Digitisation Update – June 2021

The ANU Library Digitisation Team are continuing to digitise rare and special materials from the ANU Library and ANU Archives.

The first half of 2021 has been a productive and busy period for the Digitisation team, with many projects having been carried over from 2020 when access to scanning facilities was limited due to the pandemic.

Staff have spent a considerable amount of time this year catching up on scanning the processed materials and creating the necessary metadata which allows for discovery of the newest digital resources.

More information about the digitisation procedure is available at the ANU Policy Library.
Main Projects

Sydney Stock Exchange Share Lists Transcription

The Sydney Stock Exchange project has finished the initial transcription phase. During this Tim Sherratt has created a dataset including stock and share company names and some prices through the use of Textract, an Amazon machine learning service, to extract text and data from documents. Later in the year, seminars and consultations will occur with academics to get feedback on the data. The next phase will involve cleaning and adding share price data to the dataset.

Xu Dishan website

A portal to showcase, and provide better access to, the Xu Dishan collection is underway. The website will include details about the acquisition of the collection; the contributors; and subject information. This portal will provide greater access to this important collection of rare editions and sacred books. Academics in Renmin University of China and the ANU Australian Centre on China in the World are keen to access these works for their study of Chinese literature, history and philosophy.
As part of the 75th anniversary of the Australian National University, campus planning resources were digitised and uploaded to Open Research in 2021. They contain architectural drawings and reports relating to the design and development of the University's Acton Campus, dating from the 1950s to 1990s.

Maps and Plans

ANU Archives holds many thousands of 19th and 20th century maps showing details of Australian pastoral stations, mining leases and general topography, as well as plans of factories, equipment and structures on stations including woolsheds. These records have been used for heritage assessment, to trace indigenous land use, stock routes, construction and in aboriginal family history research. As of May 2021, the project is completed, with 3464 files having been digitised and uploaded to Open Research.
Tooth and Co. Photographs

One of the most requested collections in the ANU Archives; the Tooth and Company Ltd. project contains images of hotel exteriors, interiors, maps and building plans; signage and advertisements; and people that worked for the company. Tooth and Co. hotels are found throughout NSW, with many locations residing in the Greater Sydney and Newcastle regions. The collection has almost 5,000 records in Open Research and has proven to be a valuable resource with over 269,000 visits to the site so far this year.
The ANU Visitor's Guides were originally booklets, but were eventually issued as leaflets in which a campus map is the dominant feature.

Within this collection there are also brochures about artworks, buildings and flora that can be found on campus. The guides range from early 1970s through to late 1990s. The guides and booklets provide information and show changes to the campus over time.
Staff War Service Cards, Tooth and Company Ltd.

Separate from the Tooth and Co photographs, a collection of almost 400 employees’ war service cards has been digitised. They contain information regarding an employee’s enlistment dates, date of birth and details relating to any injuries sustained, loss of life or capture by enemy forces.

Within the collection are records which relate to the care packages that were sent to the enlisted men by the Tooth Company; many including items such as cigarettes, biscuits and Vegemite.
Smaller Projects

Statistical Handbooks and Bulletins

This collection contains 36 volumes of ANU statistical material, 11 bulletins and 25 handbooks, with coverage starting from 1971. Data in these handbooks contains statistical information on University students, staff and finances – produced by the Planning Unit.

David Lake Correspondence Papers

David Lake was an Indian-Born writer, poet and critic who moved to Brisbane in 1967 where he studied at the University of Queensland. This collection of 35 typed and handwritten letters (often with annotations) date from the 1960s to the 1990s and includes correspondence with Robert Graves; A.D. Hope; Judith Wright; Kingsley Amis; Gore Vidal; John Manifold; Dimitris Tsaloumas; and Robert Brissenden. 79 files making up the 35 letters and their annotations were uploaded to Open Research.
Australian Agricultural Company Newsletters

The Australian Agricultural Company (AACo) operated in four major NSW locations during the nineteenth century – Port Stephens, Tamworth, Quirindi, and Newcastle – and later in Queensland and Northern Australia. Its interests expanded to include wool; wheat; cattle; coal; and land sales.

The AACo staff newsletters provide annual updates on the company, including detailed summaries from many of their pastoral stations across Australia.

Mumbulla Spiritual Contact

The Gubbo Ted Thomas, Research School of Pacific Studies.
The This large format photographic essay explains the significance of Mumbulla Mountain to the Yuin people; including a copy of the petition requesting protection for the site and the preservation of the Yuin peoples cultural practices.
Education for what?

Education for what? : A report on the findings of the British Solomon Islands Protectorate Educational Policy Review Committee, Solomon Islands. This paper was authored by James L O Tedder, and published by the Solomon Islands Education Department in 1973.