Triumphs & Challenges:
Digitising NAA’s Paper and Photographic Records

ASA-ARANZ-PARBICA-ICA Conference
Session 2.4 – Digitisation Strategies
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23rd October 2019
Our History

The National Archives in Canberra, 1961
Our History

Peter Durack Building, Canberra
Our History
Size of our Physical Collection

- NSW: 37.6%
- ACT: 32.7%
- VIC: 14.8%
- QLD: 8.9%
- SA: 1.1%
- TAS: 0.4%
- NT: 0.6%
Physical Access 1983 - 2000

- In person inquiries at reading rooms
- Original records access/viewed in reading rooms

1983:
- In person inquiries: 3,000
- Original records access: 27,000

2000:
- In person inquiries: 57,000
- Original records access: 23,000
Evolution of NAA’s Online Access

Records Accessed/viewed online via RecordSearch

1995: 0
2000: 73,000
Evolution of NAA’s Digitising Program

Digitising on Demand Service
Evolution of NAA’s Digitising Program

Proactive Digitising Projects

Prime Minister the Hon. John Howard arriving at the launch of
A Gift to the Nation

National Archives of Australia

naa.gov.au
Evolution of NAA’s Digitising Program

Agency Digitisation Service
Status of Digitising Program

Total Number of Digitised pages on RecordSearch

- 2000: 177,301
- 2019: 62,000,000

National Archives of Australia
Our Digitising Challenges

Digitising in a Perfect Storm
Our Digitising Challenges
Digitising in headwinds

The Scale Challenge
Digitising the enormous volume of records we hold

Estimated 50,000,000 items
Our Digitising Challenges

Digitising in headwinds

The Demand Challenge
Meet increasing demand to access ALL records online

Records currently accessed online annually is in the Millions and growing
Our Digitising Challenges

Digitising in headwinds

The Budget Challenge
Funding not matching digitising scale and demand

Cost of Digitising entire holdings

$$$$ millions
Our Digitising Strategy

The strategy is supported by other archive strategies

And is responsive to a wide range of external and internal stakeholders
Our Digitising Strategy

Our clients will help decide which records are most interesting
Our Digitising Strategy

Moving to become Digital by Default
Our Digitising Strategy

Annual Digitising Plan
Our Digitising Strategy

User-Centred Design

Self-Service Digitisation Station Brisbane Reading Room
Our Digitising Strategy