

DISCOVERABLE, ACCESSIBLE, USABLE CULTURAL HERITAGE: the role of UQ's repository

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The University of Queensland (UQ) Library's special collections contain complex and significant cultural heritage material. The Library's digitisation selection strategy identifies objects from these collections to be digitised for preservation and improved accessibility. Our repository, UQ eSpace, is central to the strategy: **preserving, exposing, and managing multifaceted objects.**

2002

ePrintsUQ repository launched, part of a Group of Eight initiative

2005

UQ Library develops Fez, an open source interface to the Fedora repository software

2006

ePrintsUQ is migrated to new repository, UQ eSpace and the first cultural heritage materials are uploaded to the repository



2009

Cultural heritage material indexed by Trove, Google, and local discovery service

2014

Digitisation unit established and specialist digitisation equipment purchased

2015

New positions of Metadata Creator and Digital Curator established

2016

Additional metadata elements added to manage multifaceted objects

2017

UQ eSpace Enhance and Sustain project underway

ORs provide a framework for preserving and disseminating cultural heritage information; UQ eSpace:

- Supports digital preservation: for example, by providing JHove and PREMIS information.
- Provides unlimited storage: maintains uncompressed files, captured to international digitisation standards (FADGI).
- Co-locates digitised objects with born digital files and datasets.
- Improves discovery through keywords, full texts search, and OAI-PMH harvest of Dublin Core metadata, which exposes collections through search engines, Trove, and local discovery services.

Cultural heritage information can be complex and reflects a wide range of formats. Consequently, UQ eSpace developed to:

- Provide additional metadata for complex objects; for example job numbers for architectural plans, scales for maps.
- Organise cultural heritage material by archival series to reflect original context and support browsing.
- Facilitate use and reuse through creative commons licensing and clear copyright information.
- Offer a range of access levels for end users, to assist in preservation and management of sensitive content.
- Apply advisory statements to culturally sensitive material, and incorporate specialist vocabularies (e.g. AIATSIS thesauri Pathways) to support community engagement.

Future directions, better integration through:

- Linked data.
- Improved interoperability with other content management systems (e.g. Omeka).
- Metrics to monitor usage.

