual property guidelines and primer, specifically in relation to Indigenous collections. The Institute continued to work closely with the Australian Film Commission (AFC) and the National Film and Sound Archive (NFSA).

AIATSIS loaned a photograph album owned by artist Margaret Preston to the Art Gallery of New South Wales for a retrospective exhibition of her work. The exhibition will travel to several venues around Australia. The Institute also worked cooperatively with the National Gallery of Australia, providing images and loaning a work for the Michael Riley retrospective in 2006–07. Digitisation work began on a complete set of the Michael Riley 'After 200 Years' photographic proof sheets, in addition to other work in support of the exhibition.

Deadly Directions—building stronger library networks

The Library's collections and services were showcased at the Institute's Deadly Directions Conference in August 2005. Held at AIATSIS, the conference also provided an opportunity to promote the Institute's 2005–08 digitisation program.

Council member, Ms Jackie Huggins, and former Council member, Professor Martin Nakata, were speakers at the conference. Professor Nakata said: 'This was a significant event in the schedule to reinvigorate the Indigenous library network. The participation of the Indigenous New Zealand delegates was also beneficial to renew links across the Tasman, but also for early discussions in preparation for the Indigenous Librarian's Forum in Canada.'

Of particular note was a workshop on the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Library and Information Resource Network (ATSILIRN) protocols, facilitated by Dr Alex Byrne (<www.cdu.edu.au/library/protocol.html>). These protocols are intended to guide libraries, archives and information services in appropriate ways of dealing with Indigenous issues.

The protocols are a guide to good practice, and can now be interpreted and applied in the context of each organisation's mission, collections and client community. There was a well-rounded discussion on the protocols, including how issues such as digitisation and availability of audiovisual materials on the web can be incorporated into revised protocols.

The conference received excellent feedback from participants. It has further developed the Library's networks and promoted its collections and services. A follow-up conference, 2Deadly, will be held at the University of Technology, Sydney from 20 to 22 November 2006.

Deadly Directions Conference delegates in the AIATSIS Library, August 2005.

The Institute supported the Central Australian Aboriginal Media Association (CAAMA) by digitising some of CAAMA's recordings and receiving digital copies of several radio programs. The archive also supported the Australian Indigenous Leadership Centre (AILC) by providing photography services for significant events and graduation ceremonies.

The Institute actively participated in a number of leading institutional and professional bodies, including the Commonwealth Collecting Institutions Group, the ACT Sirsi Users Group, the Cross Agency Digitisation Forum, the Copyright in Cultural Institutions Group and the Digitisation Roundtable. The Library also maintained institutional memberships of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Library and Information Research Network (ATSILIRN), the Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA), the Australian Society of Archivists (ASA) and the Australian and New Zealand Society of Indexers (ANZSI).

Kinetica Document Delivery

The Library is an active participant in Kinetica Document Delivery, an Internet-based system for interlibrary lending and document delivery managed by the National Library. This ensures wider access to printed materials by other Australian libraries and their clients.

Register of Australian Archives and Manuscripts

The Library contributes to the RAAM website (<www.nla.gov.au/raam/>), a guide to collections of personal papers and non-governmental organisation records held by Australian libraries and archives. Many entries contain links to finding aids providing researchers with detailed information on these collections and referring them to where further enquiries can be made about the material, either online or through direct contact with libraries and archives.