

AUTHORS FIND INSPIRATION IN THE ARCHIVES

Finding a need, some library and information professionals joined forces with local authors to present a how to, alongside a why do, on archival researching for writers.

The past is full of amazing stories and archives and libraries house the historic, the unlikely and the just plain fascinating. The spark for the *Once upon an Archive* event was lit when an archivist and a writer met at a party and chatted about their mutual love for finding stories amongst the archives. The idea gained momentum and another writer, a researcher, and a librarian were recruited to the team.

The scope was to create an event for writers of fiction and creative non-fiction that highlighted the value of archival research and the specific collections of a variety of libraries and archives. The goal was to enable writers to access collections with confidence and provide opportunity for speakers to lift the lid on the incredibly rich and diverse collections that they work with every day; ultimately unlocking these collections and inspiring the audience of writers.

The sold-out event was held in the University of Adelaide's Barr Smith Library on Saturday 20 October 2018. Writer Hannah Kent launched proceedings with her evocative tales of 'following the breadcrumbs' in archives and finding inspiration for her novels. It was a beautiful contemplation on archival research. The audience learned that research is 'treasure hunting' and requires trust to surrender to the journey.



Authors Helen Dinmore and Hannah Kent @HannahFKent



Amy Dale, Migration Museum @amydale and Sara King, eRSA @sarasking

Author Danielle Clode beguiled the packed room with tales of the herbarium library and the joys of serendipitous discovery, and John Emerson, publisher at The University of Adelaide Press gave practical advice around copyright and publishing.

There were four panels, hosting experts from a range of areas and these panellists shared their stories with the audience. We heard about a disrobed angry taxidermist mounting a moose; someone being shot by their own camel; Winston Churchill's platypus; Ballets Russes; the hidden histories of the LGBTQI in South Australia; the white slave trade; the sexism of archival records; the lost mail from the Titanic; the power of objects and identity; and so much more.

The story of this event is one about the power of collaboration and partnership. Bridging gaps between GLAMR sectors shows how they can better and more efficiently work together for shared impact. Libraries and archives strive to achieve best practice in the planning and delivery of resources and this event acknowledged the intersections between these industries whilst embracing the professional diversity. *Once upon an Archive* had benefits for all—writers, agencies and practitioners. 🙌

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