A repository for a Fraser Island (K'Gari) Research Collection

The project

In 2016 USC established the Fraser Island (K'Gari) Research Collection to support ongoing research into the Island and to expose online and print-based material held at USC. Initially comprising the personal research collection of John Sinclair OAM, the collection will eventually include archival material from a variety of scholars, researchers and members of the public. This was the first collection of its kind undertaken at USC.
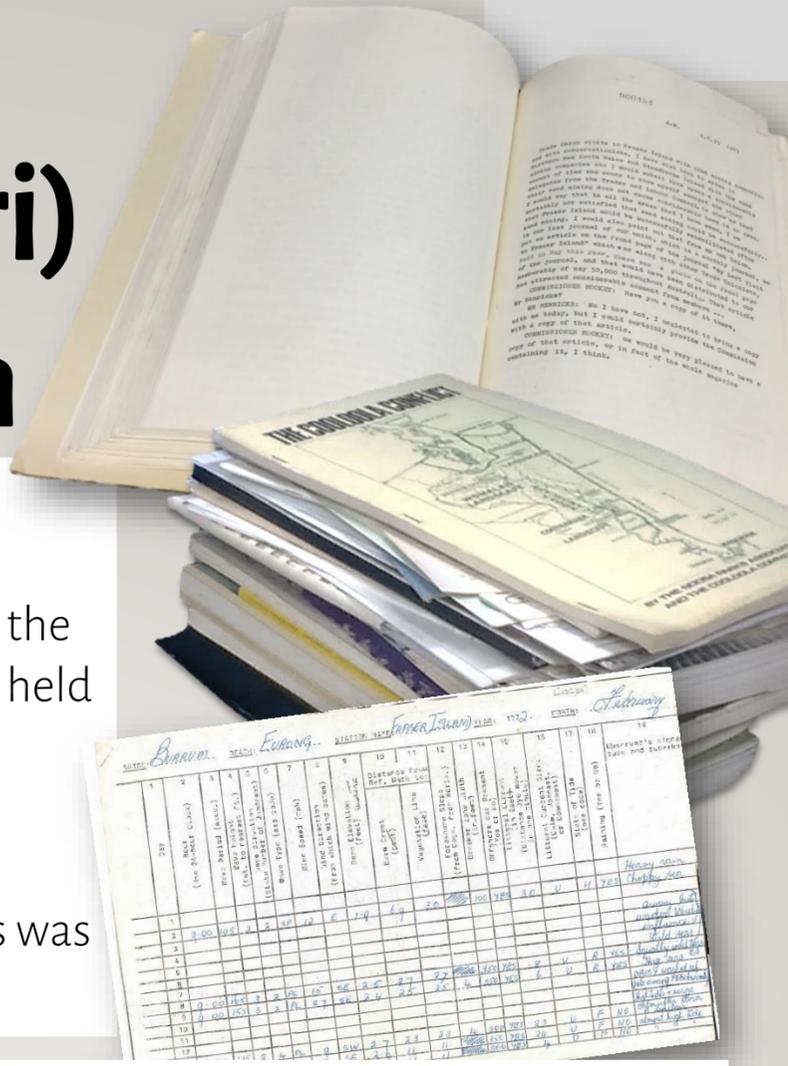
Software solution

As the collection involves both digitised and physical items, a solution was required that would encompass both output types in a seamless manner for the end user. Utilising ExLibris Alma/Primo, digital content was catalogued in Alma Digital, a new service of the Alma platform that utilises Amazon Web Services S3 as the digital storage component. Overlaying Alma is Primo, the discovery service and end-user interface for Alma content.

Challenges

- Alma Digital was a new component of Alma released in early 2016, so there was uncertainty as to the suitability of the product.
- Copyright management for archival digitised material from a range of sources.
- Development of new procedures and guidelines for this and future collections.
- New digitisation and preservation techniques for archival material.
- Steep learning curve and a lot of trial and error!

Where to from here

As an increasing number of organisations and private individuals are seeking a home for their cultural heritage research collections, it is becoming increasingly critical that libraries know how to deal with this influx of archival collections and the best way to manage and provide access to the content. By using creative repository solutions, a low-cost and highly visible repository of this valuable data was developed and is now being showcased to the world.