

APPENDIX III CONSERVATION / PRESERVATION EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Conservation and preservation knowledge is transferred in Australia in five formal ways:

- Higher education
- Vocational education and training (VET)
- Self-paced, web-based learning
- Stand-alone interactive online (moderated) learning
- Workshops / seminars delivered by conservators or other specialists

Currently resources showing where and when all learning opportunities are available are not easily accessible across the four major collecting domains (archives, galleries, libraries and museums). Many courses in archives, library and information studies, and museum studies include conservation / preservation units, or seek to convey basic conservation / preservation sensibilities in dealing with collections. The respective professional bodies can be contacted in each state or territory with specific enquiries about domain-specific learning opportunities:

Australian Society of Archivists
<http://www.archivists.org.au>

Australian Library and Information Association
<http://www.alia.org.au>

Museums Australia
<http://www.museumsaustralia.org.au>

The Australian Institute for the Conservation of Cultural Material can also be contacted for conservation training information – particularly for professional conservator education:

Australian Institute for the Conservation of Cultural Material
<http://www.aiccm.org.au>

The Collections Australia Network (CAN) is a portal site and is the public gateway to collecting organisations across Australia including small to medium regional organisations. Like the Collections Council of Australia, CAN is an initiative of the Cultural Ministers Council (including Australian Government and Australian State and Territory Governments) in partnership with the Australian cultural sector:

Collections Australia Network
<http://www.collectionsaustralia.net>

Besides providing access to nationwide information on Australia's cultural heritage, members of the public can also access an individual organisation's own CAN website to explore its specific content, including:

- collection descriptions and objects
- exhibitions and general events
- news
- useful tools, links, resources for people working in the sector

CAN is planning to develop a guide to VET Training for the Australian collections sector, as well as a professional development calendar. Currently the CAN website provides links to other portals including the National Training Information Service on vocational training opportunities (mainly through Technical and Further Education (TAFE) colleges), and the Australian Government Culture and Recreation portal.

Other useful organisations to contact with questions about conservation and preservation training, particularly in preventive conservation, are:

Museums and Galleries New South Wales

<http://www.mgnsww.org.au>

Museum and Gallery Services Queensland

<http://www.magsq.com.au>

History Trust of South Australia

<http://www.history.sa.gov.au>

Heritage and Arts Departments in each state / territory

National Trust organisations in each state / territory

Various websites offer search engines that may help discover appropriate courses. The results of searches may, however, not be fully up to date. Two starting points are:

<http://www.cultureandrecreation.gov.au/training>

<http://www.edna.edu.au>

Higher education

As at 2006, the University of Melbourne delivers the only professional conservation training in Australia:

The University of Melbourne, Centre for Cultural Materials Conservation

<http://www.culturalconservation.unimelb.edu.au>

Vocational education and training

For help with VET opportunities please contact your local TAFE college or check the:

National Training Information Service

<http://www.ntis.gov.au>

TAFE offers Certificates I-IV, Diplomas and Advanced Diplomas in Museum Practice and Library Information Services, which contain conservation / preservation components. Parts of these courses have been run each year since 1999 (revised 2004) at varying locations around Australia.

Currently the Powerhouse Museum is working with the Sydney Institute of TAFE to revise the content of some Museum Practice components to cover conservation / preservation in greater depth. These changes may be implemented Australia-wide with the next formal review of these courses in 2009.

Self-paced, web-based learning

A number of the organisations listed above offer web-based training in conservation / preservation e.g. MGNSW, MGSQ.

The Collections Australian Network (CAN) will soon incorporate the Australian Museums and Galleries Online (AMOL) website which contains a number of training resources for self-paced, web-based conservation / preservation learning, including some TAFE certificates:

<http://amol.org.au/training>

The University of Melbourne also offers basic online training in conservation / preservation:

<http://www.culturalconservation.unimelb.edu.au/courses/online.html>

Stand-alone interactive online (moderated) learning

Currently no independent interactive online courses are available in Australia in the conservation / preservation area. Some overseas organisations are beginning to offer this kind of training. The Canadian Heritage Information Network offers a few digital preservation courses of this kind:

Canadian Heritage Information Network

<http://www.chin.gc.ca>

Workshops / seminars delivered by conservators or other specialists

Conservators, conservation businesses, CAVAL (Cooperative Action by Victorian Academic Libraries), MGNSW, MGSQ, professional organisations (such as Museums Australia via its state branches, the Australian Society of Archivists, ALIA and the AICCM) and the outreach services of large collecting organisations all offer short conservation / preservation training opportunities from time to time. Please contact the relevant organisations in your state / territory for details.