

# 2023 Conference of Directors of National Libraries Asia and Oceania

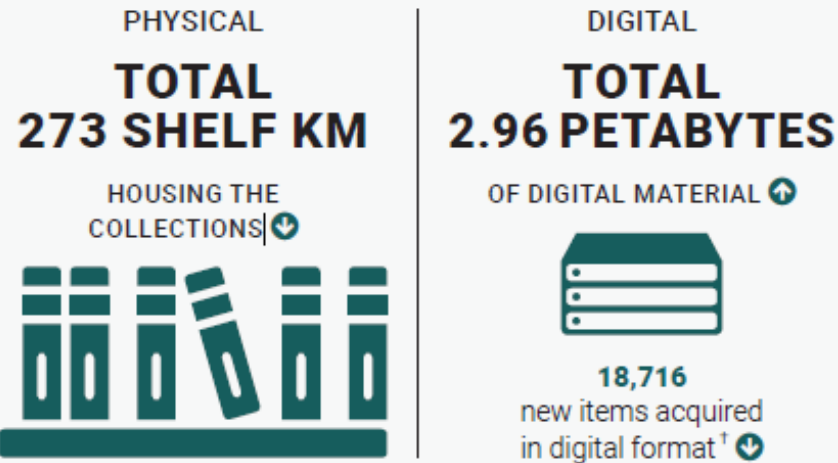
## Engaging Diasporas: collecting the **voices of Australia's multicultural** communities

**Dr Marie-Louise Ayres, FAHA, Director-General**

The National Library of Australia acknowledges Australia's First Nations Peoples—the First Australians—as the Traditional Owners and Custodians of this land and gives respect to the Elders—past and present—and through them to all Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

# About the National Library of Australia

## Our Collections



## Our People



## Visitors



## Social Media<sup>3</sup>



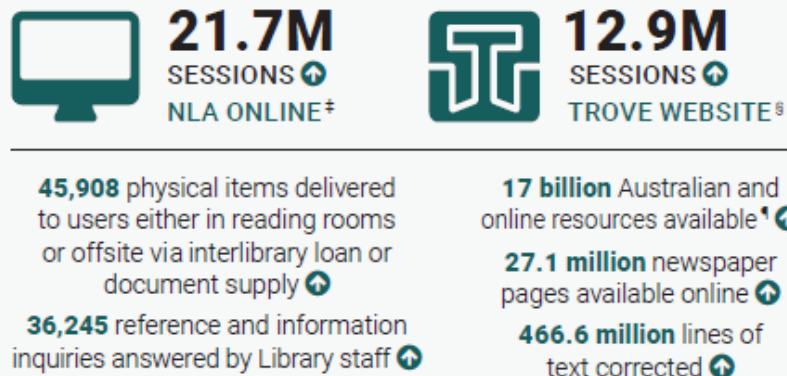
## VISITOR REACH<sup>4</sup>

Onsite visits to Library events; the onsite and online bookshop; learning and school education programs; Library donors and Friends.



Very remote	0.06%
Remote	0.18%
Outer regional	6.80%
Inner regional	9.54%
Major cities	83.42%

## Access and Usage



## WE OPERATED FROM FIVE BUILDINGS



The **main Library** building  
Three offsite collection **storage repositories**  
An office in the **Australian Embassy in Jakarta**

## WE OPERATED TWO READING ROOMS AND TWO GALLERIES IN THE MAIN BUILDING



**Main Reading Room**  
**Special Collections Reading Room**  
**Treasures Gallery**  
**Exhibition Gallery**

Note that upward and downward arrows reflect the trend from previous year.

Based on postcodes voluntarily supplied and grouped by Australian Bureau of Statistics Remoteness Area Codes

# Chinese Australian population data & project targets

## 2021 Census results

- Chinese is the fifth most common ancestry held by Australians (5.5%).
- Mandarin is the second most widely spoken language in Australia after English; Cantonese is the fourth most widely spoken language.

<b>Project Collecting Targets</b>
Ninety oral history interviews across Australia with Australians with Chinese Heritage.
Approaches to seven individuals & organisations for papers
60 commissioned photographs
Increased contemporary publishing from and by the community collected

## Fijian Australian population data & project KPIs

- The Pacific is of strategic interest to the Library
- Australia is home to the largest Fijian population outside Fiji.
- Fijians have been a presence in Australia since the 1800s.

<b>Project Collecting Targets</b>
60 oral history interviews across Australia with Fijian Australians
Approaches to five individuals & organisations for papers
60 commissioned photographs
Increased contemporary publishing from and by the community collected

# Engagement and Outreach

National Library of Australia  
October 10, 2021

Happy #FijiDay !!

Watch our new video to find out more about Collecting Fijian Australian Stories - our National Library of Australia project, running throughout 2021 and 2021. Australia is home to more expatriate Fijians than any other country, and the Library is reaching out to Fijian communities around Australia to encourage them to add their oral histories, pictures and manuscripts and published materials to the national collection.

If you'd like to share your story ... See more

COMMUNITY INVITATION

## Collecting Fijian Australian Stories

The National Library of Australia acknowledges Australia's First Nations Peoples - the First Australians - as the Traditional Owners and Custodians of this land and gives respect to the Elders - past and present - and through them to all Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

52 9 Comments 52 Shares

NLA video as promoted on social media, available  
<https://youtu.be/AyIRLQqIEvc>



Portrait of Maud Nomchong of Braidwood,  
N.S.W. 1800s, nla.cat-vn2055310



Indian labourers with their families and European overseers  
gathered in front of a house with verandah, Fiji, 1890  
<http://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-2869590249>

# Contemporary Published Collecting

The screenshot shows the Trove website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with 'Explore', 'Categories', 'Community', 'Research', and 'First Australians'. Below this is a search bar with the text 'Search Trove...' and a search icon. The main content area displays the title 'Fiji-Baat / written and illustrated by Salvin Kumar.' with a book cover image. Below the title, there are buttons for 'Read', 'Borrow', 'Buy', and 'Cite this'. A summary section is visible at the bottom of the page.

**Fiji-Baat / written and illustrated by Salvin Kumar.**  
Book; Book/Illustrated - 2020

Read Borrow Buy Cite this

Kumar, Salvin, 1986-, (author).

Summary  
"Fiji-Baat is the story of an 8-year-old boy who is from Australia. He accompanies his mother on a trip to see his Nana for Christmas. The young boy arrives in Fiji thinking that his Nana can barely speak English but is surprised to learn the opposite. The grandson and his grandfather then begin a journey of teaching and learning from each other."--Back cover.

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying a forum page. The browser's address bar shows a URL from web.archive.org. The page content includes a header with 'TROVE' and a navigation bar. The main area contains a grid of forum posts with titles, dates, and authors. A date stamp in the top right corner indicates '11 MAY 2022 15:13'.

Outsteps, Archived 11 May,  
https://webarchive.nla.gov.au/awa/20220511051346/https://www.oursteps.com.au/bbs/forum.php

# Australians with Chinese Heritage

National Library of Australia



Young lion dancers from the Chung Wah Association of Perth prepare to perform at the Chinese New Year cultural festival, Perth, Western Australia, 2022. Photographer – Philip Gostelow. <http://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-3058020532>



Home, Anna Zhu, 2008, [nla.cat-vn8609740](http://nla.gov.au/nla.cat-vn8609740)



Photographic portrait of oral history subject Margaret Yung Kelly, Sydney, New South Wales, 25 March 2022. Anna Zhu, photographer <http://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-3049616158>



# Fijian Australians



Rotuman Dance performance at inaugural fund-raising dinner for maternal care hospitals in Fiji, 8 October 2021 / Michael Singh <http://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-2994849078>



Thelma Thomas (MC Trey) with Sevuloni Waqatairewa, 2017  
Image: (<https://www.sbs.com.au/language/english/audio/sydney-fiji-day-celebrations-2017>)

“It’s just been great to be able to share and who may be listening to this in time to come, right? And it’s just so encouraging. And maybe I’d just like to just say a few things in Fijian because language is very important...”



## Building the future

- 1) A richer national collection
- 2) Stronger awareness and engagement with collections by communities
- 3) Digitisation and promotion of collections
- 4) Future Directions – the Australian Indian Diaspora

# Thank you

Dr Marie-Louise Ayres | [directorgeneral@nla.gov.au](mailto:directorgeneral@nla.gov.au) | +612 6262 1390

[nla.gov.au](https://nla.gov.au)

