



# Australian Academy *of the Humanities*

## The Humanities & the 2016 National Research Infrastructure Roadmap

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# Australian Academy of the Humanities (AAH)

- National body for the humanities in Australia [www.humanities.org.au](http://www.humanities.org.au)  
600 elected Fellows
- One of Australia's [four Learned Academies](#)
- Provide independent expert advice on the humanities, inform policy development and encourage and support engagement across the sector
- Long history of AAH/humanities engagement in national roadmap process
- Our role in sector discussions, institution building & sector collaboration (establishment of [aaDH](#), participation on [GLAM Peak](#))



Australasian Association  
for Digital Humanities

## aaDH

The Australasian Association for Digital Humanities Inc (aaDH) was formed in March 2011 to strengthen the digital humanities research community in Australia, Aotearoa New Zealand and the Pacific and is a member of the international [Alliance of Digital Humanities Organisations \(ADHO\)](#).

The professional association acts to support and extend links between digital humanities researchers, improve professional development opportunities and provide international leverage for local projects and initiatives. aaDH organises the Digital Humanities Australasia [conference](#) every two years and provides a range of other opportunities for fostering understanding of digital technologies in the humanities.

<https://aa-dh.org/>



# Digital Access to Collections

## GLAM Peak

The Digital Access to Collections project is an initiative of GLAM Peak – the peak representative bodies of the galleries, libraries, archives and museums sectors in Australia – which began meeting in mid-2015, collaborating to enable people to access, use and build on our national collections.

<http://www.digitalcollections.org.au/glam-peak>

# Humanities, Arts & Social Sciences (HASS)

- Size and diversity of the sector, see *Mapping the Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences in Australia* report (AAH, 2014)
- HASS researchers comprise 43% of the university-based system, HASS contributed 44% of the total number of units of evaluation in the 2012 ERA initiative
- HASS comprises more than 50 disciplines at the 4-digit field of research level
- Integral to research and innovation system – as well as vital partners with colleagues in STEM fields in in multi & inter-disciplinary collaboration tackling complex societal challenges



# The HASS Platform

- Scale of vision over the next 10 years
- Order of magnitude of digital and ‘big data’ developments transforming research practice in the humanities
- Envisage that the HASS Platform will offer unprecedented access to and discoverability of uniquely Australian social and cultural data to enable advanced research in issues of national priority and significance.
- Needs to be driven by research agenda – enhancing knowledge of the origin and development of human societies on the Australian continent, the conditions of social conflict and cohesion, the drivers of economic growth and decline, Australia's place in the world, and the building blocks of communities and cultures that characterise our regions and cities.

- A national content discovery ecosystem that supports interoperability, leverages collective national research infrastructure in collecting institutions, and enhances existing institutional infrastructure than can serve a national role.
- Key infrastructures, publicly held databases and corpuses include: [Trove](#), [Atlas of Living Australia](#), [PARADISEC](#), [Austlit](#), [AusStage](#), [Australian Policy Online](#), [Founders & Survivors](#), [FAIMS](#), [AUSTLII](#), [HuNI](#), and [The Prosecution Project](#).
- A national facility to improve overall coordination of research infrastructure supporting access to physical and digital collections through enhanced digitisation aggregation and interpretation tools and platforms, integrate with Digital Data and eResearch platforms for targeted skills development and involve active participation of both researchers and communities.
- Three biggest challenges: data availability, skills development (incl. research training), and research translation.
- Related policy developments: open access, open data, NISA, digital literacy, ARC/NHMRC Research Code (research data management guidelines)

# Exemplars

- NCRIS-funded Research Data Services (RDS) [Cultures and Communities Data project](#).
- Involves the following organisations: Griffith University, National Library of Australia, Atlas of Living Australia , Queensland State Archives , Tasmanian Archives and Heritage Office, AARNet, Deakin University (HuNI/Nectar), eRSA, Intersect, VicNode, Flinders University.
- The Prosecution Project, see <https://prosecutionproject.griffith.edu.au/>  
*“Making use of a purpose-built structured database with the flexibility to capture data from a variety of different sources and jurisdictions, and enabling a productive partnership between researchers and volunteer transcribers, the Prosecution Project is a platform for revolutionising our understanding of criminal justice histories.”*
- This project plans to extend the functionality of this database by operationalising a national, sustainable and scalable API standard that will allow data (and metadata) sharing and transfer between archives, institutions and research projects, facilitate active community participation through the provision of training and education resources, and provide a consolidated and sustainable user support service.