It takes a village: Addressing the big digital challenges for Australia’s remote Aboriginal audiovisual archives
I explore issues of remote community archives as big data and how remoteness and inequality impacts on preservation of community languages, history and culture. I explore how information technology decisions about hardware, networks and software; data management for specific purposes such as digital archives and access; and data governance as a community responsibility impacts on digital data longevity in remote communities.
This lighting talk will present progress on a current ARC-funded research project *Aboriginal Remote Narrowcast TV and the Audiovisual Archive* (2018-2021) which is investigating the world’s best practices in community digital TV narrowcast and contemporary methods for the long-term storage of both digital and analog audiovisual cultural materials. The project is working with experts from across the globe in digital TV narrowcast, while at the same time exploring best practice and latest trends in preservation and conservation audiovisual materials. The project is engaging multiple stakeholders and national and international institutions while building local Aboriginal community capacity in digital narrowcast and in the management of Aboriginal audiovisual archives. This research will inform public policy on local community digital narrowcast TV in remote Australia. This research aims to assist in the long-term preservation of Indigenous languages, culture and health outcomes.
Part of the audio-visual collection prior to the audit and archiving project – rock art sites -
THE AUDIT AND CONSERVATION DISASTER MANAGEMENT
THE AUDIT AND CONSERVATION DISASTAER MAMANGEMENT
Image 1 (L-R): Mark Nimmal, Cornelius Molinjin, Lyndon Ormond-Parker, Ernest Perdjert – handing over 550 MiniDV tapes for AIATSIS TO DIGITISE AND LOOK AFTER.
Wadeye Radio/TV

Patrick Jongman and Dean
Local aboriginal work crew and Bower studio architect students working together – joint project with Grimwade Centre – Bower Studio and the Tharmarru development corporation,
Final – watching the football. The media box is to provide greater access for the community to their audiovisual collection via public broadcast on narrowcast digital TV.
Local aboriginal work crew and Bower studio architect students working together – joint project with Grimwade Centre – Bower Studio and the Tharmarru development corporation,
In July 2017 3 Minor thesis students sorting the Kimberley Aboriginal Law and Culture Centre archives, building on previous work undertaken by KALACC STAFF. Painting conservator Oskar with Tom Lawford viewing the painting collection with Lyndall Osbourne from AIAITIS and Neil Cartner from KALACC.
KALACC Audiovisual Archive
KALACC - AIATSIS MOU 2018
Mulka Project
Mulka Server
There is a need for the development of a framework for the long-term preservation of material from creation through to storage and access. This could be achieved by working with knowledgeable members of Aboriginal communities to understand the prioritization they give to specific features of the local Aboriginal cultures and histories, traditionally held and transmitted through oral and performative means and in the last few decades recorded with various audiovisual and information technology. Understanding how these are recorded and stored in local community archives, and the social and technological practices of community members in protecting this intangible cultural heritage is a critical, involving a detailed examination of the archives and prioritization of preservation requirements.

From the research I have undertaken, there are numerous threats, both immediate and long term, to these archives, including: technology changes and format shifting, physical threats to local collections; the lack of IT expertise and archival knowledge; a lack of knowledge or agreement on the archiving system, and standards and principles. (Ormond-Parker & Sloggett, 2012). The study of these risks with the purpose of identifying solutions is now required. As seen from the thesis that the intergenerational transfer of knowledge, requires a sustained effort and use of technology in the digital economy recordings while communities
move into modernity.

Government

Act as a peak body for addressing issues relating Aboriginal archives/ Act as a liaison point for communities and the service providers they need including with government, with IT companies and the like
Lays the foundations for Australia's digital infrastructure, including developing specific government policy and funding to ensure;
Facilitates innovation and access and support institutions to return digital archives including film, photos, manuscripts
Sets conducive regulatory frameworks, including the provision of nationally agreed standards for the management and return of physical and digital archives

Industry

Demonstrates business digital confidence and builds digital skills
Develops sustainable online content models
Drives nationally agreed standards for the management of physical and digital archives
Nominates the role of a peak body for addressing issues relating Aboriginal archives
Maintains evidence-based research programs to inform decision-making and strategy

Community

Enjoys and supports digital confidence and media literacy amongst community
Experiences and builds inclusive digital participation
Develops and communicates the protocols and cultural rights required by Indigenous Australians for the satisfactory development of the digital economy, and updates protocols for access to material based on changing community expectations and practices
Benefits from, and develops online engagement, and provides the focus and advice for funding and training initiatives
ABORIGINAL PEOPLE HAVE ARTICULATED WHAT NEEDS TO HAPPEN KNOWLEDGE ECONOMY
Digital Fingerprinting

- works with media that has been analysed and has a reference file uploaded to a database.

- embedded algorithms in the image or sound file - the DNA metaphor

- recognises audio and video files to a device even after transcoding between file formats, equalizing audio, cropping an image or blurring a picture has been attempted