

## NOTES

## NEW TROVE USER EVIDENCE

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**Trove and literature**

On the Trove forum Mary-Louise Weight recently [posted some highlights](#) from the growing list of acknowledgements that recognise Trove's importance to writers in search of period detail. These include:

- Matthew Condon, a speaker at the recent Writing the Australian Landscape Conference, commented:

'In recent years I have been enmeshed in works of creative non-fiction, namely my monograph/memoir *Brisbane* and my two true crime books about the life and times of former police commissioner Terence Lewis and crime and corruption in Queensland over half a century – *Three Crooked Kings* and *All Fall Down*. Trove was a priceless resource in the way it allowed me to bring colour and fact to the social history elements of these books. It allowed me to explore the childhoods and teenage years of various true life characters in the crime books by virtue that they were mentioned, often obscurely, in regional newspapers in the middle of the 20th century. Over the three years of research for the crime books, a day didn't go past where I didn't dig around in Trove. I'm not sure I could have given the books the depth they deserved without this extraordinary digitisation program. I see it as a great gift to the nation.'
- Barbara Winter, writes of her book *The Most Dangerous Man in Australia?*:

'I shall... just give a few examples of how Trove newspapers have helped me in my work, are helping me in a current project, and could have helped if it had been available earlier. In his home state, Homburg had enough influence to keep the family's dubious activities out of the *Advertiser*. Material in National Archives of Australia claimed that Homburg had connived with his son Renolf to fail to register with Manpower during the war; that could have been an oversight. Without Trove,

I would never have found the *Canberra Times* article that showed that Renolf also had never held an identity card or a ration book. That was no oversight, as the court case showed. It was a deliberate breach of National Security Regulations. Without Trove, I would not have discovered that a criminal family that I am researching went through three different names in three states over the course of more than 100 years, which is turning this work into a whole different ballgame.'

- [The fabulous Miss Phryne Fisher](#) on Book Coasters encourages entrants in an ABC competition to seek some inspiration from Trove:

'Why not have a look on the National Library of Australia's wonderful archive of Australian newspapers in Trove. I've just had a little peek and discovered mention in *The Argus* on Thursday 12 August 1926 of opera singer Madame Stralia's second week of engagement at the Majestic Theatre. Hmmm, there's definitely potential for murderous dramatics there.'

- [An interview](#) with the creators of the children's book *Do Not Forget Australia* on Kathryn Apel's blog makes a number of references to Trove:

'I found the Australian War Memorial website to be particularly helpful, as well as Trove – the website of the National Library of Australia.'

'Obviously the book is well suited to being read around Anzac Day as a way of bringing the events of the war, and reasons for commemorating Anzac Day, to the forefront. Middle and upper primary students could perhaps be asked to write letters to and from the two main characters. The National Library's Trove website has lots of newspaper articles and such which could be used for further research and discussion.'

## API use

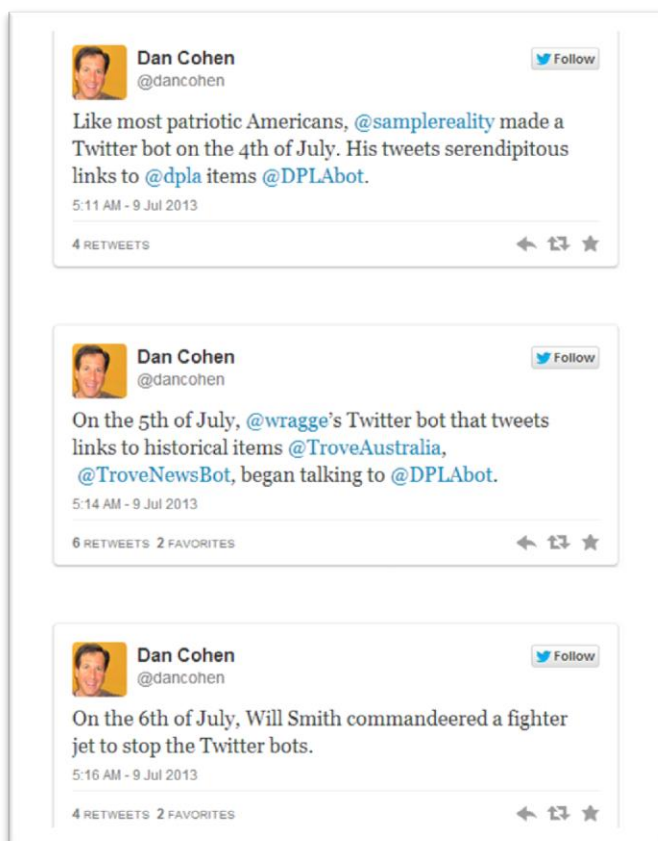
- Development has continued on the iPad app Advintage, winner of the Trove Developer Prize at GovHack 2013. James White described the process in an article entitled [Advintage. Ask for it by name.](#) on the GovHack blog:

'At the conclusion of GovHack, we'd built a fully functional app. It connected with the Trove database and filtered the advertising content we were interested in. Users could select categories such as food, travel and clothing, could save adverts as favourites, and share them on Facebook or Twitter. However, like any weekend hack, there was a significant amount of work required to get the app ready for public release. Advintage has a very simple interface, but like many simple interfaces, it's deceptively difficult to get it just right. And of course any app drawing on a database of millions of images with associated metadata, will require a lot of optimisation to ensure a good user experience.'

- [Serendip-o-matic](#) is a tool that connects your texts and sources to digital materials located in libraries, museums and archives around the world. It was developed in a week by a group of digital humanists as part of the 'One Week | One Tool' program organised by the Centre for History and Media at George Mason University. At its launch Serendip-o-matic included support for collections from the DPLA, Europeana and Flickr, however, within a few hours Tim Sherratt was able to contribute code to add in the Trove API. As a result, Trove was mentioned in a number of blog posts and articles describing the new tool, including [One Week | One Tool: Introducing Serendip-o-matic](#) in *The Chronicle of Higher Education*.
- [@TroveNewsBot](#) is a simple Twitter bot developed by Tim Sherratt that replies to user queries with articles from the newspaper database. TroveNewsBot also responds with historical newspaper articles to recent news headlines from the ABC and to random links posted by @DPLABot.

A generic version of the TroveNewsBot code has been made available so that Trove contributors can easily create their own collection bots. The National Museum of Australia's [@KasparBot](#) and the John Curtin Prime Ministerial Library's [@CurtinLibBot](#) have recently joined @TroveNewsBot on Twitter.

The Twitter interactions between Trove and DPLA inspired the following series of tweets from Dan Cohen, Executive Director of the DPLA:



## Recent papers and presentations

- Tim Sherratt gave a presentation entitled 'Conversations with collections' at the Digital Treasures symposium held at the University of Canberra on 21 June. Members of all the national cultural heritage institutions attended the symposium which included a broad discussion on the challenges of digital access. An outline of the talk is [available online](#).
- Tim Sherratt presented a workshop entitled 'Digital tools for impatient historians' at the Australian Historical Association annual conference in Wollongong on 10 July. The thirty participants, ranging from postgraduate students to senior academics, enjoyed learning a few Trove 'power user' tricks and experimenting with a number of different tools for harvesting and analyzing data from Trove.
- Marie-Louise Ayres presented the paper "[Singing for their Supper": Trove, Australian Newspapers, and the crowd](#)" at the 'News for the future' session at the 2013 IFLA Annual Congress. In the same session, Hilary Berthon and Wan Wong presented [Facing the future of Australian newspapers](#).

## Forthcoming papers and presentations

- 20 September – Members of the Trove Support Team will present a Trove Master Class at the Annual Conference of the NSW & ACT Association of Family History Societies in Canberra. The session is already fully booked with 150 people registered.
- 23 September – Tim Sherratt will present 'Citizen history? Making use-contributed content more meaningful' at the combined Biennial National Conference of the Oral History Association of Australia and the South Australian State History Conference.
- 16 October – Marie-Louise Ayres will present a paper in a session on the impact of technology on archival organisations at the 2013 Annual Conference of the Australian Society of Archivists in Canberra.
- 21 October – Tim Sherratt will present 'From portal to platform – building new frameworks for user engagement the 2013 LIANZA Conference in Hamilton.
- 22 October – Tim Sherratt will present 'Beyond Discovery: Digital Scholarship, Connected Communities and the Evolution of Trove' at the 2013 eResearch Australasia Conference in Brisbane.
- 31 October – Tim Sherratt will present on Trove at the Libraries Australia Forum.
- 1 November – Tim Sherratt will talk about 'Trove's place in the data universe' at the ACOC seminar 'Link by link: data integration and the evolving web'.

## Social media

- In the period from June to August @TroveAustralia tweeted 293 times, receiving 415 retweets and 591 mentions.
- Particularly notable was @nlagovau's tweet announcing the 10 millionth digitised newspaper page in Trove. This was retweeted at least 40 times and received a number of other responses.
- Popular tweets from @TroveAustralia included the story of a man shot by a ferret, Madame McCracken's knitting pattern for a two heeled sock, and Martin Luther King Jr's 'I have a dream' speech.
- A debate at Curtin University on 'Digitisation is the death of history' prompted the following Twitter exchange:

The screenshot shows a Twitter thread. The first tweet is from Molly (@madradish) on 29 Jul, stating: "If its not on Google or Trove it doesn't exist argues the #affirmative. But libraries and archives also limit what they collect #digideath13". The second tweet is from Inside History (@InsideHistory) on 29 Jul, replying: "@madradish Google & Trove mentioned together - me thinks @TroveAustralia would like that! #digideath13". The third tweet is from Molly (@madradish) on 29 Jul, replying to @InsideHistory and @TroveAustralia: "absolutely. The room (200 ppl) all nodded and agreed too :)". Below this tweet are interaction options: "Hide conversation", "Reply", "Retweet", "Favorite", and "More". A "1 FAVORITE" section shows the profile of Inside History. A timestamp "9:15 PM - 29 Jul 13 · Details" is visible. A reply box contains the text "Reply to @madradish @InsideHistory". The final tweet is from Trove (@TroveAustralia) on 30 Jul, replying to @madradish and @InsideHistory: "Delighted to hear (and that the affirmative won the debate!)".

## Trove Tuesday

Trove Tuesday continues to attract a range of enthusiastic contributors blogging about their latest discoveries. A summary of each week's posts are published on [Branches Leaves & Pollen](#). In the past three months more than 106 Trove Tuesday posts have been shared. These include:

- [Trove Tuesday – The Tiger Again](#) by Merron Riddiford:  
 ‘Last month, the Trove Tuesday post, “They Say” introduced the Tantalooona Tiger that was causing terror for farmers and their sheep in 1915. I have now found an article from an earlier sighting at Byaduk in 1896. You may remember the Tantalooona Tiger was first sighted in 1884 after a Bengal tiger supposedly escaped from a circus visiting Tantalooona in the South-East of South Australia and set out on a path of destruction through that district and the Western District of Victoria.’
- [Trove Tuesday – Trove search tips for military history](#) by MHSociety:  
 ‘As we approach the centenary of World War 1 and our first diggers , more and more people are going into TROVE to research the history of family members who have fought in conflicts. One question that pops up from time to time is how to find things in Trove that include numbers and symbols...’
- [Trove Tuesday: Grandpa won a competition](#) by Hannaford Family History:  
 ‘Grandpa was farmer and orchardist, and was born and bred into the life from his forebears who were in the same business. His father bought the farm at Cudlee Creek when grandpa was in high school, and he lived and breathed farm life, and ultimately in 2000 died doing what he loved, working on the farm.  
  
 While browsing around on Trove (which is commonly becoming known as “Trov-ing”) I came across two articles relating to Grandpa Cec Hannaford that really got my attention. For two years in a row, Cecil Hannaford won the under 15s Apple Packing Competition.’
- [Trove Tuesday: Playing with @TroveNewsBot](#) by Amy Lehmann:  
 ‘I LOVE the new @TroveNewsBot by Tim Sherratt (aka @wragge).  
  
 Built using the Trove API (which I had to read all about and think I understand), Tim has created the ultimate Trover's procrastination tool!’

### Other blog posts

- [Mining the Treasures of Trove](#) by Cameron Hocking on the Bright Ideas blog (School Libraries Association of Victoria and the State Library of Victoria) explores some tools for exploring Trove, including QueryPic, TroveMosaic and Serendip-o-matic:  
 ‘All of these sites show the possibilities presented by digital collections when they are built with open architecture. Trove’s open API means that tools can harvest the collection and present items in very different ways. We’re lucky to not only have such amazing collections, but also people who want to work with them to build these wonderful tools.’

- [Thought leaders](#) by Virginia Millen at *Venture magazine* (Swinburne University) describes Australian Policy Online's grey literature project:

'The project will connect APO's collection of grey literature resources with other major research databases, including RMIT Publishing's Informat database of journal articles and the National Library of Australia's Trove catalogue," says Lawrence. "I'm really interested in looking at what we can do with our database of publications and what can we do with the technology to bring related content together in more useful ways.'

- [Natural decoration from Trove](#) by Sonja Barfoed highlight's the author's 'favourite image (of all time)' from Trove -- a woman covered in butterflies while visiting the London Zoo in 1928.
- ['A First Fleet Family', by Louis Becke & Walter Jeffery](#) by Louise Wilson on the Robert Forrester, First Fleeter blog:

'With no joy in that direction, I then looked for a review of the book. Thanks to that marvellous Trove website, I found the following...'

### Selected media mentions

- 2 July -- A discussion of the 'City of Shadows' exhibition on Radio National Breakfast described how Trove had been used to solve the mystery of a photograph of a woman lying on the floor of a Sydney building. Newspapers from 1934 revealed her tragic story: <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article36721737>
- 23 July -- *The Sydney Morning Herald* published [an article by Ian Warden](#) about the royal baby, featuring knitting patterns from the *Women's Weekly*. He described the patterns as available through the Library's 'famous and priceless Trove service'.
- Marie-Louise Ayres described some of the successes and challenges of crowdsourcing in Trove as part of a panel discussion on Radio National's By Design program on 24 July.
- 21 August 2013 -- Tim Sherratt was interviewed about Trove on ABC Central West. An edited version of the interview was published on the ABC website as [History comes alive in a digital era](#).
- 13 August 2013 -- [Bega shire news database history in the making](#):

'Armchair historians and anybody looking to delve into the shire's past can now read digital copies of local newspapers dating back more than 100 years. The Bega Valley Shire Library and the National Library of Australia have joined forces to make digital scans of the shire's old newspapers available for all to read.'