

PUBLICATION DETAILS #

So that your submission can be published on the www.australia2020.gov.au website before the Summit, we need you to provide a 'Name for Publication' that you are happy to have appear with your submission. If you are submitting on behalf of a group, this may be your group's name.

Individual Name/Group Name for Publication on the website*

Collections Council of Australia Ltd

CONTACT DETAILS

We need to collect some personal details from you in case we need to contact you in the lead-up to or after the summit to discuss your ideas further. These details will only be used for this purpose. If you are making a group submission, please provide these details for one member of your group.

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SUMMIT TOPICS FOR SUBMISSIONS #1

(please limit comments to 500 words per topic)

The productivity agenda – education, skills, training, science and innovation

The *Australia 2020* Summit will examine:

- a. Ensure that digital technologies are harnessed to improve consumer services, business productivity and the delivery of government services.
- b. Best prepare for a global economy that will increasingly be based upon advanced skills, advanced technology, low carbon energy sources and integration with global supply chains
- c. Attract and retain the most talented, creative and highly skilled people, including researchers and scientists, entrepreneurs, and professional and skilled workers
- d. Ensure that our children have the highest quality teachers, whether in early childhood, school, TAFE or university, including dealing with the crisis in maths and science related disciplines across the education system

The collections sector, including archives, galleries, libraries and museums, contributes directly to Australia's productivity by providing information, knowledge and skills. The sector is, however, challenged in meeting community expectations in several areas.

(a) Digital collections

A recent American survey of over 1,700 adults shows that 'libraries and museums are the most trusted sources of information' (1). An inherent responsibility of collecting organisations is to identify, preserve and provide access to information – the record of our social, scientific and creative activity – in both physical and digital forms. Australian organisations struggle, however, to make their collections available in the online environment. Individual collecting institutions re-allocate resources from within existing budgets, or use volunteers, to achieve the online access that users and Boards require of them.

Following our Summit on Digital Collections in 2006, we have scoped an *Australian Framework for Digital Heritage Collections* (2) that will connect all Australians, and a worldwide audience, with online collections. The *Framework* encourages collaborative and co-operative activities to increase the quantity and quality of Australian digital cultural content for the economic, social and educational benefit of the nation.

(b) Preparing for a global economy

The collections sector employs people with advanced skills, and uses advanced technology whenever resources permit. Its most direct contribution to the global economy is by providing information, usually online, to support innovation and decision-making. Other roles include bridging gaps between generations and contributing to the strengthening of communities – present and future.

We advocate for the sustainability of collections so that they can continue to serve Australia's productivity agenda.

(c) Workforce development and planning

Our *Conservation Survey 2006* (3) and the report *Australia State of the Environment 2006* (4) identify several issues relating to employment in the collections sector:

- There is a shortage of qualified and experienced people who can identify and manage Australia's heritage.
- The continuing decline in practical conservation skills in both the trades and the professions and the lack of training programmes (particularly in rural areas) are of concern because heritage values will be recognised and effectively managed only if properly trained staff are available to do so. It requires capacity building through training, through formal, multi-disciplinary courses at universities, and through volunteers.
- Knowledge and management of Indigenous cultural heritage are limited.

The libraries domain has identified workforce shortages that lie ahead (5), with 2010 as the beginning of the 'crunch time' for library workers (6).

We RECOMMEND that the *Australia 2020 Summit*:

- Recognise collecting organisations as direct contributors of digital content.
- Request the Australian Government to:
 - address the need for increased resources for digitisation activity by collecting organisations;
 - remove the 'broadband divide' that currently separates rural and metropolitan communities;
 - support training programs in digital literacy so as to reduce the 'digital divide';
 - support the development of the *Australian Framework for Digital Heritage Collections*; and
 - establish a Future Fund for the collections sector, so as to 'future-proof' significant collections and their workforces.

References

- (1) J-M Griffiths & DW King, *InterConnections: The IMLS National Study on the Use of Libraries, Museums and the Internet. Conclusions Summary*. 2008, Institute of Museum and Library Services, Washington DC, p. 3. An online resource, viewed 1 April 2008, and located via:
<http://www.interconnectionsreport.org>
- (2) Collections Council of Australia Ltd, *Australian Framework for Digital Heritage Collections. Exposure draft*. 2007. An online resource, viewed 7 April 2008, and located at:
http://www.collectionscouncil.com.au/Portals/0/Australian%20Framework%20and%20Action%20Plan%20for%20DHC_Version%200.C3.pdf
- (3) VM Bullock, MM Birtley and CJ Jenkins, *Conservation Survey 2006: A survey of human and financial resources in Australian conservation and preservation*, Collections Council of Australia Ltd, Adelaide, 2006. An online resource, viewed 7 April 2008, and located at:
<http://www.collectionscouncil.com.au/conservation+survey+2006+report.aspx>
- (4) RJS Beeton, KI Buckley, GJ Jones, D Morgan, RE Reichelt, D Trewin (2006 Australian State of the Environment Committee), *Australia State of the Environment 2006*, Independent report to the Australian Government Minister for the Environment and Heritage, Department of the Environment and Heritage, Canberra, 2006.
- (5) G Hallam, 'Future perfect – will we have made it? Workforce planning issues in the library and information sector' in *Click06*, the Biennial Conference of the Australian Library and Information Association, Perth, September 2006.
- (6) J Sloan, 'Workforce Planning: avoiding the crunch at crunch time'. A paper presented to the Public Libraries Australia Building Balance Conference, Adelaide, August 2007. An online resource, viewed 1 November 2007, and located at:
http://www.pla.org.au/Conf2007/papers/WorkforcePlanning_JulieSloan.pdf

SUMMIT TOPICS FOR SUBMISSIONS #2

(please limit comments to 500 words per topic)

The future of the Australian economy

The *Australia 2020* Summit will examine ways to:

- a. After a long period of sustained economic growth and with the added benefits of the global mining boom, how do we best invest the proceeds of this prosperity to lay the foundations for future economic growth
- b. How we best prepare for a global economy that will increasingly be based upon advanced skills, advanced technology, low carbon energy sources and integration with global supply chains
- c. How we take advantage of Australia's proximity to the fast growing economies in the world
- d. How we boost public and private investment in economic infrastructure
- e. Foster innovation in the workplace; encouraging the transfer of ideas across businesses and economies.

Australia's collecting organisations (including archives, galleries, libraries and museums) are stakeholders in the Australian economy. They contribute to the economy in three categories, identified by Kennedy (1) under the banner of 'innovation' as:

- industries in their own right;
- carriers of innovation into other industries; and
- the fulcrum of efforts to gain an innovation yield from designing solutions to significant societal problems in a multidisciplinary way

Collections represent significant scientific and cultural assets that are at the heart of Australian identity. It is this sense of identity that enables Australian 'product' to occupy a unique niche in the global marketplace.

Successful Australian engagement in the global marketplace also requires easy and open access to past and present expressions of peculiarly Australian ways of seeing and thinking. Our proposed *Australian Framework for Digital Heritage Collections* will stimulate this engagement, and was recently recognised by the Cultural Ministers Council in their report, *Building a Creative Innovation Economy* (2). We hope to take this important work forward via an Australian Research Council Linkage grant to investigate new business models, designed to boost public and private investment in Australia's digital future.

The collections sector has much to offer the future Australian economy by:

- Providing the 'raw material' of intellectual and digital content. The potential for collaborations between the HASS sector (humanities, arts and social sciences) and the STEM sector (science, technology, engineering and medicine) through collections are particularly exciting.
- Ensuring that collections sector professionals are 'up to speed' with changes in technology and ways of working;
- Passing on expertise to Australians everywhere in understanding and manipulating new technologies, adding value to existing resources, and skilfully making valid yet surprising connections between ideas and things.
- Sharing its multidisciplinary capacity to design solutions to aspects of significant societal problems such as digital and cultural infrastructure, health, education and sustainability.

Major demands are being made of collections and their custodians as community expectations and demographics change. Our research reveals many unmet needs in the collections sector (3). Collecting organisations urgently require major new resources to meet the expectations of 21st century users, and to provide a sustainable future for Australia's past. We are therefore advocating the establishment of a national Future Fund for collections that will, in part, support the intense activity required to make Australia's cultural collections accessible in the online environment

We RECOMMEND that the *Australia 2020 Summit*:

- Recognise the collections sector as a stakeholder in the Australian economy and the innovation agenda.
- Recognise that collecting organisations can use cultural capital to achieve human capital outcomes;
- Request the Australian Government to:
 - address the need for increased resources for digitisation activity by collecting organisations;
 - support the development of *Australian Framework for Digital Heritage Collections* and associated work in developing business models for Australia's digital future based on collections; and
 - establish a Future Fund for the collections sector, so as to 'future-proof' Australia's significant distributed collections, nationwide.

References

- (1) N Kennedy, 'Innovation and the Government's agenda', Abstract of a presentation to *The Arts, and the Innovation Agenda* Workshop, convened by the Council for Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences, Sydney, 31 March 2008. The Abstract is on p. 9 of the Workshop program, an online resource viewed 7 April 2008 at:
http://www.chass.org.au/events/2008/art/pdf/Arts_and_Innovation_Agenda_Workshop_handbook.pdf
- (2) Cultural Ministers Council Creative Economy Roundtable, *Building a Creative Innovation Economy: Opportunities for the Australian and New Zealand creative sectors in the digital environment*, 2008, Commonwealth of Australia in conjunction with the governments of New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia, Tasmania, the Northern Territory, the Australian Capital Territory and New Zealand. An online resource, viewed 7 April 2008 at:
http://www.cmc.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/7817/Building_a_Creative_Innovation_Economy.pdf
- (3) See, for example: A Dunn, *The Dunn Report: A report on the concept of regional collections hubs*, Collections Council of Australia Ltd, Adelaide, 2007. An online resource, viewed 7 April 2008 at:
<http://www.collectionscouncil.com.au/Portals/0/The%20Dunn%20Report.pdf>

SUMMIT TOPICS FOR SUBMISSIONS #3

(please limit comments to 500 words per topic)

Population, sustainability, climate change and water

The *Australia 2020* Summit will examine:

- a. How Australia develops a long term plan to adapt to the growing impacts of climate change on our environment
- b. How does Australia best plan for its long-term water and energy needs
- c. How we position Australia to become a global leader within the next decade in the new low carbon technologies and industries
- d. How do we plan future population growth at a national and regional level, given the constraints of water shortages and sustainability.

Australia needs equitable short and long term solutions that respond to changes in population and climate while preserving social well-being and cultural diversity. Australia's cultural and scientific collecting organisations hold information and expertise that can contribute to decision-making about sustainability.

We see sustainability as an opportunity for Australia's development rather than a 'constraint'. We agree with Hawkes (1) that there are four essential pillars of sustainability: culture, society, environment and economy. Collections build awareness of connections between the pillars, and of limitations to resources.

Collections help people understand changes occurring over time in cultures, societies and the environment. By documenting the past, they provide benchmarks for analysing present phenomena and for predicting future trends.

We advocate for the sustainability of collections in archives, galleries, libraries and museums, for their preservation in the face of environmental threats, and for the community strengthening that accompanies the sustainable development of collecting organisations.

Australia State of the Environment 2006 reported that 'there are few systematic efforts to monitor the condition of Australia's heritage' (2). Hawkes has proposed reporting indicators for the 'arts', but there is a lack of agreed reporting indicators for sustainable development under the more general 'culture' pillar.

Our research shows that many collecting organisations invest heavily in the conservation and preservation of their collections (3). Despite this investment, there is still great need. Lennon reports that 'conservation treatments for heritage objects and environmentally controlled storage in places of climate extreme remain a priority' (4). Through our work with Blue Shield Australia (5), we are aware of the risks facing collections in conjunction with extreme weather events and other natural disasters.

Australia's collections have been identified as 'an important national asset and a legacy for future generations' (6). The collections sector understands that responsible care and use of collections involves recognition of the principles of sustainable development. The collections sector actively identifies and manages scientific and cultural assets – see, for example, the proposed *Atlas of Living Australia*, and existing collaborative activities such as *Australia's Virtual Herbarium*, the *Collections Australia Network*, *Libraries Australia* and the *National Taxonomy Research Hub*. Careful additions to collections will help future generations to gain new perspectives on changes in populations, climate, ecosystems, biodiversity and the environment.

We RECOMMEND that the *Australia 2020 Summit*:

- Recognise the collections sector as an existing and future contributor to long-term planning for sustainable development.
- Acknowledge that there are four essential pillars of sustainability: culture, society, environment and economy.
- Consider all four pillars of sustainability when examining the 'population, sustainability, climate change and water' topic.
- Request the Australian Government to:
 - develop sustainability indicators for all parts of the cultural sector, and to initiate triennial reporting against these indicators.
 - assess progress towards the achievement of sustainability against a 'quadruple bottom line' relating to the four pillars.
 - establish a Future Fund for the collections sector, so as to 'future-proof' the work of collecting organisations in holding information and expertise that can contribute to decision-making about sustainability.

References

- (1) J Hawkes, *The fourth pillar of sustainability: culture's essential role in public planning*, Common Ground Publishing and Cultural Development Network, Melbourne, 2001.
- (2) RJS Beeton, KI Buckley, GJ Jones, D Morgan, RE Reichelt, D Trewin (2006 Australian State of the Environment Committee), *Australia State of the Environment 2006*, Independent report to the Australian Government Minister for the Environment and Heritage, Department of the Environment and Heritage, Canberra, 2006, p. 81.
- (3) VM Bullock, MM Birtley and CJ Jenkins, *Conservation Survey 2006: A survey of human and financial resources in Australian conservation and preservation*, Collections Council of Australia Ltd, Adelaide, 2006. An online resource, viewed 7 April 2008, and located at: <http://www.collectionscouncil.com.au/conservation+survey+2006+report.aspx>
- (4) JL Lennon, 'Natural and cultural heritage', theme commentary prepared for the 2006 Australian State of the Environment Committee, Department of the Environment and Heritage, Canberra, 2006, p.26. An online resource, viewed 7 April 2008, and located at: <http://www.environment.gov.au/soe/2006/commentaries/heritage/index.html>
- (5) Blue Shield Australia's website is at: www.collectionscouncil.com.au/blue+shield+australia.aspx
- (6) Museums Australia, *Museums and sustainability: guidelines for policy and practice in museums and galleries*, Museums Australia, Canberra, 2003. An online resource, viewed 7 April 2008 at: <http://www.museumsaustralia.org.au/dbdoc/sustainability.pdf>

SUMMIT TOPICS FOR SUBMISSIONS #4

(please limit comments to 500 words per topic)

Future directions for rural industries and rural communities

The *Australia 2020* Summit will examine:

- a. What rural industries are best positioned to take advantage of the global consumer markets of the 21st century
- b. What options are possible for effective structural adjustment for rural industries and communities suffering the long term impact of climate change
- c. What is the most intelligent form of support the Government can provide to ensure the long term sustainability of rural and regional communities, including the fostering of the next generation of Australian farmers.

Cultural and scientific collections have a significant presence in rural Australia. They are connected with global consumer markets through the tourism and education industries. When resources for online activity permit, rural collections provide digital content to the creative industries, and participate in the global information and knowledge economies.

Rural collections fulfil fundamental roles for their communities by:

- holding the historical, cultural and scientific evidence on which people build their understanding of Australian identity and values;
- contributing to social engagement and community strengthening; and
- bridging gaps between the generations.

In 2006, we commissioned a study into structures that support collections outside the capital cities (1). Our consultant reported that:

- Current arrangements are not sustainable: despite some positives, there are gaps and weaknesses that need urgently to be addressed.
- The concept of 'Regional Hubs', a national network of regionally-based support for the collections sector, is feasible.
- Operational and funding models for the concept exist.

We call this proposed network *CollectionsCare*. We envisage the launch of fifty Hubs over ten years. The WA state government, and the Myer Foundation, have pledged contributions.

CollectionsCare aims to establish a system of strategic and collaborative support to collections in all regions of Australia. Through the professional staffing of regional Hubs, *CollectionsCare* will produce three major outputs:

- Programs for mapping, developing, coordinating and conserving collections in a region;
- Digital showcasing of rural collections alongside other Australian collections online;
- A Network to coordinate the programs of *CollectionsCare*, and support the professional development of *CollectionsCare* Coordinators.

In addition, *CollectionsCare* Coordinators in all regions of Australia would be able to assist researchers explore the relationship of arts and cultural heritage related tourism to an area's economy, a question recently endorsed by the ABS as meriting investigation (2).

CollectionsCare will deliver important outcomes for rural communities, including:

- Enhancing the potential of collections to create new educational, cultural and economic opportunities;
- Positioning collections to participate more effectively in the tourism and education sectors;
- Making significant and vulnerable collections more discoverable – both online, and on-the-ground;
- Strengthening social and cultural capital for communities;
- Adding value to existing collections, infrastructure, and volunteer programs;

- Increasing local capacity;
- Producing a legacy for future generations; and
- Improving sustainability for significant collections.

CollectionsCare will provide recognition for Australia's distributed collections nationwide, and will transform the ways in which all Australians understand and engage with their rural collections.

We RECOMMEND that the *Australia 2020 Summit*:

- Recognise collecting organisations as direct contributors to the rural tourism and education industries, the creative industries, and the information and knowledge economies.
- Request the Australian Government to:
 - address the need for increased resources for digitisation activity by rural collecting organisations;
 - remove the 'broadband divide' that currently separates rural and metropolitan communities;
 - support the nation-wide implementation of *CollectionsCare*; and
 - establish a Future Fund for the collections sector, so as to 'future-proof' significant collections, including those located in rural communities.

References

- (1) A Dunn, *The Dunn Report: A report on the concept of regional collections hubs*, Collections Council of Australia Ltd, Adelaide, 2007. An online resource, viewed 7 April 2008, and located at:
<http://www.collectionscouncil.com.au/Portals/0/The%20Dunn%20Report.pdf>
- (2) Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Information Paper: Arts and Cultural Heritage - An Information Development Plan* (ref. 4915.0.55.002), 2008, p.55. An online resource, viewed 7 April 2008, and located at:
[http://www.ausstats.abs.gov.au/ausstats/subscriber.nsf/0/8E1DEAAC5A70BAECA25740B0010D75D/\\$File/4915055002_2008.pdf](http://www.ausstats.abs.gov.au/ausstats/subscriber.nsf/0/8E1DEAAC5A70BAECA25740B0010D75D/$File/4915055002_2008.pdf)

SUMMIT TOPICS FOR SUBMISSIONS #5

(please limit comments to 500 words per topic)

A long-term national health strategy – including the challenges of preventative health, workforce planning and the ageing population

The *Australia 2020* Summit will examine:

- a. How we invest to help prevent chronic and acute health problems
- b. How we plan to ensure all Australians continue to have access to the very best of modern medical technology including pharmaceuticals
- c. How we meet the emerging regulatory challenges of modern medical technology
- d. The use of electronic infrastructure to facilitate efficient and effective patient care
- e. Strategies to preserve Australia's internationally unique blend of public and private health services
- f. How Australia best plans for the future demands on our medical workforce.

Australia's cultural and scientific collections in archives, galleries, libraries and museums contribute to the health of Australians in many ways, including:

1. As contributors to individual well-being

Research undertaken overseas (1) and in Australia (2) reports positive correlations between cultural participation and wellness for people who engage in arts and cultural activities, including visits to exhibitions, and other uses of collections. Collecting organisations are therefore attentive to the needs and capacities of the users of collections, and aim to ensure that programs and services are responsive and meaningful for people with varied and different abilities.

Collections can contribute to individual health by:

- Stimulating memory;
- Confirming identity;
- Facilitating social connections and relationships;
- Extending skills and knowledge;
- Enabling the use of new / different media; and
- Providing sources of inspiration.

These benefits frequently arise from a personal visit to a collection. Not all people, however, are able to make physical visits. Many collecting organisations therefore provide outreach services (including mobile libraries, and programs such as 'Memories in a Suitcase' and 'Museum in a Box') so that people in hospitals and other caring environments can engage with collections.

2. As sources of information

Collections include scientific databases, specialist libraries, and collections of surgical, anatomical and technical specimens that constitute the knowledge-bank for health professionals in all aspects of their work. Such collections enable practitioners to expand and deepen their knowledge, and to make informed decisions.

3. As contexts for planning

The heritage collections of hospitals and other health services communicate links between past and present, and thus provide contexts for future planning and problem-solving by health professionals.

4. As contributors to research on preventative health care

The Australia Bureau of Statistics has recently consulted with the arts and cultural sector, and has found that further and ongoing research is needed into questions linking health and cultural heritage services (3). The collections sector expects to make meaningful contributions to such research.

The capacity of the collections sector to make the contributions identified above is constrained by the fragmented resourcing of collections in both physical and digital / online formats. Most collections in

Australia are not yet on a sustainable economic footing. The majority of funding programs fall far short of actual needs.

There is an urgent need to 'future-proof' the collections sector so that it can continue to contribute to individual health outcomes, to specialist knowledge, to cultural vitality and to community strengthening.

We RECOMMEND that the *Australia 2020 Summit*:

- Recognise the essential role of collecting organisations as custodians of information and evidence that underpins decision-making by health-care practitioners.
- Recognise collecting organisations as providers of various forms of preventative health care, and as contributors to individual and community wellness.
- Request the Australian Government establish a Future Fund for the collections sector, so as to 'future-proof' the work of collecting organisations as direct contributors to the health of Australians.

References

- (1) For example, see: KF McCarthy, EH Ondaatje, L Zakaras & A Brooks, *Gifts of the Muse: Reframing the Debate About the Benefits of the Arts*, 2004, Rand Corporation, Santa Monica.
- (2) For example, see: D Mills & P Brown, *Art and Wellbeing*, 2004, Australia Council, Sydney. An online resource, viewed 7 April 2008, and located via:
http://www.australiacouncil.gov.au/publications/community_arts_and_culture/art_and_wellbeing2
- (3) Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Information Paper: Arts and Cultural Heritage - An Information Development Plan* (ref. 4915.0.55.002), 2008, p.60. An online resource, viewed 7 April 2008, and located at:
[http://www.ausstats.abs.gov.au/ausstats/subscriber.nsf/0/8E1DEAAAC5A70BAECA25740B0010D75D/\\$File/4915055002_2008.pdf](http://www.ausstats.abs.gov.au/ausstats/subscriber.nsf/0/8E1DEAAAC5A70BAECA25740B0010D75D/$File/4915055002_2008.pdf)

SUMMIT TOPIC FOR SUBMISSIONS #6**(please limit comments to 500 words per topic)*****Strengthening communities, supporting families and social inclusion***

The *Australia 2020* Summit will examine:

- a. How we provide practical support to families to combine the tasks of work, raising children and caring for ageing parents
- b. How we make a long term difference on homelessness
- c. How we better harness the goodwill and commitment of the Australian community through voluntary and community organisations and philanthropic endeavour
- d. How we build social capital within and between communities, particularly those that are cut off from the economic mainstream.

People involved with collections in Australia are passionately committed to their special interests, and to their communities. Many devote thousands of hours, unpaid, to ensuring that the heritage of their specialised area is recognised as part of the life of the community (1). These volunteers work in art galleries, community organisations (sporting, business, religious, etc), heritage buildings, historical societies, hospitals, Indigenous keeping places and learning centres, libraries, local government offices, natural and social history museums, schools and universities.

Urgent demands are being made of collections and their custodians as community expectations and demographics change. The sustainability of many collecting organisations, particularly in regional Australia, is being challenged as the volunteers age who have nurtured them over decades (2). Few collecting organisations have the prospect of a sustainable future. In many areas, communities are finding it hard to replace volunteers on committees and working groups.

Most funding programs fall far short of actual needs. Successive *Australia State of the Environment* reports (3) highlight the truly pitiable state of many Australian collections. The present approach to funding and support programs is often inefficient, and can lead to a loss of capacity in organisations. Frustration can impact on the goodwill and commitment of volunteers in the collections sector.

We want collections to be a source of knowledge, ideas, understanding, inspiration and creativity but also of stories. As the popularity of TV programs like 'Who do you think you are' and 'Australian Story' demonstrates, communities and individuals are searching for meaning and identity. Community collections play a vital role in helping:

- build a more comprehensive picture of the nation's heritage, and
- connect communities, particularly young people, to their local histories.

More could be achieved by strengthening links with other community organisations, such as Neighbourhood Houses and community Learning Centres.

Collections hold the evidence from which people build narratives about Australian events and values. Their stories enhance local identity and strengthen communities. Typically, the people telling these stories are experienced in multi-disciplinary systems. They have high ethical standards. They are usually involved with adult and community education. They are committed to the principle of preservation so that current and future generations can access information, ideas and 'the real thing'.

The combined help of governments and communities is now needed to increase support for the volunteer workforce in collecting organisations, and for community collections.

We RECOMMEND that the *Australia 2020 Summit*:

- Recognise that many voluntary and community organisations are also part of the collections sector;
- Recognise collecting organisations as direct contributors to community strengthening and social inclusion;
- Request the Australian Government to:
 - remove the 'broadband divide' that currently isolates many voluntary and community organisations;
 - support training programs in digital literacy so as to reduce the 'digital divide';
 - support the development of *CollectionsCare* as a project that will support and add value to existing volunteer services for collections; and
 - establish a Future Fund for the collections sector, so as to 'future-proof' significant community collections and their volunteer workforces.

References

- (1) The most recent Australian Bureau of Statistics data for the collections sector does not report historical societies, nor collections embedded within larger organisations whose core business is not collecting. Nevertheless, during the month of June 2004, in the ABS survey organisations, there were:
 - 20,443 volunteers contributing 343,139 hours across 1,329 museum and gallery locations that also employed 7,624 paid staff (*Museums 2003-2004, 8560.0*, 2005, p. 9).
 - 6,853 volunteers contributing 60,942 hours across 1,754 library and archive locations that also employed 13,282 paid staff (*Public Libraries 2003-2004, 8561.0*, 2005, p. 5).
- (2) A primary source for this submission is a study we commissioned in 2006, now published as: A Dunn, *The Dunn Report: A report on the concept of regional collections hubs*, Collections Council of Australia Ltd, Adelaide, 2007. An online resource, viewed 7 April 2008, and located at: <http://www.collectionscouncil.com.au/Portals/0/The%20Dunn%20Report.pdf>
- (3) The *Australia State of the Environment* reports for 1996, 2001 and 2006 are online resources, viewed 7 April 2008 via: <http://www.environment.gov.au/about/publications/index.html#soe>

SUMMIT TOPICS FOR SUBMISSIONS #7

(please limit comments to 500 words per topic)

Options for the future of indigenous Australia

The *Australia 2020* Summit will examine:

- a. How we forge a new partnership with between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australia to overcome disadvantage and provide practical pathways to the future
- b. The role of targeted programs and interventions such as the Northern Territory Intervention and the Cape York Welfare Reform Trials in achieving change in remote communities
- c. How we might promote economic development in remote Australia to provide Indigenous community members with the opportunity to be economically independent
- d. Improving access to mainstream programs by Indigenous Australians
- e. Promoting and preserving Indigenous culture, languages and traditions.

Collections and collections sector professionals can help to forge new partnerships with Indigenous Australians, and between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians, in the following ways:

- By preserving and promoting Indigenous artefacts and knowledge;
- By involving Indigenous communities in managing Indigenous cultural heritage holdings;
- By involving Indigenous communities in identifying and repatriating sensitive cultural materials;
- By providing training in the management of Indigenous knowledge and artefacts, according to technological developments and western understandings;
- By providing a resource on which to base community development and innovation e.g. skills / jobs in culture creation and custodianship.

The recent model of 'knowledge centres', pioneered in the Northern Territory, brings traditional librarians and archivists face to face with Indigenous ways of organising and using knowledge, while providing a venue for community interaction. Similarly, the now familiar 'keeping place' concept challenged the ways that trained professionals in museums and galleries regarded Indigenous approaches to material culture in the 1980s. Indigenous ways of seeing contribute to Australia's unique identity, and can inform smart design and innovation in many other fields towards a stronger Australian economy. There is also a general realisation that 'bush' knowledge about native plants and animals can be extremely valuable for research scientists as they develop applications as varied as medical cures, new food sources and environmental management.

Archives, galleries, libraries and museums are enthusiastically embracing expressions of intangible cultural heritage, as they strive to represent the full breadth and depth of the culture, languages and traditions of Indigenous Australia. These collections professionals are not afraid to engage with painful Indigenous stories in an effort to help all Australians come to terms with a troubled past. This input is important to achieving full reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australia.

The Collections Council is the peak body for collections in Australia. Collections, and the collections sector, can be used to achieve outcomes for Indigenous communities and for economic development e.g. in tourism and design. A particular proposal of the Collections Council, *CollectionsCare*, aims to establish a system of strategic and collaborative support to collections in all regions of Australia. This scheme is expected to have a positive impact on all participating communities and collections, including Indigenous keeping places and knowledge centres.

We RECOMMEND that the *Australia 2020 Summit*:

- Recognise collecting organisations as direct contributors to the reconciliation agenda between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians, and to community strengthening and social inclusion;
- Recognise that collecting organisations can help Indigenous Australians toward tourism, education innovation and economic outcomes;
- Request the Australian Government to:
 - remove the 'broadband divide' that currently separates rural and metropolitan communities;
 - support training programs in digital literacy so as to reduce the 'digital divide';
 - support the nation-wide implementation of *CollectionsCare*; and
 - establish a Future Fund for the collections sector, so as to 'future-proof' significant collections, including those located in rural communities.

SUMMIT TOPICS FOR SUBMISSIONS #8**(please limit comments to 500 words per topic)*****Towards a creative Australia: the future of the arts, film and design***

The *Australia 2020* Summit will examine:

- a. Future directions for Australia's principal arts bodies
- b. Future directions for the ABC, SBS, Australia Television and Radio Australia
- c. How best to develop a globally innovative and competitive film industry
- d. How to encourage participation in emerging global industries such as game design, the internet 2.0, graphics-rich applications and animation
- e. How we build on the creative sector's potential as a major Australian export industry.

Across the nation, collections in archives, galleries, libraries and museums contribute to a creative Australia. These collections:

- document, represent and inspire Australia's creativity and identity;
- include contemporary as well as older materials;
- engage the imaginations of visitors and users – online, and on the ground;
- enable the expansion and deepening of knowledge;
- stimulate innovation; and
- strengthen the cultural vitality of the places where they are held.

A rich resource, Australia's 'analogue' and digital collections provide trusted content to people working in film, radio and television, as well as to areas of emerging internet communication. At the personal level, collections sector professionals like librarians show users of all ages how to use new information and interaction technologies, and museum and gallery curators design interactive exhibitions to encourage participation in cutting-edge concepts and technologies. By fostering technological capability in the community, and by providing uniquely Australian, high quality content, collecting organisations resource Australians to make creative connections in the global marketplace.

The Collections Council of Australia is the peak advocacy body for the collections sector. Our vision is for collections in Australia to be a source of knowledge, ideas, understanding, inspiration and creativity. We are committed to working with partners and the community to make collections widely accessible, clearly defined, actively connected to the communities they represent, recognised for their significance, used collaboratively, and managed for sustainability.

We commend the 2007 joint *National Education and the Arts Statement* (1), and we advocate the education of children in collections as an essential pathway towards a more creative Australia.

Collections are of intense interest to children and young people, with new audiences making their way to archives, libraries, galleries and museums on a regular basis, both as family and school visitors. Through personal and online visits, children have unparalleled options for learning about the arts, nature, culture, technology, history and science from unique and important collections. To make best use of this potential, a new resource could enhance the connection of teachers, families and students with 'what's inside' collecting organisations.

Primary and early childhood teachers indicate that there are very few resources on the market to expose children to learning from the collections of our cultural institutions. We recommend developing a generic educational resource aimed at primary and middle school students. The proposed resource, *What's Inside?*, will unveil the way collecting organisations operate, showcase their amazing collections, and stimulate life-long learning habits and creative outcomes. We seek financial support to undertake this project and distribute the resource package to schools.

We RECOMMEND that the *Australia 2020 Summit*:

- Recognise collecting organisations as direct contributors to a creative Australia;
- Recognise the Collections Council of Australia as a principal arts organisation;
- Request the Australian Government to:
 - endorse *What's Inside?* as a project that, by educating primary and middle school students about collections and the collections sector, will stimulate creativity;
 - establish a Future Fund for the collections sector, to 'future-proof' the documentation, representation and inspiration of Australia's creativity.

References

- (1) Cultural Ministers Council and the Ministerial Council on Education, Employment, Training and Youth Affairs, *National Education and the Arts Statement*, 2007, Commonwealth of Australia, Canberra. An online resource, viewed 7 April 2008 at http://www.cmc.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/7366/National_Education_and_the_Arts_Statement_-_September_2007.pdf

SUMMIT TOPICS FOR SUBMISSIONS #9

(please limit comments to 500 words per topic)

The future of Australian governance: renewed democracy, a more open government (including the role of the media), the structure of the Federation and the rights and responsibilities of citizens

The *Australia 2020* Summit will examine:

- a. How best to implement an effective an agenda of open government which best balances the legitimate requirements of the media and the confidentiality requirements of cabinet government in the Westminster system
- b. How best to engaged the community in government decision making
- c. What forms of Federation reform are appropriate for the future to maximise outcomes for the economy and the community
- d. How to ensure the future viability of local government operations and infrastructure provision.

Australia's cultural and scientific collections in archives, galleries, libraries and museums contribute to Australian governance and democracy in many ways, including:

1. As sources of information

A recent American survey of over 1,700 adults shows that 'libraries and museums are the most trusted sources of information' (1). Australian collections include specialist libraries and archives that constitute the knowledge-bank about our governance systems. These collections inform elected representatives, jurists, bureaucrats and the media in all aspects of their work. Such collections enable all citizens, as electors, to expand and deepen their knowledge, and to make informed decisions, about political and governance systems.

2. As contexts for planning

The heritage, archival and memorabilia collections of parliaments, councils and elected representatives communicate links between past and present governance systems, and thus provide contexts for future planning and problem-solving.

3. As contributors to public understanding

Collecting organisations prepare exhibitions, programs and services to engage people of varied and different abilities in understanding Australia's political history. These public programs help Australian citizens to form educated opinions on governance, and to become involved in government decision making.

We RECOMMEND that the *Australia 2020* Summit:

- Recognise the essential role of collecting organisations as custodians of information and evidence that underpins decision-making about governance and political systems.
- Request the Australian Government to establish a Future Fund for the collections sector, so as to 'future-proof' the information and education roles of collecting organisations in the fields of governance, political systems and civic engagement.

Reference

- 1) J-M Griffiths & DW King, *InterConnections: The IMLS National Study on the Use of Libraries, Museums and the Internet. Conclusions Summary*. 2008, Institute of Museum and Library Services, Washington DC, p. 3. An online resource, viewed 1 April 2008, and located via: <http://www.interconnectionsreport.org>

SUMMIT TOPICS FOR SUBMISSIONS #10

(please limit comments to 500 words per topic)

Australia's future security and prosperity in a rapidly changing region and world.

The *Australia 2020* Summit will examine:

- a. How Australia best protects its national security interests in the face of an increasingly complex threat spectrum, including terrorism, bio-security and other threats to human security – as well as the adequacy of existing institutional arrangements for dealing with the threat spectrum into the future
- b. How Australia should maximise its cooperation with its long-standing ally the United States
- c. How Australia engages with China and India in the coming decades as both play an increasingly important economic and political role
- d. How Australia can make the greatest contribution both within and outside the framework of the United Nations in addressing the challenge of extreme poverty
- e. The long-term adequacy of Australia's existing foreign language capabilities to meet increasingly complex challenges presented by the globalisation.

Collections in archives, galleries, libraries and museums support security and Defence agencies in the following ways:***1. As sources of information***

Specialist libraries, archives and databases constitute the knowledge-bank for our security forces. These collections inform defence, law-enforcement and emergency-response personnel in all aspects of their work. The resources held in these collections enable security professionals to expand and deepen their knowledge, and to make informed decisions relating to their work.

2. As contexts for planning

The archival and memorabilia collections managed by the Defence services, by service organisations, and by shrines and war memorials communicate links between past and present security activities, and thus provide contexts for training, for future planning and for problem-solving.

3. As vehicles for public communication

Collecting organisations prepare exhibitions, publications, activities and services to engage people of varied and different abilities in understanding the history of Australia's security and defence activities. These public programs frequently offer multiple perspectives on past events, and stimulate constructive debate about issues. Collections help Australians to build connections with stories and people from the past. Many collecting organisations create public spaces for individual and community reflection on service and sacrifice.

Security and Defence agencies contribute to the collections sector in the following ways:***4. As the collectors and keepers of future memories***

An important role of the three individual Defence services when operationally deployed overseas is collecting in the field. Contemporary collecting gives status to the work of Australia's defence personnel, and ensures that relevant material is brought back to Australia for preservation in collecting organisations, and for future research and exhibitions.

Another form of recognition for Defence operations is the commissioning of official War Artists. These artists provide unique insights by documenting events and individuals. Ultimately, their works become part of public collections, and are displayed and researched by future generations.

5. As the forensic investigators of human remains associated with overseas operations

Military personnel, assisted by experts from the heritage and collections sectors, are involved with excavating, identifying and recovering the remains of Australian servicemen who were killed in action overseas, and whose bodies were not able to be recovered at the time – e.g. from the 1960s war in Vietnam.

6. As the front-line protectors of cultural property during armed conflict

Australia has international obligations under a number of treaties that relate to cultural heritage, including UNESCO's 1954 *Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict*.

Australia's Defence personnel are trained to ensure that cultural property is not looted or destroyed, but is properly protected.

We RECOMMEND that the *Australia 2020 Summit*:

- Recognise the essential role of collecting organisations as custodians of information and evidence that underpins decision-making about Australia's security.
- Recognise the contribution to the collections sector made by Defence through its field work overseas.
- Request the Australian Government to establish a Future Fund for the collections sector, so as to 'future-proof' the field-work, information and education roles of collecting organisations.