



# **Play it Forward:** Sustainability in a Time of Rapid Change

**ASRA – Australasian Sound Recordings Association Conference**

In association with AICCM - Australian Institute for  
the Conservation of Cultural Material Digital and  
Audiovisual Heritage Special Interest Group (Electron)

**18 - 20 November 2015**

**State Library of New South Wales  
Macquarie St, Sydney NSW**

**[asra.asn.au](http://asra.asn.au)**

**[aiccm.org.au](http://aiccm.org.au)**

**WEDNESDAY 18 NOVEMBER**  
**ASRA/AICCM TECHNICAL DAY**  
**Metcalfe Auditorium, State Library of New South Wales**

9.00 – 9.30  
**Registration**

Theatre Foyer

9.30 – 9.45

**Welcome**

**Matthew Davies**  
ASRA President

9.45 – 10:30  
**Session 1 -  
Papers**

**Dr Perfectionist: or How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Quantity**

With time running out to copy large audio visual collections from bygone formats, how can we best make use of the time that's left? The State Library of NSW recently undertook a project to digitise 5000+ hours of audio on a variety of tape formats in a 3 month period. This presentation will discuss the quality assurance strategies put in place to ensure this project delivered both quality and quantity.

**Damien Cassidy**  
State Library of  
NSW

**Stop. Rewind << Then Hit Play >**

We have had a complete studio refit. This paper will look at how we did it - the funding, plans, 3D models, and lots of photos from the studio rebuild. Plus some of our recent projects with media that is teetering on the edge of obsolescence, how the projects are helping with succession planning and where we are at with our current digitising goals.

**Peter Kolomitsev,**  
State Library of  
South Australia

10.30 – 11.00  
**Morning Tea**

11.00 – 12.30  
**Session 2 -  
AICCM Panel  
One**

**Professional Education and the Preservation of Audio Heritage: Crisis and Opportunity?**

Panel chair: Gerald Preiss, Preservation Digitisation Manager - Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies.

There are many voices those in the Audio world have heard recently around - the digital deluge, a digital dark age and an impending 2025 'deadline' for Ferromagnetic tape materials. This panel discussion is to share information regarding ongoing and emerging issues – and more importantly, to identify the current opportunities for ongoing education, professional development and progress in the preservation of audio and audiovisual heritage.

Perspectives from professionals in government cultural agencies, tertiary training providers, private sector industry, conservation professionals, ASRA members and conference attendees.

Presented by AICCM - Australian Institute for the Conservation of Cultural Material Digital and Audiovisual Heritage Special Interest Group (Electron)

Speakers:

**Dr Sigrid McCausland**  
Senior Lecturer,  
School of  
Information  
Studies, Charles  
Sturt University

**Mick Newnham**  
Manager,  
Conservation &  
Research -  
National Film and  
Sound Archive

**Sarah-Jane Rennie**  
Head Collections  
Care - Sydney  
Living Museums

**Bruce Tulloch**  
Managing Director,  
Bitscope

12.30 – 1:30  
**Lunch**

1:30 – 3:00  
**Session 3 -  
AICCM Panel  
Two**

**Super-Abilities: Sustainability of the Arts, Culture and Collections**

Panel chair: Somaya Langley, Digital Curation Specialist - State Library of New South Wales.

All it has taken is one budget shake-up to rattle the independent Australian arts sector to its core. What are the flow-on effects for the future of Australian arts and culture, particularly institutions that comprehensively collect across this sector? With potentially diminishing funds, what are the responsibilities for artists and creators to ensure the archive-ability of their works? This discussion will consider possible approaches and mechanisms we can put in place to support flourishing arts practices and diversity in our collections.

Presented by AICCM - Australian Institute for the Conservation of Cultural Material Digital and Audiovisual Heritage Special Interest Group (Electron)

Speakers:

**Nicole Canham**  
Artistic Director/  
Clarinettist, PhD  
candidate,  
Queensland  
University

**Clare Cooper**  
Designer/Harpist,  
PhD candidate,  
Macquarie  
University

**Dr Melanie  
Swalwell**  
ARC Future  
Fellow, Associate  
Professor,  
Department of  
Screen and Media,  
Flinders University

3.00 – 3:30  
**Afternoon Tea**

3:30 – 4:30  
**Session 4**

**The Analogue Imperative Panel - 2025**

Speakers:

**Matthew Davies**  
National Film and  
Sound Archive

**Robyn Gamble**  
National Archives  
of Australia

**Kevin Bradley**  
National Library of  
Australia

**THURSDAY 19 NOVEMBER**  
**Metcalfe Auditorium, State Library of New South Wales**

9.00 – 9.30  
**Registration**

Theatre Foyer

9.15 – 9.30

Welcome

9.30 – 10:30  
**Session 1**

**Keynote Speech**

**John Davis**  
 CEO - Australian Music  
 Centre

10.30 – 11.00  
**Morning Tea**

11.00 – 12.30  
**Session 2 -  
 Papers**

**Harps to Hunger Strikes: 100 Years of the Irish National  
 Association**

**Dr Siobhán McHugh**  
 Senior Lecturer, School  
 of Journalism -  
 University of  
 Wollongong

**Spats and the Bubble Cut: A Centennial for Billy Williams –  
 Enduring Australian Recording Superstar**

**Dr Jeff Brownrigg**  
 Australian National  
 University

**“To My Dear Mother” – The Story of the Lanser Disc**

Part 1 By Jennifer Selby - The history of a shellac disc (letter home from 1st World War from Henry Miller Lanser to his family), will talk about the service and story of Henry Miller Lanser. The disc is the only example (known) of its' kind from the 1st World War.

Part 2 By Lenny Preston – The restoration of the Audio which involved making brand new Vinyl copies of the damaged disc from a metal stamper.

**Jennifer Selby and  
 Lenny Preston**  
 Australian War Memorial

12.30 – 1.30  
**Lunch**

1.30 – 3.00  
**Session 3 -  
 Papers**

**More For All: Increasing Capacity and Capability in Audio  
 Digitisation at NFSA**

Increasing capacity for digitisation is an important strategy to address the urgent need to digitise analogue audio holdings. The NFSA is introducing new workflows including CEDAR batch processing, multiple ingest and multi-track ingest to increase our capacity for audio digitisation. This paper looks at the planning, purchasing and implementation of systems to support these new workflows, and the initial experience of their implementation. Issues considered include sustainability of multi-track playback, implementation of user driven batch presets for multiple files, and Quality Control in multiple ingest workflows.

**Ross Garrett**  
 National Film and Sound  
 Archive

**New Technology, New-Old Issues: Adventures in Creating, Using,  
 Delivering and Archiving a Digital Oral History Collection**

**Kevin Bradley**  
 National Library of  
 Australia

**So Many Variants: Risk Management - Extending the Life of  
 Audiovisual Formats Through Collection Analysis and Storage  
 Planning**

**Belinda Hennessey**  
 National Archives of  
 Australia

3.00 – 3.15  
**Afternoon Tea**

3.15 – 4.45  
**Session 4 -  
 Site Visit**

Visit to SLNSW Reading Rooms, Exhibitions and Digitisation & Imaging

7.00  
**Dinner**

**Eastbank, Circular Quay**  
 Ground Level, Quay Grand 61-69 Macquarie St, Sydney NSW 2000

**FRIDAY 20 NOVEMBER**  
**Metcalfe Auditorium, State Library of New South Wales**

9.00 – 9.30  
**Registration**

9.30 – 10.30

ASRA Annual General Meeting

10.30 – 11.00  
**Morning Tea**

11.00 – 12.30  
Session 1 -  
Papers

**Replayed**

In 2015, the ANU School of Music celebrates its 50th Anniversary in providing world-class music education. 'RePlayed' addresses the documentation of that prestigious history. The School of Music houses an archive of performance recital tape recordings spanning 50 years. 'RePlayed' consolidates the School's links with the National Film and Sound Archive, bringing together music, sound, education and archiving expertise into a collaborative venture that aims to begin the digitisation of the School's performance history. The project feeds into a specialist Under/Postgraduate course whereby students will gain practical, hands-on experience of archiving and the creation of an open-source, online repository.

**Dr Samantha Bennett**  
Senior Lecturer, School  
of Music, Australian  
National University

**Matthew Davies**  
National Film and  
Sound Archive

**Managing Radio Content in a Hybrid Broadcast Environment**

**Janelle Mikkelsen &  
Jon Steiner**  
Australian Broadcasting  
Corporation

**Jane Paterson**  
Australian Screen Sound Guild

12.30 – 1.30  
**Lunch**

1.30 – 3.00  
Session 2 -  
Papers

**Beyond the Wire, Behind the Garage - the War Memorial's Oral  
History & Portrait Commission**

The War Memorial's portrait and oral history commission is a project unique in the history of the Memorial. Undertaken over a period of nearly two years, the project sought to gain an unprecedented level of insight into the Australian military, or rather, the lives and experiences of current serving men and women of today's defence forces, by interviewing and photographing them before, during, and after their respective deployments overseas. The resulting body of work comprises several hundred photographs and over 60 hours of recorded interview, which were recorded on military bases both at home and overseas, and in domestic residences all around Australia. Stephanie Boyle, who was one of the two interviewers involved, will discuss the experience and the process of the project.

**Stephanie Boyle**  
Australian War Memorial

### **Australians at War Oral History Digitisation: Current Transcription Practices and Emerging Technologies**

Recently DAMsmart digitised 11,000 hours of war veteran interviews from all major conflicts in Australian modern history. In addition, DAMsmart created and delivered a Media Asset Management system populated with the digitised records for delivery to the Australian Defence Force Academy. The commissioned system tailored by DAMsmart brings together existing information and oral history transcription data into one media rich asset management system. In this presentation Andrew Martin will explore the digitisation process, challenges and achievements in building a turnkey media/archive system, and explore new technologies that will open up the search and find capabilities of media archives.

**Andrew Martin**  
DAMsmart

### **Making Oral History Meaningful to the Community**

The practice of curating oral histories lags behind the practice of creating them” (MacKay, 2007, p.22). Current oral history practice tends to focus on the act of doing and accumulating historical data rather than producing audible, publically accessible, historical artefacts. Treated as written material within archives oral history’s unique contribution to public memory has been left untapped (Frisch, 2004, p.111). This paper explores two potential benefits of integrating audio practices from the fields of sound media and sound art.

**Clare Andreallo**  
PhD candidate,  
University of Canberra

3.00 – 3.15

**Closing  
Remarks**

**Richard Neville**

Mitchell Librarian & Director, Education & Scholarship - State Library of NSW

3.15 – 3.45

**Afternoon Tea  
& Networking**

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

Registration	Registration will be open from 9am at the entrance to the Metcalfe Auditorium
Morning & afternoon tea	Morning and afternoon teas will be held in the Macquarie Room (adjacent to the Metcalfe Auditorium)
Where to have lunch?	There are a number of local options for lunch. The State Library has a café at the entrance to the auditorium. There are also many cafes and restaurants within walking distance of the library.
Conference dinner	Dinner will be held at Eastbank, Circular Quay at 7pm on Thursday. (Ground Level, Quay Grand 61-69 Macquarie St, Sydney)