



Same software, different design: implementation of AtoM with limited resources

Designing the Archive conference 2019

Speakers

- Kathryn Dan – Australian National University
- Kari James – Pacific Manuscripts Bureau
- Piers Higgs – Gaia Consulting

Discussion points

- Determining scope and requirements
- Technical implementation
- Design implementation
- Method of migration and procedures
- Maintenance, support and ongoing development
- Documentation



Australian
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Same software, different design: AtoM at the Australian National University

Kathryn Dan, University Archivist
Designing the Archive conference 2019



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Noel Butlin Archives »

Business and labour records from Australian companies.



University Archives »

The University Archives hold a range of material dating from the late 1920s.



Pacific Research Archives »

[Pacific Research Archives](#)



National AIDS Archive »

History of AIDS education and prevention and related concerns in all Australia.

Online exhibitions »

The ANU Archives collects and preserves the University's own archives. Some collections are available online for you to explore.



[Treasures of the ANU
Archives »](#)



[Certain Women »](#)



ANU before AtOM



AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

ANUA 384

Creator: Professor Hank Nelson

Series Title: Pacific research papers

Box No.	Item No.	Item Title/Description	Date Range
Biographies			
1			
	1	Sir Donald Cleland (1901-1975) Nelson's research and entry for the Australian Dictionary of Biography	14 Sep 1990-22 Jul 1992
	1a	Sir John Guise (1914-1991) obituary for the Prime Minister's Department, Papua New Guinea. Broadcast on Radio Australia, 8-9 Feb 1991. Guise worked in Papua New Guinea for Burns Philp, as a politician and Governor-General.	8-17 Feb 1992
	1b	Allan Wesley Dawes (1900-1969) Nelson's research and entry for the Australian Dictionary of Biography	Jul 1992
	1c	Nelson's research on Allan Wesley Dawes - Copies and reviews of Dawes' Smith lecture given 9 Jul 1946	Jul 1946
	1d	Nelson's research on Allan Wesley Dawes - Copies of newspaper articles	1943-1969
	2	Hubert Leonard Murray (1886-1963) Nelson's research materials for his entry on Murray for the Australian Dictionary of Biography. Murray was a public servant and administrator in Papua New Guinea	13 Nov 1995-3 Jun 1999 2 Dec 2002
	3	Murray film - script for a scene on Sir Hubert Murray.	n.d.
	4	James (Jim) Patrick Sinclair - Citation on Sinclair's career and correspondence relating to Sinclair's honorary degree of Doctor of Letters <i>honoris causa</i> from the ANU. Sinclair was a patrol officer in Papua New Guinea (1948-1975) and a author of 27 books on the history of Papua New Guinea.	15 Oct 1998-10 Nov 1999
	5	Anthony John Stanhope Reid - A copy of the speech Hank Nelson gave at Reid's farewell from the Division of Pacific and Asian History. Reid was a Southeast Asian Historian at the Australian National University.	18 Jun 1999
	6	Jim Griffin - A copy of the speech Hank Nelson gave at Griffin's seventieth birthday. Griffin worked at the University of Papua New Guinea.	31 Oct 1999
	7	Donald Trahair Moore - A copy of the speech Hank Nelson gave at Moore's eightieth birthday. Moore was an Australian Prisoner of War during WWII.	12 Feb 2000



- Lists – Word, Excel, typed
- 40,000 lines spreadsheet data from defunct 1990s database
- Beta test 2008-, release 2010
- Public site launch 2014

Why we chose AtoM?

- Based on ICA descriptive standards
- Designed by archivists
- Web-based with hidden back-end
- Searchable by Google
- Open source
- Multi-lingual/multi-repository
- Import/export facility – exit strategy

Functionality we use

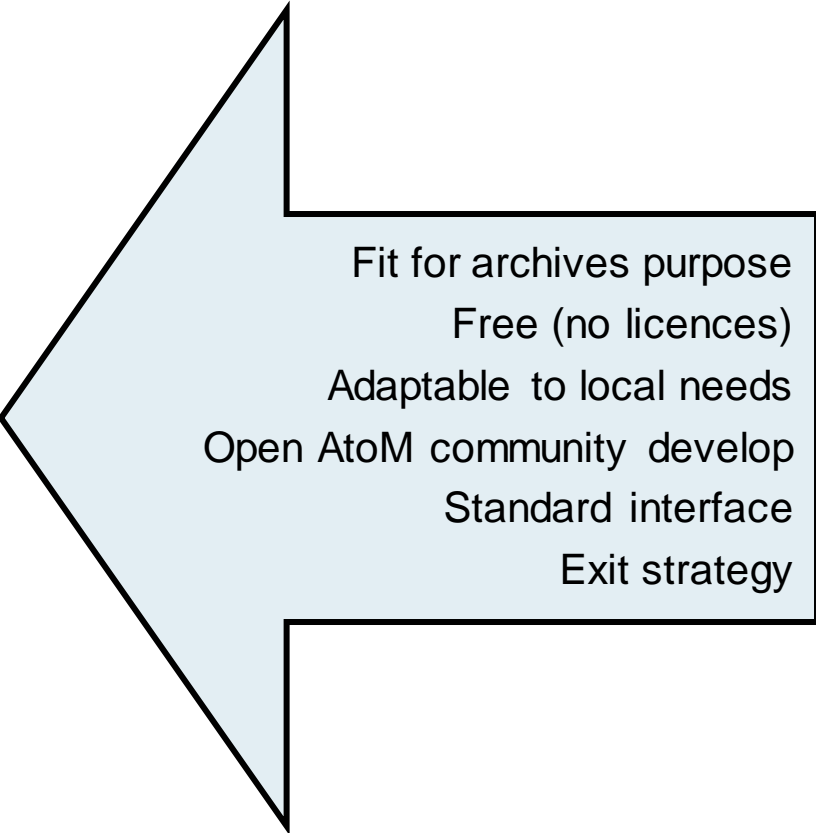
- Public interface
- Archival description – creators, series
- Upload of items using CSV facility
- Accessioning module
- Location data

Implementation – a long project

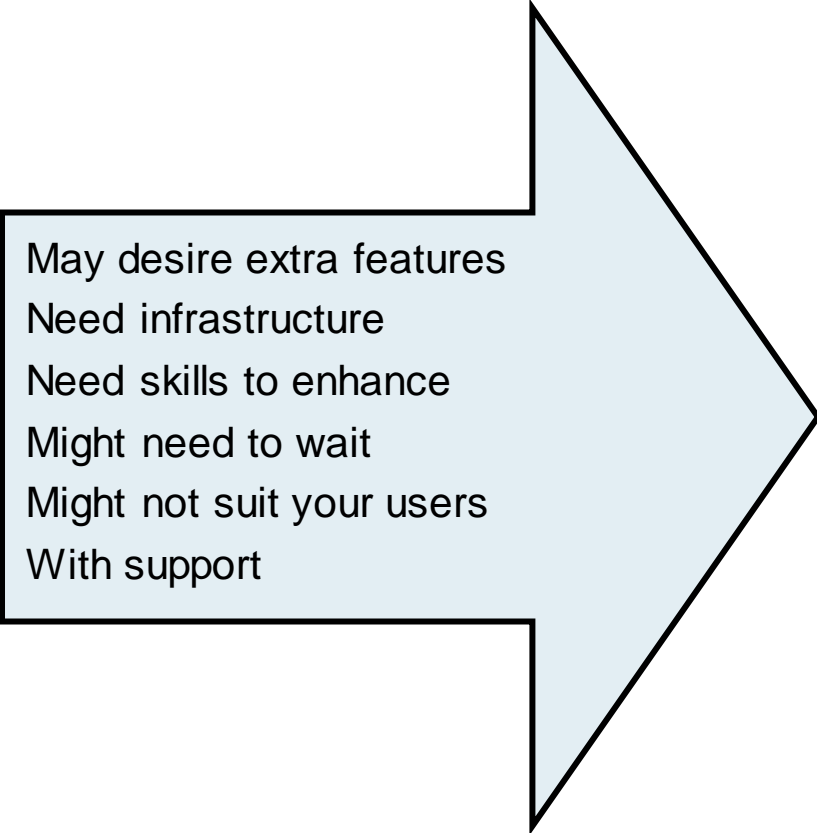
- Procedures
- Uploads manual and using csv
- OCR typed lists
- Link to digitised images
- Enter repository locations
- Adopt accessioning module
- Clean up eg outstanding loans
- Harvest by Trove

Refining and developing

- *Addition of optional field ‘Alternative identifier’*
- *Addition of date to ‘Add new child’ entry so that identifier, title and date recorded*
- *Changes to OAI-PHP code to allow harvesting by National Library’s Trove and other metadata harvesters*
- *Archival history – ability to hide from public view*
- *Reciprocal predicates – for authority records, if entity is ‘predecessor’ to another entity, then second entity is recorded as ‘successor’ to the first*
- *Additional ‘types of entity’ to refine ‘corporate body’, eg trade union*



Fit for archives purpose
Free (no licences)
Adaptable to local needs
Open AtoM community develop
Standard interface
Exit strategy



May desire extra features
Need infrastructure
Need skills to enhance
Might need to wait
Might not suit your users
With support

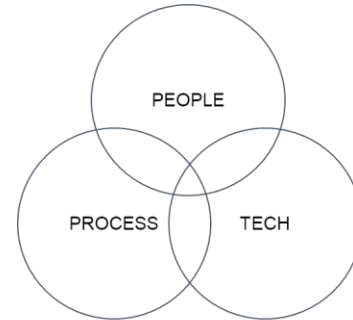
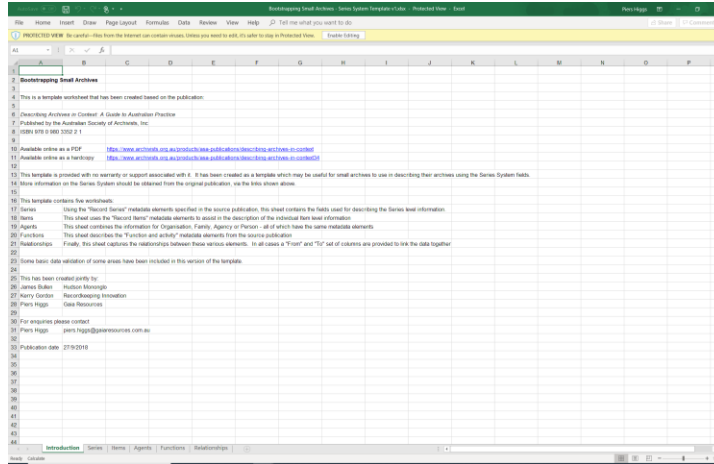
More information

- <https://www.accesstomemory.org>
- ANU Archives implementation of AtoM
<https://digitalcollections.anu.edu.au/handle/1885/12285>
- Public site: archives.anu.edu.au
- Email: butlin.archives@anu.edu.au



Same software, different design: AtoM
from the other side

Piers Higgs, Chief Executive Officer
Gaia Resources





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..and other
Collections

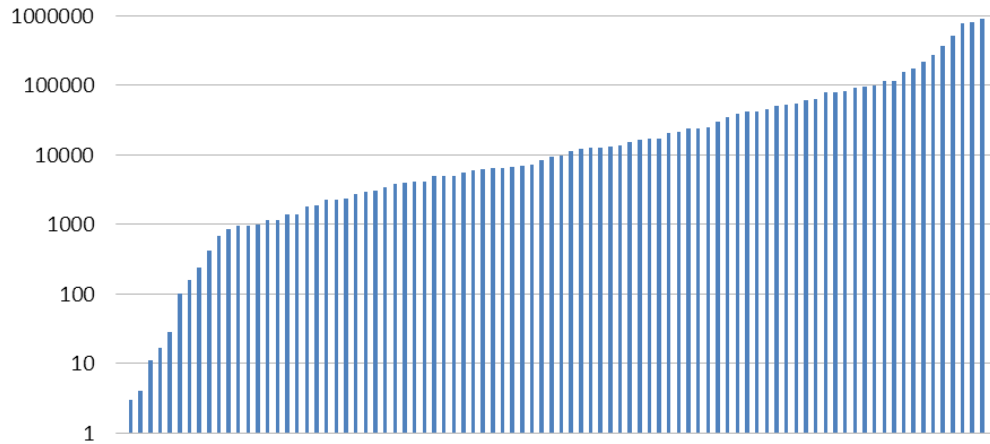


Why AtoM at all?

- Open Source
- Preconfigured to ICA standards
- Can be extended to Digital Preservation



AtoM Worldwide





AtoM in Australia

- Smaller collections (except SROWA)
- Driven by budget restrictions





Lessons Learned

- Open Source does not mean (completely) free
- ICA standards are not what Australia wants
- Budgets are limited
- Demand is increasing!



So why AtoM still?

- Open Source provides options
- Can implement it relatively cheaply “out of the box”
- Is a good starting point for smaller collections



The Future

- AtoM Foundation – developing a roadmap to v3
- <https://accesstomemoryfoundation.org/>



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