

Cultural collections online

Andrew Stephenson

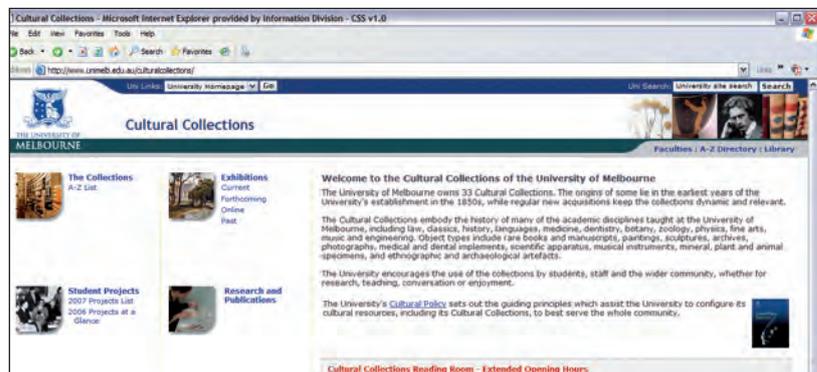
In October 2006 the University launched a new website for its cultural collections, at <http://www.unimelb.edu.au/culturalcollections>.

Details of the 33 cultural collections owned by the University are now assembled on the site, including Special Collections, University of Melbourne Archives, the Print Collection and the Grainger Museum, together with the Medical History Museum, Herbarium, Physics Museum, Ian Potter Museum of Art and other collections, museums and libraries across the University. The site provides a range of alternative access points to the collections, including name, category, a fully cross-referenced alphabetical listing and a search engine customised to search the full content of the website.

One of the functions of the new site is to act as a portal to the collections, providing descriptive information on each collection and links to individual collection websites.

Students in various conservation and curatorial programs, as well as the new undergraduate degrees, work closely with the collections, and the site includes a full list of student projects available for the current year, each with a downloadable position description for prospective applicants.

Research and publications that



draw on the collections are detailed on the site, grouped by the respective collections and with links to the final published material where available, whether it is online in full text or via a link to the University Library catalogue entry.

Details are provided of exhibitions drawing on the collections: current, forthcoming, past and online. For several recent exhibitions there are extensive galleries of images, together with speeches and photographs from exhibition launches, all of which will be retained on the site as a permanent—and growing—record.

Items of current news and forthcoming events are regularly posted on the home page. There are also links to an extensive array of current and archived news items relating to the collections.

Links are provided to related sites

both within and external to the University, including University history resources, heritage and conservation centres, friends and members groups and national councils and networks.

The website provides an opportunity to expose the breadth and depth of our collections by combining descriptions with access to all of them on the one website, as well as through the presentation of our extensive collection of images.

Andrew Stephenson is a librarian, and Web Coordinator with the Cultural Collections Group and Information Policy. A graduate of the Royal School of Library and Information Science in Copenhagen, his other qualifications include a Diploma of Library and Information Studies and an Associate Diploma of Social Science from Whitehorse Institute, a Graduate Diploma of Information Management from RMIT University and a BA (Hons) from the University of Melbourne.