NEW TROVE USER EVIDENCE

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7 MARCH 2014

Trove papers and presentations

- 20 September 2013 – Members of the Trove Support Team presented a Trove Master Class at the Annual Conference of the NSW & ACT Association of Family History Societies in Canberra. The session was fully booked and more than 150 people attended. Survey results were very positive with 100% of those who responded agreeing that they had learnt something new. The Trove Support Team also staffed a table at the Family History Fair throughout the day. The team tweeted about their day and shared the whole experience through Storify.

[Image of a tweet by Jill Ball thanking the Trove team for their masterclass at the NSWACT13 conference]
• 23 September 2013 – Tim Sherratt presented *Collected Content / Distributed Meanings* at the combined Biennial National Conference of the Oral History Association of Australia and the South Australian State History Conference.


• 21 October 2013 – Tim Sherratt presented *From portals to platforms: building new frameworks for user engagement* the 2013 LIANZA Conference in Hamilton. This paper has attracted considerable attention online. It was selected as an ‘Editors’ Choice’ by DHNow and featured in their *end-of-year highlights*. Most notably perhaps, it was cited by Harry Verwayen, the Europeana Business Director, in his presentation on *Europeana’s Draft Strategy 2015-2020* at the Europeana Network Annual General Meeting on 2 December 2013. Harry noted that the ‘shift from portal to platform’ had been identified as one of Europeana’s five major objectives.

• 22 October 2013 – Tim Sherratt presented *Beyond Discovery: Digital Scholarship, Connected Communities and the Evolution of Trove* at the 2013 eResearch Australasia Conference in Brisbane.

• 29 October 2013 -- Chris McPartland presented an introduction to Trove for recipients of Community Heritage Grants. This was an important opportunity to talk to custodians of community collections about how they can work with Trove to improve access to their resources.


• 1 November 2013 – Tim Sherratt talked about *Trove in a Linked Data universe* at the ACOC seminar ‘Link by link: data integration and the evolving web’ in Melbourne.

• 18 November 2013 -- Catriona Bryce gave an introduction to Trove to the Engineering Heritage Association conference in Canberra. Catriona’s presentation explored available engineering resources and offered a number of useful tips for getting the most out of Trove. A number of conference participants asked for a copy of the presentation, but the best compliment received was: ‘I worship at Trove’s feet’.

• 19 February 2014 – Marie-Louise Ayres recorded a presentation ‘Do we still need a catalogue: discovery, delivery and engagement at the National Library of Australia’ for the ‘Faster, smarter, richer: reshaping the library catalogue’ conference convened by the Italian Library Association, the Vatican Library and the Vatican School of Library Science. The presentation focused on the questions currently being considered by the Discovery and Delivery working group, with a focus on Trove-style engagement.

• 27 March 2014 – Marie-Louise Ayres presented an introduction to Trove for CDNL-AO participants. The presentation included the new system architecture diagram and referred to findings from the 2013 evaluation.
• 4 March 2014 – The Trove Support Team presented ‘Getting the most out of Trove’ at the monthly meeting of HAGSOC. About 100 people attended and survey results were again very positive.

The Trove blog

The Trove blog was launched on 19 February, with a starting point. At the end of the first day the post was the 4th most viewed page across the whole nla.gov.au site with an average time on the page of five minutes. By 5 March the first blog post had received 915 page views with an average visit time of three minutes.
Want to know more about what's in, who works on, and how to use Trove? Launched today, our blog!

nla.gov.au/blogs/trove
pic.twitter.com/OE70oeYOj3
Comments on the post were very positive. Here are three examples:

- ‘Love it! Great blog post. We refer to using Trove as falling down the rabbit hole.’
- ‘I love Trove too. How can you not love the random and interconnected pieces of our past that reveal hidden and forgotten tragedies, joyous homecomings and exciting discoveries! I am an investigator by profession, and now that my role has been made redundant, I’m excited about having the time (and the analysis tools) to recommence researching the history of my relatives, the towns they lived in and perhaps a new discovery or two. Keep up the great work!’
- ‘Well done!! A great start to a new blog. Trove is world class and stands out for its accessibility, user interaction, and overall content. I use it daily and delight in finding new "lists" and have become addicted to correcting text in the newspaper articles. Looking forward to more’.

Making lists

Trove users continue to enrich resources by adding tags and comments. Indeed, the total number of tags now tops 2 million. However, the annotation feature that has shown strongest growth in recent months has been Lists. Lists are collections of resources created by users to organise and share their research. Lists can include anything in Trove, except for archived websites, and can be made public or private.

Some basic analysis gives a feeling for the extent and character of list-building activity. As of 3 March, there were 32,453 public lists created by 6690 users, containing 525,591 items. By extracting the titles of lists and computing word frequencies we can create a picture of our users’ research interests.
The apparent emphasis on family history research is no surprise, but what is also clear is how features such as Lists support niche interests – the ‘long tail’ of online activity. In the centre of this image is the word ‘mowers’, revealing the fact that one dedicated Trove user has created 146 lists related to lawn mowers.

**Trove not T.R.O.V.E.**

In October we issued a challenge via Twitter:

![Trove Twitter handle with a tweet](image)

Responses, from the inspired to the silly, were captured in Storify.

**Trove on Twitter**

The last six months have seen an increase in Trove’s use of Twitter and a growth in the engagement of Trove’s Twitter followers. The total number of Twitter followers has increased by 1233. The number of direct mentions and replies has increased by 97. The number of retweets has fallen.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Reach (Followers)</th>
<th>Activity (New tweets)</th>
<th>Engagement (Direct mentions/replies)</th>
<th>Amplification (Retweets)</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August</td>
<td>4,693</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>182</td>
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<td>September</td>
<td>4,889</td>
<td>108</td>
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<td>129</td>
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<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td>5,138</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>234</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Twitter highlights included:

- One of Trove’s most popular tweets was a celebration of the 50th birthday of the Tim Tam. With 34 retweets and 10 favourites, this was the top Australian government tweet for 17 February 2014. Our Tim-Tam tweet was also featured in the Delib Australia blog post Eight ways to create a top government tweet.

- Trove also featured in the top 50 government tweets on 10 January (35th), 30 January (39th), 19 February (4th), 24 February (43rd), 25 February (34th), and 26 February (50th).

- Trove was excited to receive a marriage proposal from a very happy user on Twitter. However, Trove's love life quickly became more complicated, as other users stepped in to avow their affections.

- As temperatures soared in January, our tweet sharing the 1930 news that Adelaide girls had taken to wearing ‘shorts’ in response to the heat was the most popular tweet of the month, with 26 retweets and 9 favourites.

- About ten minutes after tweeting the link to an 1861 article about the potential discovery of Australia by the Portuguese, a diligent volunteer had corrected the complete text of the article.

- From @lizbee on 29 January 2014: ‘The National Library of Australia’s Trove facility lets you search every library in the country. It's basically my favourite thing ever.’
• Amongst the Twitter coverage of the National Digital Forum in New Zealand on 27 November was the observation that Trove was the biggest referrer to the Museum of Victoria’s collection site – bigger even than Google.

**True devotion**

The most creative expression of devotion to Trove came in the form of a picture of a fan’s car:

![Car with Trove written on the window](image)

**Other user engagement highlights**

• Trove’s Christmas shutdown message elicited a number of friendly responses. In particular, one user commented:
  ‘Trove sits proudly among such data bases of the world. Apart from being free, which is a profound blessing in this day and age and should not be taken for granted, the calibre of its search engine has no equal.’

• The completion of the *Canberra Times* digitisation project received much attention: our tweet announcing the completion received 17 retweets and 5 favourites, and the news item in the Trove forum was viewed over 1500 times. Similarly, new collections added to Trove in 2013 received 9 retweets, 6 favourites, and the Forum news item was viewed over 2000 times.
• Trove hit a record 126,000 unique visits on 9 January – more than 50% higher than the previous high of 83,000. Investigations revealed that the spike was indeed the work of humans, following a post on social media site Reddit which linked to a Trove article. The subject of the article? A man who was hit by a shell in World War I, resulting in a complete loss of the ability to, or need for, sleep. A wide variety of Trove content is highlighted in Trove, but this particular item led many Reddit readers to wax lyrical about what they could/would do with their time if they did not need to sleep.

• On 31 January, ABC News reported on the discovery of the first known version of ‘Click go the shears’ in a newspaper from 1891. The discovery was made through Trove and was reported in our own Forum in November last year. A report on ABC's Landline program a few days later inspired this comment from a grateful user:

  ‘Today's program of Landline, ABC TV, featured this historic and recently rediscovered lyrical version of Australia's most beloved and iconic bush ballad, The Bare Belled Ewe. What an inspiration Landline is, and well done to those historians and researchers who found this gem. Thanks also to modern technology which enabled this discovery, and to all those who beaver away on this most amazing website. Thanks TROVE!’

• In the lead up to Christmas we invited Trove users to share their most exciting discoveries of 2013 for a chance to win a beautiful Trove mug. The competition ran until January 25 and we received 21 entries. The Trove team voted for their favourites and six people were awarded mugs. The winners included stories of family adultery, police raids, and a rather disturbing tale of ‘pets gone bad’ by Quentaris who described: ‘finding my great-grandfather's first wife's name, and her death, and her husband's criminal record, and finding that the only reason her death made it into a lot of newspapers was because the pet cockatoo ate part of her arm after her death.’ Some of the entries can be seen in the forum. The mugs were gratefully received.

• Users have created their own Praise for Trove thread on the Forum. Amongst the latest additions is this comment:

  ‘I agree with everything already said. My own research life is divided into Before Trove and After Trove. I have now compiled and published four non-fiction books using this extraordinary resource. In one book: ‘1896 "Pearl" Ferry Capsizing near Victoria Bridge, Brisbane’ (still Brisbane's worst disaster by number of deaths), I discovered Kerry Raymond was related to someone in this event, as I am. This -co-incidence’ has lead to an enduring and ongoing friendship. In the Acknowledgements of the 'Pearl' I said, in part: ‘And many thanks to all the Librarians of the National Library of Australia and their clever technical colleagues, who have made the often quite beautiful (and anonymous) writing’ available to everyone in the world. Every politician should have a compulsory Library and Trove training. As the old Roman said: ‘Those who forget history are doomed to repeat it.’
API use and outreach

- The Trove Support Team enjoyed a ‘playdate’ with the Digital Treasures group at the University of Canberra on 10 December. This was an opportunity to explore possible uses of the Trove API and build relationships with researchers. Staff from Division 4, the National Archives and IceLabs were also present. As well as introducing some of the little-known treasures available through the API, the team undertook some hacking of their own to create @TroveXmasBot who tweeted Christmas recipes and gift ideas in the days leading up to Christmas.

- As the centenary of World War I approaches, we are already starting to see interesting new resources making use of Trove content. The War Herald displays each day’s war-related news from a century ago, drawing in content through the Trove API. On a much larger scale, Europeana has redeveloped its portal to WWI resources and now includes a federated search across collections from Europe, America, New Zealand and Australia, using the APIs of Europeana, DPLA, DigitalNZ and Trove. This is an excellent example of what becomes possible when we make data available in re-usable forms, and also of the role of aggregators such as Trove in being able to present the world with an entry point to Australian collections.

- After a discussion with Trove team members at VALA14, Steve Bennett, University of Melbourne, wrote a blog post: Digital humanities for beginners: get started with the Trove API.

- Molly Tebo, State Library of WA, attended a RailsGirls event in Perth and described her experiences learning to code with the Trove API.

- Tim Sherratt published a post describing his experiments in exporting Trove lists and tags into Zotero using the API.

- In preparation for his talk at the Libraries Australia Forum, Tim Sherratt created the Trove Collection Profiler to visualise Trove holdings by contributor.

- Trove’s unofficial Twitter Bot workshops produced a sibling for TroveNewsBot. The new @TroveBot tweets books, articles, objects, pictures and more from all the non-newspaper zones of Trove. The new bot’s birth and subsequent tennis match with its older sibling were described in a blog post by Tim Sherratt.

- Meanwhile, TroveNewsBot continues to attract fans, and was nominated for the 2014 Digital Humanities Awards in the ‘best use of DH for fun’ category. Although TroveNewsBot didn’t win, the victor was Serendip-o-matic which also uses the Trove API. TroveNewsBot has also broadened his range of activities, regularly posting random newspaper illustrations to his own Tumblr account.
Selected media stories

2 Oct 2013 – 774 ABC, Melbourne, Breakfast:

‘Interview with Stuart Macintyre, University of Melbourne and co-editor of The Cambridge History of Australia which is being launched this morning. He says there is an Oxford History of Australia that was published 20 years ago. He says Cambridge was the first to develop the idea of multiple author histories. He says it’s available online, so that universities can buy online licenses to provide excerpts for students. He says the National Library has a program called ‘Trove’ which allows people to look through digitised newspapers. He says it’s a fantastic resource.’

3 Oct 2013 – 891 ABC, Adelaide, Mornings:

‘Interview with Bob Wurth, author, The Battle for Australia. Wurth discusses the battle for Australia. He explains that the situation for Prime Minister Curtin was that in January 1942 the Japanese were coming very quickly towards Singapore. He explains that on 21 January, 1942 Curtin, suffering from depression, abandoned his role as Prime Minister and missed 12 Australian war cabinet and advisory war council meetings regarding the pending advance of China. He recalls that Curtin was a man on the drink and on the verge of collapse during the war. He comments with the Trove Digital System which you can access now via the National Library of Australia you can actually trace the illnesses which crock up all the time.’
26 Nov 2013 -- Liam Wyatt was interviewed about Trove on 4BC’s evening program.

5 Dec 2013 – ’The day Jack bowled the Don’, *Gundagai Independent*, p. 3:
‘… Cindy came across the reported account of the match in an old issue of The Independent, recently catalogued on the innovative Trove website.’

9 Dec 2013 – ‘Kandos was never Chandos’, *Mudgee Guardian & Gulgong Advertiser*, p. 18:
‘…A search of Trove, an on-line resource of the National Library, particularly good for newspapers, reveals no place in New South Wales called Chandos. Nor do any maps, public records or micro-filmed newspapers that I have researched.’

18 December 2014 – ’2013 – The year in review’, *Western Herald*, p. 17:
‘The Bourke Library holds a well attended evening launch for the debut of historic issues of The Western Herald on the National Library’s online archive Trove. Once the digitisation process is complete nearly 90 years of our town's history will be available and easily accessible online…’

29 Dec 2013 – ‘The BIG idea: A high-minded attempt to raise the lower classes’, *Sun Herald*, Extra, p. 36:
‘Thanks to Trove, the National Library of Australia’s marvellous resource of digitised newspapers, I can tell you without leaving my desk that on Tuesday, September 6,1864, a Mr Palmer gave a lecture on The Life and Writings of Oliver Goldsmith in the Murrurundi courthouse in aid of the Mechanics Institute, forerunner to the Literary Institute. The next speaker, Mr Quaife, was to lecture (rather ominously) on the subject of Epitaphs.’

16 Jan 2014, ‘Back in time in Terang’, *Terang Express*, p. 5:
‘TERANG residents can now travel back in time 100 years without leaving their home, The National Library of Australia is uploading the last editions of the Terang Express from 1914 to 1918 onto its database ahead of next year’s Anzac Centenary.’

17 Jan 2014, ‘Yes it's a scorcher, but it has been far hotter here before’, Howard Jones, *Border Mail*, p. 16:
‘DON’T be shocked by the extreme heat this week — it’s been far more severe… …it’s nonsense to claim our summers are getting hotter as time passes — the climate pattern is reflected in the cycle of heatwaves, droughts and floods going in this district
back to the 1850s. Newspaper articles recording these are now freely available online at the National Library of Australia’s Trove facility.'

22 Jan 2014, ‘Historical significance’, Cobden Times, p. 8:

‘COBDEN residents can now travel back in time 100 years without leaving their homes. The National Library of Australia is uploading editions of the Cobden Times and Cobden Times and Heytesbury Advertiser from 1914 to 1918 onto its database ahead of next year’s Anzac Centenary.’

23 Jan 2014, ‘Horror day when shark killed boy’, St George & Sutherland Shire Leader, p. 4:

‘THE debate over the risk of shark attack in Port Hacking has revived the memory of an 87-year-old tragedy when a boy, 15, died after being attacked while swimming off Grays Point…

The Sydney Morning Herald carried a vivid report on the 1927 tragedy. Sutherland Shire councillor Phil Blight unearthed the article on Trove, the National Library of Australia website that carries digitised editions of many Australian newspapers going back to the 1840s.’

30 Jan 2014, ‘Old Dunmunkle’s Digitised’, Murtoa & District Advertiser, p. 14:

‘The State Library of Victoria have announced that the 125 editions of the Dunmunkle Standard from 1914 -1918 have been digitised and uploaded to Trove.

Trove is an national repository of digitised content run by the National Library of Australia. Trove focuses on Australia and Australians. It supplements what search engines provide. It is a terrific site that is used by people researching in the fields of the social sciences, literature, local or family history, and by school students undertaking assignments.’

31 Jan 2014 – ‘History treasure trove’, Gympie Times, p. 14:

‘If you are researching your family or an area and need information, the Trove website has a goldmine of newspaper articles - albeit perhaps about scandal in the family.’

12 Feb 2014 – ‘Book details history’, Kiama Independent, p. 5:

‘FROM sending items to troops to assisting victims of the Kiama tornadoes, a new book details the Jamberoo Red Cross Branch’s extensive contribution to its community and beyond…

It … includes articles from the Kiama Independent, as well as information gleaned from branch minutes, the National Library (Trove) and State Library.’
12 Feb 2014 – ‘The mystery of the Stathis Cup’, *Canowindra News*, p. 5:

‘Many press items discovered in the National Library newspaper archive Trove recently mention rugby league teams in the Boree Shire, playing for the Stathis Cup.’
21 Feb 2014 – ‘Purple pigs are adding to history treasure trove’, Gippsland Times & Maffra Spectator, p. 11:

‘A ‘trove’ is usually linked with gold and precious treasure, but for history lovers today the term is synonymous with a rich treasury of knowledge and information to be found in the publications of our forebears.

Trove, the National Library of Australia’s online portal, puts the information from around 1000 libraries, art galleries, archives and museums in Australia, in a user friendly search engine which can uncover a wealth of stories from the past.

Eight years in the making, with a prototype trialled from May 2009, Trove was launched in November 2009.

It now provides access to more than 387 million Australian and online resources: books, images, historic newspapers, maps, music, archives and more.’

25 Feb 2014, ‘Chequered past recalled’, Narrandera Argus, p. 7:

‘A search of the National Library’s Trove shows details of another famous murder trial - that of Sarah and Amy Warby at Billenbah Station on January 28 1911.’

1 Mar 2014, ‘A family link to the art of war’, Canberra Times, p. 19:

‘The works are part of a trajectory that began a couple of years ago, when she was fiddling around on the internet, and discovered the National Library’s search engine, Trove. As an artist, she had long been interested in histories and stories, and had recently worked with old photographs and ephemera. Trove, with its masses of digitised newspapers, was an endless source of distraction and fascination, and she found herself clicking into obscure rabbit holes of information.’