

Title: Indigenous knowledge management and repatriation – The boomerang effect

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The Physical Environment

The Indigenous Research Centre – home away from home

The State Library of Victoria, has been developing resources for Aboriginal people and designing safe welcoming environments that support community access. It began with the position of Koori Librarian who invited local people to set up a research group of Indigenous grass roots scholars who gave us the courage to imagine other Koori friendly projects. The Research Group's first outcome was the inaugural Indigenous Victorian Aboriginal Cultural Research Fellowship, which provide opportunities to discover and present ways of accessing the collections. Next up is the establishment of the Indigenous Research Centre, an identified safe space for meeting, researching and holding discussions with the Aboriginal community. The hero collections of State Libraries are the heritage materials that were created in the early days of colonisation. Scattered throughout these collections are the voices of our ancestors as they were gathered up and placed in the "protective" custody of the Mission system and then drawn upon by many in the Colony to describe their vanishing way of life.

The online Environment

Mukurtu – Dilly-bag (a safe place to keep precious things)

In the hot desert of Central Australia, Northern Territory, Traditional Owners worked with a Canadian Academic to build Mukurtu – Dilly-bag (a safe place to keep precious things), an online keeping place for Indigenous material. The perfect digi-tool for returning knowledge to country in a safe way; commenting, tags, relationships, personas, categories and customisation of cultural protocols are just some possibilities generating an extremely valuable interactive resource for our communities. Training in Mukurtu would need to be offered at the State Library Victoria to support the culturally safe storage of past, present and future digital heritage within Victoria's Aboriginal communities, overall supporting the preservation and revitalisation of our Cultural Practice.