OUTPUT 3 — CULTURAL COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT

HIGHLIGHTS

- The Principal presented a paper, 'Towards Universal Access – AIATSIS – An Australian Case Study' at the 2012 annual conference of the International Association of Sound and Audiovisual Archives (IASA) in Delhi, India.
- Stocktake of the Australian Indigenous Languages Collection completed.
- Implementation of the new international cataloguing guidelines, Resource Description and Access (RDA) for the Library and Audiovisual Archives collections.
- Upgrades of the Mura® catalogue and Library staff/client workflows software used to run the AIATSIS collections management system.
- Digitisation targets for audio and pictorial material were greatly exceeded in 2012–13 – a record-setting achievement for AIATSIS.
- Work started on developing a web presence for the audiovisual collection, to be launched in 2013–14.

COLLECTIONS DELIVERABLES

Deliverables output 3	Result
Implementing the strategic Collections Development and Management Plan	• Development of policy for print and audiovisual collections approved by the AIATSIS Council • Staff prepared to implement new cataloguing standards (RDA)
Digitising, preserving and conserving materials in the collections	• Library digitised 23,306 pages. • 41,166 audiovisual items digitally preserved to international standards
Maintaining dynamic collections through ongoing acquisition of materials and recording and documenting of contemporary events	• 88 new audiovisual collections donated • 122 manuscript items were accessioned • $106,561 spent on acquiring books, serials and rare books • 7,763 pictorial items accessioned – AVA staff recorded events, including lectures, exhibitions, program launches, group visits and donations (see Appendix 4)
Working to achieve the best possible value-added documentation, integration and appropriately negotiated access to the collections through the development of programs of copyright clearance and community consultation	• 1099 annotations to collection records created • 14,103 pictorial item level descriptions were created. • Audio collection inventories increased to 791
Providing accurate, relevant and informative material to Indigenous communities and the general public	• Documentation of the collection and creation of finding aids ensures high level information about the collections for the Indigenous community and the general public (see Appendix 5)
Monitoring growing demand	• Detailed statistics maintained to monitor growing demand • 53.8 per cent increase in new requests received by the AVA in 2012–13

COLLECTIONS KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Indicator	Result
Number of items archived for each of the media	• 35,676 pictorial items digitised to preservation master standard – a 4.4% increase on the previous year • 5,490 audio items digitised to preservation master Sealed BWF format standard • 52,260 feet of motion picture prepared and cleaned for telecine transfer • 150 hours of digital betacam transferred to digital files
Number of items acquired	• 122 manuscript items were accessioned into the Library's collections. • 1,700 items were added to the Library collection • $106,561 spent on acquiring books, serials and rare books
Numbers of person hours utilised to record events	• 102 hours recording AIATSIS seminars for web broadcast • 50 person hours of technical support to other AIATSIS events
Numbers of finding aids created on the website	• Finding aids created for 45 audio collections representing 740 hours of sound (see Appendix 5) • 241 collections now accessible through various web search engines • 163 pictorial collections caption lists created and uploaded to Mura®.
Numbers of access requests completed	• 393 requests were completed (696 new requests were received) in the AVA
Value of material returned to Indigenous people	• Materials to the value of $50,278 returned to Indigenous people
Number of visitors	• 67 clients visited the AVA

OVERVIEW

In a major initiative, AIATSIS conducted a stocktake of the Australian Indigenous Languages Collection to ensure that items in the collection are in the correct location and accessible. This project was an important team building exercise for the staff as well as maintaining, and preparing for digitisation a collection that was accepted onto the Australian Memory of the World register in 2009.

A project also commenced to implement new international cataloguing guidelines, Resource Description and Access (RDA) for AIATSIS across the Library and Audiovisual Archives collections. Upgrades were made to the Mura® catalogue and staff/client workflows management system software used to run the AIATSIS collections.

Digitisation targets for audio and pictorial material were greatly exceeded in 2012–13. A record output of more than 5,000 audio and 35,000 pictorial digital preservation masters were created.

Work began on developing a web presence for the audiovisual collection, to be launched in 2013–14. Staff have collected audio recordings and received written contributions from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clients about photographs, sound recordings and other items in the AIATSIS collection and are using these contributions to create

Scanning the highly combustible nitrate negatives was limited to 25–35 a day.

FRANCIS BIRTLES COLLECTION SAVED

A 20-year project to preserve the Francis Birtles collection of over 4,000 photographic negatives was completed in September. This rare and valuable collection of photographs dates back to the early 1920s which were taken by Birtles during his expeditions across Australia.

Preserving this large collection of nitrate negatives presented several difficulties, one being the volatile nature of the original material. A former dark room was used to take advantage of the large industrial extraction and ventilation system. Only 4–6 negatives at a time could be scanned, in order to prevent excess heat building up from the Creo scanner and risking combustion.

Birtles' exploits as a self-described explorer have been chronicled in various publications over the years, including Pedr Davis' book *Wheels Across Australia* and most recently Warren Brown's *Francis Birtles: Australian Adventurer*. Birtles was a prolific contributor to popular magazines of the time and many of the preserved images feature prominently in these articles.

A sizeable proportion of the images reflect Birtles' interest in the flora and fauna but there are some images featuring Birtles and the vehicles he used during his expeditions. There are also photos taken following his retirement from serious adventuring in the 1930s when he and his second wife Nea Birtles (nee McCutcheon) ventured to central and north Australia with a caravan.

Of particular note from an AIATSIS perspective are the 1,000-odd images of Aboriginal people and their activities, with housing, material culture, camp scenes and rock art. There are also many images relating to the pastoral industry which was heavily reliant on Aboriginal labour during that period.

The Francis Birtles collection was donated to the Institute by Nea Birtle's nephew, Max Peachey, in 1990. Apart from the negatives, there are over 1,000 black and white photographic prints, 100 glass plate negatives and 300 individual pieces of documentation – including published and unpublished articles, correspondence and hand written notes or lists prepared for his journeys. Sorting and conserving this material was undertaken at various stages over the past 20 years as resources permitted. Work is continuing to identify the unique photographic prints as many of the prints are reproductions from the glass plate and cellulose nitrate negatives now scanned. Once this is done, those prints will also be scanned. The focus will then shift to the accurate entry of descriptive metadata which will enable the entire collection to be accessible by AIATSIS clients.

The original glass plates, prints and documentation will continue to be held on-site at AIATSIS, however, the highly combustible cellulose nitrate negatives will be stored at the National Film and Sound Archive's nitrate storage facility at Mitchell.

Top: Francis Birtles with his dog 'Dinkum' after a successful buffalo hunt, Northern Territory, c1924. (AIATSIS Ref. Birtles.F14.BW-F00003063) Middle: Francis Birtles with a group of women and children, Central Australia, 1930s (AIATSIS Ref. Birtles.F14.BW-F00005038) Bottom: Francis Birtles pushing his bicycle through rough terrain, North Australia, c1914. (AIATSIS Ref. Birtles.F14.BW-F00003050).

'mini documentaries' up to five minutes long. The project allows clients to select collection material for wider distribution as well as the opportunity to provide invaluable background information.

ABOUT THE COLLECTIONS

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

The Library and AVA have adopted the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Protocols for Libraries, Archives and Information Services which set out appropriate ways to interact with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, and to handle related cultural materials.

The Library holds one of the most comprehensive collections of print materials on Australian Indigenous studies in the world. Print materials are in all formats including 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. The Library's collection can be accessed through a public reading room; Mura®, the online collections catalogue, the AIATSIS website and interlibrarys loans.

The AVA has custodial responsibility for the world's largest unique collection of Indigenous cultural heritage collection of audio, motion picture, video and pictorial materials. With over one million items, AIATSIS holds the world's most comprehensive collection of print, moving image, sound recordings and photographic materials relating to Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and histories. There are some 40,000 hours of audio recordings, 9,500 video titles, 630,000 photographic images, 830 titles or eight million feet of motion picture footage and approximately

16,000 cans of film. It also includes around 1,000 works of art and items of material culture. With the exception of around two per cent of published audio and video material, the AVA collection consists of unique primary source material.

COLLECTION MANAGEMENT

The Library and AVA management team have put measures in place to allocate resources to the largest and highest client demand media – audio and pictorial. Artwork and artefact collections currently receive minimal attention. This decision was taken to ensure the continued viability of digitisation of the most at risk and highest client demand media.

A total of 121 audiovisual collections were accessioned and catalogued on Mura®. These catalogue records provide sufficient information to facilitate access to audio, photographic and moving image materials held in the AVA. Access is further enhanced through the development of finding aids and caption lists.

In 2012–13 1,726 library items were acquired, accessioned and catalogued onto Mura® and 1,099 items were annotated providing enhanced access to the collection.

MURA®, the AIATSIS collections catalogue

Documentation of Library and AVA materials on Mura® is in accordance with standard bibliographic practices, and in line with Indigenous cultural practices. Value-added documentation includes selective annotations and use AIATSIS' specialist thesaurus terms to provide a unique level of bibliographic access through Mura® unavailable from other library catalogues.

The Library and AIATSIS IT staff undertook to move the full Mura® collections management system on to a new server. It was completed in August and will enable a new version of the software and mobile platforms for Mura®. A project has been undertaken to enable all cataloguing staff to be ready to adopt the new cataloguing standards, Resource Discovery and

The first image of a corroboree was published in this rare book in 1821.

RARE WALLIS WORK PURCHASED

In May 2013 AIATSIS purchased a copy of James Wallis' *An Historical Account of the Colony of New South Wales and its Dependent Settlements*. Published in London in 1821, the work is the first book of general Australian landscape views and includes the first image of a corroboree (pictured). Due to the value of the individual plates, it is very rare to find an intact copy. It was purchased from Douglas Stewart Fine Books, Melbourne.

Captain James Wallis of the 46th Regiment arrived in NSW in 1814 and in 1816 was appointed as the commandant of the settlement of Newcastle, which also served as prison for those convicted of secondary offences in the colony. Wallis was fortunate to have in his charge the highwayman, Walter Preston and painter, Joseph Lycett, both engravers of some talent who were incarcerated for forging the promissory notes which served as currency in the colony at the time. Preston was commissioned to engrave the 12 plates in the volume, most of which are based on Wallis' own sketches. Wallis is named as the artist on all but three of the plates which have been attributed to both Lycett and John Lewin. Following his return to England, Wallis arranged for the plates and caption notes to be printed and incorporated into a book of scenes by the specialist publisher Richard Ackerman. Ackerman added an anonymous 38 page account of the colony attributed to John Oxley with maps of the Hastings River and Port Macquarie also by Oxley.

The 'corrobboree' depicted in the book celebrated the visit of Governor Macquarie to Newcastle in 1818. For the occasion Wallis invited the local 'king' Burrigon (or Bauriejou as he spells the name) to provide the entertainment with 40 of his 'Newcastle tribe', all of whom were rewarded with rum and maize at the end of the evening. It is said that both the performers and audience were on fine terms. The scene was probably recorded, not by Wallis, but by Lycett whose painting of a corroboree at Newcastle is in the collections of the State Library of NSW.

Of further historical significance is the use of original portraits (which are now lost) to depict all of the principal figures including Burrigon who is the tall figure laughing to the left of the scene. He is described as 'a brave, expert fellow, who has lately presented Governor Macquarie with his eldest son, to be placed in the native institution, as proof of his confidence in British humanity'. By the end of 1820, Burrigon was dead, mortally wounded while trying to apprehend an escaped convict and his son, Wallis, was one of the children held in the soon to be abandoned Parramatta Native Institution.

The Wallis book was purchased as part of a long-term program to collect as many of the early (pre-Victorian) publications on Aboriginal Australia as possible. These are foundation documents for the study of Aboriginal Australia and often the first time Aboriginal people or events are depicted. They are contained in the Library's Rare Book collection which includes over 3,000 volumes representing 2.5 per cent of the Library's total holdings.

Access (RDA) in August 2013. This has involved significant staff training and reassessing protocols and processes.

ACQUISITIONS AND DONATIONS

The Institute appreciates donations of material from individuals and organisations. These donations add significantly to the Institute's collections. A list of major donations in 2012–13 is provided in Appendix 4.

Print materials

During the reporting period, a total of 1,726 items were added to the Library collections. This included 756 purchased items, 154 serial subscription renewals and 10 items acquired through the research grants program. Purchases for the year cost $106,561.

The Library's Collection Managers also surveyed the backlog of unprocessed manuscript and published items in the collections. It revealed backlogs of 191 shelf metres and 205 metres of material respectively, representing 10–15 years' work to be undertaken.

The Library has limited funds to purchase rare items. Items purchased in 2012–13 are listed in Appendix 4, but a highlight was a copy of James Wallis' *An Historical Account of the Colony of New South Wales and its Dependent Settlements* published in London in 1821, featured on p.91.

Audiovisual material

During the year, 88 collections were offered for deposit or donation to the Audiovisual Archive. A list of major donations is provided in Appendix 4. These collections included 16,215 photographic images, 210 audio recordings, 58 moving image items and 189 other items, including artworks and artefacts. Collection materials offered to the AVA were supplied in a variety of analogue and digital formats with subject matter dating from 1911 through to the present day. Of note was the DS Davidson collection.

Another major donation to the AVA was the Bill Lillicrapp collection. It comprised 15 photographs and accompanying journal entries donated by Margaret Lilly. The colour transparencies contain images of school children, elders and Aboriginal women from Elsey Station in 1972 and include Jabiru George, Chatford Paddy, Bill Lillicrapp, Maisie Lillicrapp and King Ginger. The photographs were taken by Bill Lillicrapp, former stockman from Elsey, who visited the station again 30 years later with his family.

Dr Amee Glass donated a pictorial record of hunting and gathering methods of the Ngaanyatjarra people of the Warburton Ranges, WA taken in 1979 by Isabel Buntine. The collection shows people finding and then digging for rabbits before gutting and cooking them. It also records people eating flowers of the corkwood tree, catching and eating honey ants as well as preparing and cooking goanna. Several of the photographs were also compiled into a reader for school children *Tjukurrpa Ngaanya Raapitaku Yankutja* which is available in the AIATSIS Library.

The AVA received another consignment of 191 crayon drawings collected by Stephen Wild and Melinda Hinkson at Lajamanu which draw upon influences seen in original drawings collected by Mervyn Meggitt in the same area in the 1950s.

PRESERVATION AND CONSERVATION

Print material

AIATSIS houses materials to archival standards, with collections held in secure, temperature- and humidity-controlled vaults. All new collection materials are assessed for insects and mould on arrival at AIATSIS and any suspect material is isolated in a specially-equipped quarantine room where it is inspected and treated before coming into contact with any other collection material. At times the material is frozen to ensure it does not carry unwanted guests into the vaults.
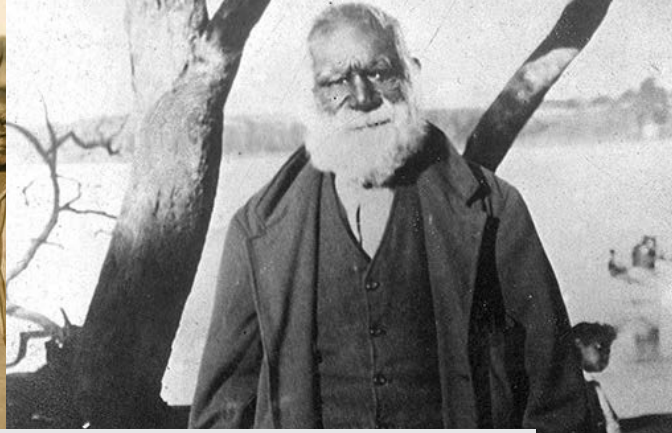
Left: DS Davidson, seated, shows photographs to men on Warrawagine Station, Western Australia.
Right: Lankey (Lanky) Manton of Swan Hill. Photographs gifted by Dr Ruth Gruhn.

DANIEL SUTHERLAND DAVIDSON COLLECTION

This rare collection of photographs donated to AIATSIS is of special significance to researchers and for communities in the Northern Territory and Western Australia.

The collection was donated in September by Dr Ruth Gruhn (Emeritus Professor, Department of Anthropology at the University of Alberta) who with her husband, Dr Alan Bryan, acquired Dr Davidson's collection following his death in 1952.

Davidson visited Australia in 1930–31 and 1938–40, to study collections of material and to conduct anthropological fieldwork. During the course of his work and study, Davidson produced approximately 40 publications on the life, culture and cultural group delineations of Australian Aboriginal people.

Photographs in the collection include those taken at Manbulloo and Elcho Island in the Northern Territory, and at Moola Bulla (marked Mulla Bulla), Yalgoo and Walga Rock in Western Australia.

The collection consists of 150 black and white negatives, 201 black and white photographic prints, 220 proof sheet images, 44 black and white copy negatives, 83 postcards and documentation. Although some negatives are kinked and some prints curled, the vast majority of the collection is in reasonable or good condition. The negatives have been tested and confirmed as cellulose nitrate film.

There are full body portraits, expedition shots, rock art, scenery, ceremonies, and material culture. Some portraits are believed to be of Davidson and other non-Aboriginal expedition members, while the vast majority are of Aboriginal people. One large staged portrait in excellent condition is of 'Lankey' Manton, who lived on the station at Coranderrk, Victoria, and is referred to in an article in the *Argus* on 8 April 1919. In this article, Lanky is quoted, 'They will never move me away [from Coranderrk to Lake Tyers] unless they shoot me', while on the verso of the print, it is written 'died Lake Tyers 1929'.

This collection contains rare material of historical and social significance, as well as potential research significance. Davidson made substantial contributions in the fields of anthropology, archeology and linguistics. His broad academic interests are reflected not only in the photographic component of this collection, but also the additional documentation which includes correspondence with Norman Tindale, Charles Mountford and other academics during his time in Australia. The association between Davidson and other notable anthropologists of the time enhances the significance of this collection. This collection will also contribute to the understanding of people and places that are the subjects of the photographs and increases the collections value for communities and groups today who may identify with people and places.

AIATSIS Council member Professor Sandy Toussaint and Digitisation Technician Colette Robinson discuss the digitisation of the Kaberry collection.

80 YEAR-OLD KABERRY FIELD NOTES DIGITISED FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

The digitisation of thousands of documents by the late anthropologist Phyllis Kaberry in 2012–13 will ensure that future generations of communities in the Kimberley can access this priceless archival collection. In March, AIATSIS completed the intricate task of digitising 3,000 pages of handwritten field notes, genealogies, letters and drawings gathered by Ms Kaberry during her work with Aboriginal groups in Australia's remote Kimberley region in 1933 –35.

Ms Kaberry was the first anthropologist of her time to work with Aboriginal women. In 1934, she received a research grant from the University of Sydney and spent almost two years travelling around the Kimberley travelling west to east, spending most of her time around Moola Bull near Halls Creek, Fitzroy Crossing, Forrest River, Turkey Creek, and some of the Dampier Land communities. Ten years after her death in 1977 in London, her extensive Australian field notes and genealogies were lodged for safe-keeping with AIATSIS.

Since Ms Kaberry's valuable materials have been lodged with AIATSIS, they have been cared for with the guidance from anthropologist and AIATSIS Council member and the collection's Australian trustee Professor Sandy Toussaint of the University of Western Australia. Access to the collection has been provided for Indigenous families who visit Canberra, including members of the Gooniyandi, Walmajarri, Bunuba, Nyul Nyul and Nyikina groups. Professor Toussaint said researchers working in the cross-disciplinary fields of native title, land claims, family history and Aboriginal Studies had also made extensive use Ms Kaberry's research. Her book *Aboriginal Woman Sacred and Profane*, first published in 1939, was republished in 2003. The digitisation project took six months to complete.

The Library was unable to fund a conservator position for 2012–13. Treatments for materials either to be digitised or collection items needing restoration are now placed in a backlog. Only the most basic treatments by other Library staff were undertaken in 2012–13. A conservator was temporarily appointed at the end of the financial year to undertake survey work to ensure the workflow of materials to the digitisation program could continue.

The Library's collection management staff completed a major survey which listed the collections that are at risk to 2015 and require digitisation. Materials are selected from this list for digitisation.

Audiovisual material

The AVA houses materials to archival standards with collections held in secure temperature and humidity controlled vaults according to international standards for each respective type of media. The vaults are constantly monitored for correct climactic conditions. Audio and video materials are housed at 16 degrees Celcsius and 35 per cent relative humidity, motion picture and pictorial materials are stored at 5 degrees Celsius and 35 per cent relative humidity and works of art and material culture are housed at 22 degrees Celsius and 50 per cent relative humidity.

Often audio and video recordings have suffered from hydrolisation and require 'baking' in an archival oven at a low temperature, sometimes for many days, to drive out the moisture and stabilise them so they can be played and digitally transferred. It is often the case that these tapes can only be played once due to their deteriorated physical condition.

All new collection materials are assessed for insects, mould and dust on arrival at AIATSIS and any suspect material is isolated and treated in a specially equipped quarantine room to ensure that the collections are not contaminated.

The audio inventory project is progressing as staff resources permit. There are now detailed inventories for 791 audio collections.

The majority of collections 'yet to be archived' have now been inventoried, while new collections are inventoried as they are accessioned.

AIATSIS digitisation program 2012–13

The AVA has assessed all materials in its huge collection and prioritised materials based on select criteria such as material format, equipment required, condition, age, rarity, value and demand. Audiovisual materials at risk are categorised in the digitisation priority schedule from priority 1–5. In 2012–13 there was about four years of work in digitising items assessed as priority 1.

AVA digitisation project

Pictorial

- 35,676 items digitised to Preservation Master standard (43 per cent above annual target).

- 67,996 preservation and access master files were quality checked (36 percent above target).

- Collection level records for 68 pictorial collections were created on the catalogue (13 per cent above target).

- 163 caption lists were created (552 per cent above target).

- 14,103 item level descriptions were created (370 per cent above target).

- 7,763 individual photographs were accessioned into the collection (29 per cent above target).

Audio

One notable collection comprises approximately 200 hours of audio recordings by DM Mununggurr. Mr Mununggurr was a member of AIATSIS and one of the twelve signatories of the Yirrkala Bark Petitions which were a defining moment in the history of the land rights movement and the focus of NAIDOC celebrations and an associated AIATSIS online exhibition in 2013. The recordings include songs and stories in Yolngu Matha from Galiwin'ku (Elcho Island).

Top: Ginger Dick Khan, Daisy Crombie, Cath Ellis, Sally White, Iain Hercus, Luise Hercus, and Mick McLean in Port Augusta, SA in August 1968. Mick was a member of the Wangkangurru people and was born near Pirlakaya Well, Simpson Desert, SA. The recordings Dr Hercuse researched with Mick McLean included Wangkangurru, Southern Arrernte and Arabana.
Bottom: Dr Luise Hercus and Native Title Access Officer Grace Koch discuss the collection.

LUISE HERCUS COLLECTION

Dr Luise Hercus began working independently in 1962 to document Australian Aboriginal languages, many of which were endangered. Her original fields of study at Oxford University were modern European languages and Sanskrit . Now in her 80s, Dr Hercus is a Visiting Fellow at the ANU and a long-term member of AIATSIS. She has published numerous grammars, dictionaries and texts and continues to do fieldwork in the north of South Australia and adjacent areas of New South Wales and Queensland. In 1969, the (then) Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies published her classic, encyclopaedic survey on the languages of Victoria. In 1986, she and Peter Sutton edited the ground-breaking volume *This is What Happened*, which was the first book of contact history containing narratives in Aboriginal languages.

AIATSIS holds over 1,000 recordings made by Dr Hercus, most of which contain the only recorded sound of many languages of Queensland, South Australia, Victoria and New South Wales. These recordings are in high demand and are used extensively by Aboriginal people who are working to revive their languages and songs as well as to support native title claims. The collection contains 40 Aboriginal languages which are endangered or no longer spoken including Arabana, Birladapa, Diyari, Kuyani, Madhi Madhi, Malyangapa, Ngarigu, Wangkangurru, Wergaia, Wirangu, Yardliyawarra, Yarluyandi.

We are proud that in 2012 the Luise Hercus collection was accepted onto the National Recorded Sound Registry, administered by the National Film and Sound Archive. The nominated recordings (sounds) are assessed by a panel of experts from the recorded sound industry and cultural institutions against a set of criteria, one of which is that recordings are assessed on their cultural, historical and aesthetic significance and relevance, and how they inform or reflect life in Australia.

Dr Hercus' recordings are highly valued in communities because she viewed language as a part of a culture so she always recorded song, story and history as well, providing valuable context. Welcoming their inclusion on the registry, Dr Hercus said the collection is more than just recordings of rare and endangered Aboriginal languages. There were stories, songs and interpretations of traditional country—people's connections with the landscapes and culture. 'The recordings are an important part of our heritage and identity,' she said.

Dr Hercus had long-lasting relationships with exceptional people such as Mick (Irinyili) McLean (c.1888–1976) who was a member of the Wangkangurru people and born near Pirlakaya Well, Simpson Desert, South Australia. His main interest lay in the songs, stories and totemic geography of the people of the northern Lake Eyre basin. With marked perseverance and against considerable odds, he acquired a vast store of traditional knowledge from the few remaining Aboriginal 'clever men'. Dr Hercus also undertook a significant amount of work on Paakantyi (Darling River Region of NSW) speaking to elders including Granny Moisey, Elsie Jones and Gertie Johnson.

Dr Hercus' collection featured in a set of interviews with Grace Koch for Radio Australia, the National Indigenous Radio Service, and ABC television. The significance of the Hercus collection was recognised when it was chosen as one of the ten most important sets of recordings for the 2012 Sounds of Australia registry created by the National Film and Sound Archive.

- 5,490 Master Preservation files in sealed BWF format. This is an increase of 167 per cent over the previous financial year, an incredible achievement as there were fewer staff engaged in the work. This result was made possible by years of groundwork in which improvements to workflows and equipment were made.

- 55 audio files created for client requests. Although this is 77 per cent lower than last year, numbers are expected to continue to drop in coming years as Access Unit staff are now able to make copies of most digitised material without the assistance of an audio technician.

- 50 person hours of technical support provided to AIATSIS. This is a decrease of 38 per cent over the previous financial year.

Moving image

Due to funding constraints, the Moving Image collection operated in a very limited capacity with emphasis placed on undertaking a de-accessioning project to remove commercially available titles and off-air recordings from the collection in order to concentrate resources on high priority unique holdings. The senior technician has also been working on the re-mastering of the AIATSIS film titles for re-release through Ronin Films which has attracted much interest, especially from educational institutions.

Notwithstanding these limitations, the following preservation work was undertaken by the Senior Moving Image Technician in 2012/13:

- 52,260 feet prepared and cleaned for telecine transfer
- 63 hours of video was transferred to digital betacam
- 150 hours of digital betacam transferred to digital files
- 102 hours preparing and filming the 2013 seminar series
- 39 DVDs made for Access clients
- 15 items assessed for registration
- 48,680 feet of film prepared and cleaned for telecine transfer

- 46 hours of video was transferred to digital betacam
- 84 hours of digital betacam transferred to digital files.

Library Priority Manuscript Digitisation project

The AIATSIS Library Priority Manuscript Digitisation project includes approximately 191,000 pages of unique material from the Library collections. These vary widely in size, format and condition. Some of these materials require the attention of a paper conservator and/or an archivist prior to digitisation to ensure that they are in a suitable condition and state of organisation prior to digitisation. These items have been selected as priority for digitisation on the basis of their uniqueness, content value and access demand. Manuscript digitisation from this priority list is now focused on the larger manuscript collections – those upwards of 3,000 pages – the smaller items on the list having been completed.

- Total number of manuscripts digitised: 28 of the 45 identified as priority items.
- Total percentage of priority manuscripts completed: 62 per cent.
- Total number of manuscript pages digitised in 2012–13 Financial Year: 23,306.

Manuscripts digitised (whole or in part) – by name

MS 845 – WEH Stanner, Fitzmaurice River notebooks

MS 3752 – WEH Stanner field notebooks (series 3 and 4)

MS 2368 – Olive Pink papers, notebooks and correspondence

MS 739 – Phyllis Kaberry notebooks

MS 4129 – Prof Les Hiatt Field notes and notebooks
MS 4721 – Prof Jon Altman papers – faded thermofax materials

MS 3848 – *Forget About Flinders: A Yanyuwa atlas of the South West Gulf of Carpentaria*

In addition, MS 1746 – the field notes of the linguist, Carl von Brandenstein, were digitised in full (1,669 pages) using funds from the Native Title Research Unit due to their value as historical sources for the preparation of several native title claims in the Pilbara.

Scoping has also been completed regarding the digitisation of the following large manuscript collections:

- MS 3718 – Joe McGinness Papers – 5,500 pages
- MS 2483 – Aurukun Diaries and papers of the Rev Bill and Mrs Geraldine MacKenzie – 3,480 pages
- MS 3759 – Federal Council for the Advancement of Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders papers pre-digitisation survey commenced – approx. 7,500 pages
- MS 4167 – Barrie Dexter papers – pre-digitisation survey commenced – approx. 31,000 pages.

Digitisation for client service

Total digital files supplied for internal and external clients: 7,923 files.

FINDING AIDS

The Library had no permanent capacity in 2012–13 to document its collections of personal or private papers of individuals or organisations. Some collections have been processed as part of the AIATSIS digitisation program. This includes the substantial collection received from Professor Jon Altman which documents much of the work of the Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research (CAEPR), ANU. This work which commenced in 2011–12 continued into 2012–13 with the limited funding available, and is now approximately 75 per cent completed.

Finding aids were created for 45 audio collections, representing approximately 740 hours of sound. This brings the total number of finding aids up to 449. Audio finding aids offer a significant improvement on the level of documentation of sound recordings, which were

once only searchable in aggregate collections via Mura®. There are now 241 finding aids that can be directly accessed through various web search engines and clients are no longer reliant on the catalogue to find material. A complete list of audio finding aids produced in 2012–13 is provided in Appendix 5.

Caption lists were created for 163 photographic collections comprising 14,103 individual images. Each image is described detailing information such as date and place taken, subject matter and names of individuals appearing in the photograph. These caption lists are available as html files through a link on the catalogue records on Mura®.

Noteworthy collections described at this level include a large number of photographs deposited by Kim Akerman which document various aspects of daily life in the Kimberley during his fieldwork in the 1970–80s. An enormous range of subject material is covered by the collections—some of the highlights include: a step-by-step 'how-to' guide for making a gooseneck spearthrower ('warimirri'); an extensive pictorial record of a 'kurrirr kurrir' ceremony at Warmun (Turkey Creek); shots of a red ochre quarry on the Fitzroy River; and aerial photography of various Kimberley landscapes. The collections also record some important events, including the inaugural meeting of the Kimberley Land Council in Noonkanbah in May 1978.

AIATSIS Library collections websites

The AIATSIS Library digitisation team also contributes to the accessibility of content through the development of collection-based websites. With the support of Library collections staff, websites are developed around selected digitised content known to be of interest to many Library client groups.

Left: A selection of the diaries and notebooks from the Olive Pink collection.
Right: Botanic Gardens seed collection envelopes labelled in Olive Pink's handwriting.
Photographs by Gerald Preiss.

OLIVE PINK COLLECTION DIGITISATION PROJECT

Olive Pink is a significant historical figure renowned for her eccentricity and her vocal defence of Aboriginal interests in the face of legal and political injustice. Born 1884 in Hobart, she is particularly well-known and remembered for her work in Central Australia with Warlpiri and Arrernte people. She lived in a humble shack in Alice Springs for many decades on land that is now the Olive Pink Botanic Gardens, Alice Springs. She died intestate in 1975.

Ms Pink is a noteworthy figure in the history of Australian anthropology. She studied under Professor A P Elkin at the University of Sydney in the 1930s and conducted research with Warlpiri and Arrernte peoples under his supervision. During her early career, she published various research papers which continue to be used by anthropologists working in the area today. However, she wrote many more that were never published following a fall out with the academic establishment over the publication of secret/sacred information. Her decision to lock away her research notes for 50 years in order to protect restricted material alienated her from her colleagues and effectively ended her anthropological career.

Although she was never to return to anthropological research, Ms Pink generated a substantial body of work during her lifetime until her death at the age of 95. She was a prolific letter writer and wrote many articles for publication in the press and frequently wrote to politicians and public officials, drawing attention to perceived injustices and demanding action to improve Aboriginal people's living conditions.

Many of Ms Pink's papers were deposited with the (then) Australian Institute for Aboriginal Studies by her friend, Glen Hewitt, in 1977.

In the absence of a will, the management of this collection has been a complex and at times controversial responsibility for AIATSIS. Many of the issues around ownership and access have now been resolved, but further research with Arrernte and Warlpiri people on Pink's manuscripts is required to establish which items may need to be restricted for cultural reasons.

Many of the items contained in this significant collection will be of interest to researchers, Warlpiri and Arrernte people and the general public. Items include documents such as letters to Aboriginal friends, correspondence with public officials and institutions, transcripts of broadcasts, maps and drawings, word lists, press clippings, and notes from court cases involving Aboriginal people she attended in Alice Springs.

Due to the unique and unpublished nature of this collection, AIATSIS decided that there were strong claims for it to be included on the list of manuscript items scheduled as a priority for digitisation.

The papers include 13 archive boxes and approximately 14,833 pages of material comprising diaries, notebooks, manuscripts, letters, sketches and charts as well as published materials such as press clippings, maps and pamphlets.
This collection even includes items as diverse as envelopes of dried native plant seeds labelled in Olive Pink's own handwriting. At the end of the 2012–13 financial year, approximately 64 per cent (9,455 pages) of the collection has been digitised and the remainder is to be completed in 2013–14.

Table 4: Website statistics.

Site page	Page views	% of total
AIATSIS (whole site)	1,261,936	100%
Library online collections –(21 in number)	293,628	23.3%

The *Good Yarns* website, a new web collection showcasing the writings of Indigenous authors held in the AIATSIS Library was completed in December 2012: http://www.aiatsis.gov.au/collections/exhibitions/goodyarns/goodyarns.html

The *Freedom Ride* website was updated in February 2013 to commemorate the 48th anniversary of the original Freedom Ride in February 1965. The site was expanded to include new resources such as both transcripts and scans of Ann Curthoys Freedom Ride diary (MS4186 – AIATSIS Library collections): http://www.aiatsis.gov.au/collections/exhibitions/freedomride/start.html

In February 2013 the *We Say Sorry* website was redesigned and updated to commemorate the fifth anniversary of Prime Minister Kevin Rudd's apology to Australia's Indigenous peoples: http://www.aiatsis.gov.au/collections/exhibitions/apology/home.html

The *Indigenous Australians at War* website was redesigned and updated in April 2013 and launched prior to ANZAC Day. As well as hosting Garth O'Connell's ground-breaking and popular website, the expanded and updated website now includes an illustrated reading list from the Boer War to the present time, information which can assist clients with researching their family's military history, a section on Women and War and a selection of interesting links to further online resources: http://www.aiatsis.gov.au/collections/exhibitions/iaaw/home.html

An additional 21 PDF issues of the Koori Mail newspaper have been received from the Koori Mail offices and added to the AIATSIS Koori Mail online archive. This updates the online archive to Edition 550, of May 1, 2013: http://www.aiatsis.gov.au/koorimail/index.html

The AIATSIS NAIDOC posters website was updated to include the winning NAIDOC poster design for 2013. In conjunction with this, digitisation staff mounted the annual display of historic NAIDOC posters in the AIATSIS foyer, displaying posters from 1972 – 2013: http://www.aiatsis.gov.au/collections/exhibitions/naidoc/index.html

A draft new design for the AIATSIS Library general website was developed, the intent to refocus upon the AIATSIS collections and information about how they may be accessed. A web accessibility survey of the Library and Online Collections sites has been completed and some remediation commenced to comply with Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG). An in-house web accessibility training course has been developed and sessions delivered for AIATSIS staff.

TECHNICAL INNOVATION

Best practice audio archiving: maintaining networks with international experts

Digitising audio materials is a complex undertaking. Keeping up-to-date with standards and processes is crucial to the success of the AVA. This is partly achieved through membership to professional organisations such as the International Association of Sound and Audiovisual Archives and the Australasian Sound Recordings Association, who publish journals and guidelines, but it often requires more direct contact between archives. Organisations communicate regularly to solve immediate problems resulting from fast changes in technology and the pressing need to digitise analogue recordings before they become unplayable due to deterioration or obsolescence of playback equipment.

The AVA must not only archive and preserve the collection materials, but also the playback equipment for the many different formats on which the material was recorded. AIATSIS holds materials recorded on 31 different formats.

Electronic Engineers maintain and repair the analogue equipment, now obsolete, required to playback material so it can be accessed or digitised, often manufacturing spare parts themselves if they can no longer be sourced. During the last financial year the engineering workshop continued to maintain the full range of equipment used by the AVA program and made modifications to the building systems and equipment, including continued day-to-day maintenance and testing of equipment and planning within the Engineering workshop.

Audiovisual Archive strategic plan, review of digitisation

The AVA has developed a strategic innovative technologies plan. A key component of this approach has been the development of a strategic roadmap that identifies projects and initiatives that are aligned with the goals defined in the Institute's Business Plan.

A review of the Digital Preservation Policy is currently underway with the objective of ensuring the alignment of digital preservation with the AIATSIS Business Plan. The review will identify and document policy outcomes to guide and support the Institute's digitisation program. It will include updating of international standards for digitisation of audio, pictorial, moving image, print and artefacts. It will describe how the Open Archives Information Systems (OAIS) framework will be adopted as a best practice model, and the implementation of the Preservation Metadata: Implementation Strategies (PREMIS) standard for preservation metadata.

AVA has embarked upon the creation of a website to provide the public with access to audiovisual materials and will feature interviews with community members who have used the Archive to gain access to items of family and

cultural significance. An updated website, with access to rich media and social networking capabilities will be released in 2014 to coincide with the AIATSIS 50th anniversary.

An improved Digital Asset Management System (DAMS) has been identified as a key mechanism for streamlining work flows and the management of the digital archive. The AVA is deploying software and services that will deliver efficient and sophisticated content management capabilities. DAMS will integrate with the AIATSIS web presence and provide appropriately controlled access to content for Indigenous communities around the country. The first phase of the project will involve developing the workflow services to support the AVA Access Unit, with the objective of automating as much of the internal processes as possible.

The AVA's digital infrastructure is being reviewed to ensure that software, hardware and supporting infrastructure is up-to-date and providing the capabilities required to support digitisation and access programs. Specifically, reviews are being undertaken of the storage and permissions environment in conjunction with the DAMS project. Other initiatives include the standardisation of technical platforms, the review and enhancement of the Access unit's community access visit technology, and a review of the AVA's Local Area Network infrastructure.