



Cultural Custodianship and the Digitisation of First Nations Community Media Archives

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Background to First Nations Media Archives



- First Nations community owned organisations.
- Producing community driven media since the mid to late 1970s.
- Located within their communities.
- Producing for local, regional and national
- Significant media archives held on country (culturally, linguistically and by extent).

Archive example

Cultural custodianship



- ▶ The principles of cultural custodianship and local ownership guide all stages of collection management, preservation and access.
Cultural custodians make decisions on:
 - ▶ Who touches the archive objects.
 - ▶ Who sees and hears the archive's content.
 - ▶ Who can talk about what is in the archive's content.
 - ▶ Where the objects are stored: physical and digital.
 - ▶ What can go online, and what can't.
 - ▶ Withdrawal of objects from viewing during sorry or sensitive cultural business.

The National First Nations Media Archiving Strategy



Developed collaboratively with national, state, territory and local organisations to strengthen and preserve First Nations community-owned media collections.
<https://www.firstnationsmedia.org.au/projects/archiving-project>

Cultural custodianship and local ownership: foundation principles of the Strategy



➤ Archivists

- Law people for the relevant language groups owning the Archive.
- There needs to be community acknowledgement/agreement of those persons.
- May be requirement for men and women to look after the content restricted by gender.
- Support staff: First Nations language speakers working under direction of law people.

➤ Community

- Metadata = local cultural knowledges.
- Ongoing negotiation of community with archivists on viewing restrictions/openness.



Coming up for the next stage of the Strategy

Development of an affordable, appropriate, flexible, easy to use, scalable collection management/cataloguing/access tool.