GLAM PEAK AUSTRALIA
FEDERAL ELECTION AGENDA

WHAT DO WE WANT TO ACHIEVE?

To assist the Australian people to create innovative, educated, resilient and connected communities that understand and celebrate our shared cultural identity through free digital access to the nation’s cultural collections.

HOW CAN OUR POLITICAL REPRESENTATIVES HELP?

A 7-point plan to enable community digital access

1. Endorse a national strategy and framework for digital access to cultural collections
2. Invest in digitising Indigenous collections
3. Invest in institutions great and small to make their collections digitally accessible
4. Invest in research across the arts and humanities
5. Enable seamless discoverability and reuse of digital collections through ongoing investment in a central online aggregation platform
6. Amend the Copyright Act as proposed in the last term
7. Build employment and training in the creative industries and digital humanities
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Background

The GLAM Peak Bodies represent galleries, libraries, archives, museums, historical societies and other research collections:

- Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA)
- The Australian Society of Archivists (ASA)
- Council of Australasian Archives and Records Authorities (CAARA)
- Council of Australasian Museum Directors (CAMD)
- Council of Australian Art Museum Directors (CAAMD)
- Council of Australian University Librarians (CAUL)
- Federation of Australian Historical Societies (FAHS)
- International Council of Museums (ICOM)
- Museums Australia (MA)
- National and State Libraries Australasia (NSLA)
- University Art Museums Australia (UAMA)

Our members support the nation’s arts, heritage, education, research and innovation priorities:

- We work with Indigenous communities to preserve the nation’s earliest cultural memories and we embrace new technologies, including world class examples of digital access to collections through Trove and the Atlas of Living Australia.

- Our collections create a sense of place and introduce young people and new migrants to the ideas that have shaped our nation. They support the Australian Curriculum, providing rich content for teachers and students.

- They are used by authors, illustrators, designers, musicians, filmmakers and other creators to explore the works of past masters and make new works for a contemporary audience.

- Media and technology companies, established businesses and entrepreneurs use our collections to investigate opportunities, identify gaps, generate content and spark new inventions.

- Humanities researchers and family historians rely on our collections to satisfy their need for knowledge.
Whether it is for engaging with culture and science, learning from history, preparing a school project, researching a family history, writing a thesis, filming a documentary or inventing a new gizmo, Australians are turning in their millions to the web. There are more than 20 million visitors a year to Trove alone.

While our collecting institutions have the capability to deliver digital content, there are significant barriers to digital access:

- No clearly articulated national strategy and framework for digital access to collections
- A patchy approach to funding for the digitisation of materials and the processing needed to make them screen-ready
- Reduced funding for the Trove platform, which will hinder its growth and put it at risk of falling behind in technology terms
- Copyright law has not kept pace with technological advances.
- If we can address these issues, there are substantial benefits to be gained.
- We will unlock the value of our physical collections.
- We will promote Australian creators’ work and our national heritage to a global audience.
- We will enable local community collections to connect to the ‘national grid’.
- We will create new jobs in the creative industries and help develop a digitally-skilled workforce.
- In a country that is prone to climate-related disasters, we will be able to safeguard our cultural heritage in its digital form.

We welcome the government’s investment in the collections of the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies but there are collections held in many other institutions and keeping places that should be made digitally accessible.

These collections are not only of cultural significance, they also support scientists’ understanding of the landscape and the environment. This deeper understanding is based on the knowledge of people who have looked after this land for thousands of years.

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