

INTRODUCTION



Information technologies and Indigenous communities

From the Guest Editors, Lyndon Ormond-Parker ^a and Aaron Corn ^b

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This special issue of articles emerged from presentations delivered at the 2017 Information Technologies and Indigenous Communities (ITIC) Symposium, which was convened by Dr Lyndon Ormond-Parker for the Australian Society of Archivists (ASA) in conjunction with the 2017 ASA Annual Conference at the University of Melbourne. It was also held in conjunction with the 16th Symposium on Indigenous Music and Dance of the National Recording Project for Indigenous Performance in Australia (NRPIPA) convened by Professor Aaron Corn.

The first ITIC Symposium was hosted by the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS) in Canberra in 2010. A Statement on Key Issues documented the many innovative engagements of Indigenous Australians with the information technologies sector, and recorded the benefits arising from their increased participation with digital media and the digital economy. These uses of media and technology have become increasingly important in nurturing the intergenerational transmission of languages and culture, and developing new industry approaches.

This ITIC special issue features many fascinating and informative essays. The 2017 ITIC Symposium focused on technological advances and new linkages in archives, collections and Indigenous knowledges. It highlighted Indigenous engagements with archives and information technologies in native title, education, heritage, languages, mapping, performance and broadcasting. This special issue captures highlights from among its presentations that span insights into building and maintaining Indigenous resources in public and community archives, investigations of attendant policy and preservation concerns, and explorations of fresh approaches to representing Indigenous knowledges through collections. Also presented here are reviews of two recent books that have built significantly on research into archived Indigenous resources.

We hope that this special issue offers readers useful insights into the ways that Indigenous community needs and engagements with information technologies are working to transform archives.

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Coordinator), and Kathryn Dan and Katherine Howard (2017 ASA Annual Conference Convenors). Finally, thank-you to all our authors in this special issue, and to everyone who attended and presented at the 2017 ITIC Symposium for your valuable contributions.

The 2017 ITIC Symposium was dedicated to the late Joseph Neparrŋa Gumbula from northeast Arnhem Land, who worked to research his own family and community history in archives and other collections worldwide, and significantly enriched international understandings of Indigenous heritage resources. The ASA and the University of Melbourne Chancellery Engagement team sponsored three members of Gumbula's close family, Pamela Gawura Ganambarr, Farrah Gumbula and Michael Mungula Gaykamaŋu, to attend and participate in the ITIC Symposium. The ASA also sponsored travel from Paris for our keynote speaker, Dr Jessica De Healy Largy. A special issue devoted to Gumbula's scholarly contributions and legacy has recently been published in *Preservation, Digital Technology and Culture* (volume 47, issue 3–4).

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