

Copyright and cultural institutions

Digitising collections in public museums, galleries and libraries

A recent initiative of Museums Australia has been rewarded with a significant grant from the Australian Research Council.

The Centre for Media and Communications Law at The University of Melbourne is directing this project, which is a collaboration between six industry partners.

toria, Museum Victoria, the Australian War Memorial, the Australian Centre for the Moving Image and the National Museum of Australia.

The project will have two significant outcomes: first, the production of detailed guidelines for all cultural institutions to facilitate digitisation and the appropriate management of copyright. The second outcome will be a deeper understanding of Australian cultural institutions and their practices within copyright law and policy.

This nationally significant project will investigate copyright law in practice; namely, the digitisation practices in cultural institutions. Cultural institutions play a central role in maintaining the balance between copyright owners' rights and the public interest in access to copyright material. The research from this project will assist cultural institutions with this challenge.

For more information see the Museums Australia website <http://www.museumsaustralia.org.au>. ■

President of Museums Australia, Ms Carol Scott said that the project combines significant policy concerns about digital copyright with the needs of cultural institutions to develop better management practices for digitisation.

Museums Australia will work with six diverse institutions from the collection sector: the Art Gallery of New South Wales, the State Library of Vic-

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