



Senator Rod Kemp, chair of Cultural Ministers Council, and Minister for the Arts and Sport in the Australian Government, launching the Collections Council of Australia Ltd. With him on the podium are (l-r) Margaret Birtley (CEO, Collections Council), Sue Natrass (Chair, Collections Council) and guest speaker Andy Muirhead, host of the ABC TV program 'Collectors'

Collections Council of Australia Ltd launched

Launched on 26 September 2005, the Collections Council of Australia Ltd works for the stability and sustainability of the collections sector across Australia. It will provide a forum to resolve common issues, improve standards and procedures, and promote the value of the sector and the challenges it faces.

Contact details and for further information: Collections Council of Australia Limited, PO Box 263, Rundle Mall, SA 5000, ph 08 8207 7287, info@collectionscouncil.com.au, <http://www.collectionscouncil.com.au/>.



(Front, l-r) Kristen Thornton, Lea Carter and Julie Wood from the Deakin University Library, with (back row) Pennie Stoyles (Scienceworks) and Steve Eather (Victoria Police Museum)

PictureNSW

How much digitising of images is occurring in public libraries in New South Wales? How can the quality of digital resources be maintained? These two issues are tackled by a pioneering pictorial project in New South Wales.

PictureNSW, a project of the State Library of New South Wales, aimed to gather information about the local studies collections held in New South Wales public libraries and develop guidelines for digital image and metadata creation.

Stage one was an audit of local studies collections housed by a council or on the premises of a public library. It was undertaken by Swinburne Library Information Service (SLIS) and Practico Pty Ltd. Public library staff from across the state responded to surveys, participated in focus groups and several are members of the Project Steering Committee

The survey covered digitisation and metadata creation, software and policies. All 99 NSW public library services provided detailed responses. The results of the audit and the consultants' report are available on the State Library website at: <http://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/localhistory/>.

Stage two, using the same consultants, resulted in *Digital practice: guidelines for digitising images in NSW public libraries* (available online at <http://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/pls/publications/pdf/digital.pdf>) which is likely to become an essential tool for local studies collections in New South Wales.

Both stages of this project were funded by the Office of Information and Communication Technology, NSW Department of Commerce.

Digital practice was endorsed by the Library Council of New South Wales in June 2005 and will be used as a basis for the assessment of digitisation projects submitted for Library Development Grant funding. The Library Council also recommended the guidelines to NSW public libraries as a planning framework for digital image and metadata creation. Digital practice provides advice and direction for public libraries in New South Wales, and, we hope, will also assist cultural institutions across the nation to adopt consistent standards and practices as they develop online access to their unique photographic and other holdings.

Ellen Forsyth, State Library of NSW

Increased demand for digitising skills

The increasing number of preservation and access projects in library collections all over Australia has

increased demand for the specialised IT skills used in digitising. In response, Blended Learning International (BLI) has customised its Certificate IV in Information Technology (IT) (Multimedia) to meet the needs of cultural institutions, with the primary focus on training in the processes involved in digitising cultural assets.

A DVD is being developed by BLI that sets out the digitisation process, based in the main on work done at the National Library of Australia. The DVD includes training information and a virtual tour of the National Library's digitisation section. For more information, go to <http://blendedlearning.com.au/>.

Attention ALIA PD members... remember to keep a record as you go of PD activities you undertake so that it will not be an onerous task to get all

your paperwork together when you are selected for audit. ALIA doesn't accredit PD courses or activities, but there are a number of PD opportunities mentioned in *inCite*: for example, if you embark on the Certificate IV in Information Technology (IT)(Multimedia), a course offered by a private accredited tertiary institution, you can allocate 30 points per subject per semester, 60 points maximum per year in the 'Tertiary Courses' category. Reviewing a LIM-relevant DVD fits into the 'Informal learning activities' category as 'Self-paced learning', gaining 1 point per hour, 30 points maximum per year. Still unsure? Look at the Summary of activities table <http://alia.org.au/members-only/education/pd/userguide/activities/html?realm=10> or contact ALIA's PD officer (cpd@alia.org.au) for more information.

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