Moreton Island Lighthouse Rocket Drill, 1894
A Photographic Albums’ Journey
Donation/Collaboration/Engagement

QUT Digital Collections
http://digitalcollections.qut.edu.au/
Timeline of Events

- September 2014 – Dr Wilton Wood Russell Love Album digitised and records made available via the Internet and indexed also by Trove at [http://digitalcollections.qut.edu.au/view/sub-collections/2057/Dr_Wilton_Wood_Russell_Love_Album.html](http://digitalcollections.qut.edu.au/view/sub-collections/2057/Dr_Wilton_Wood_Russell_Love_Album.html)

- Early 2015 QUT Library announces Off the Grid initiative.

- Together with QUT Precincts and Old Government House there will be an exhibition of some of the photos from the Album from June to October 2016. Exhibition will be called “To Sir with Love: The Dr Wilton Wood Russell Love Album”

- I have applied for a Queensland Week Sponsorship to cover the opening and some of the costs involved with the exhibition (expect to find out the outcome in December 2015)
Staff skill-set repurposed to build the digital collections:

- Collection development planning
- Project management
- Risk assessment
- Metadata creation
- Scanning & file conversion
- Preservation
- Open access & CC licensing
- Copyright permissions
- EPrints software back-end
- General repository hosting
- Collaboration- both within QUT and external organisations eg State Library of Queensland and other interested historical groups
New Skills acquired and lessons leant so far from this project

- That an exhibition takes a lot of collaborative work from many people within and external to QUT. My initial thought can’t be that hard - WRONG

- From the museum community, success is about boutique digitisation, curated content and end-user experiences (oral history, creating panoramas for 1862 and 1892 rather than individual photos)

- In the archive community, success tends be about management, preservation, discovery and connection (Album will be donated to SLQ for preservation/conservation)

- Curating and exhibiting digital collections of learning objects, cultural and/or institutional heritage materials significantly increases the value proposition of the institution’s investment in repository services.

- Promotion/communication and Grant writing skills
THE STORY
An exhibition is to be held at Old Government House, Brisbane, in 2016 for some of the contents of a photo album that was originally gifted by Brisbane chemistry students to their professor in 1894. The album was bought by a US naval serviceman as a souvenir from a second-hand bookshop 50 years later, and was taken back to the US. Another 50 years on, it was donated to QUT Library, and in 2014 it was digitised as part of QUT Stories (http://digitalcollections.qut.edu.au/collections/qut-stories/).

TIMELINE

1862
Panorama of Brisbane taken by John Watson from the Wickham Terrace Observatory

1892
Panorama of Brisbane taken by Paul C. Poulton from the Wickham Terrace Observatory (see photo above)

1894
Donation of album to Dr Wilton Wood Russell Love by Brisbane Technical College

1933
Dr Wilton Wood Russell Love dies

1944
Ensign Bonvouloir Franko-Filippou buys album from a Brisbane bookshop

1995
Album donated to QUT Library by Dr Bonvouloir Franko-Filippou

2014
QUT Digital Collection - QUT Stories - album digitisation

2015
Proposal for physical exhibition of digitised album

2016
Physical exhibition at QUT

THE ALBUM
The album was originally gifted by chemistry students in 1894 to Dr Wilton Wood Russell Love (1881-1933) who was also a prominent medical doctor in Brisbane. Dr Love was a student in Chemistry at the Brisbane Technical College in Ann Street, an institution that was an early predecessor of QUT. The album contains three photographs, all of Dr Love and some of his mates, and a booklet with the students' signatures. Other photos in the album include some from 1892 and 1893 showing the growth of Brisbane from the Observatory on Wickham Terrace. The majority of the photos were taken between 1892 and 1894 and cover many areas in Queensland, including Moreton Island, Glasshouse Mountains, Toowoomba Range (Queensland Rail), Gympie, and Charters Towers. The physical album will be donated to the State Library of Queensland for preservation and conservation at the conclusion of the exhibition.

THE DONATOR
Dr Bonvouloir Franko-Filippou was an US naval serviceman who later achieved a PhD in Chemistry. In 1944, he purchased the album at a second-hand bookshop in Brisbane, while serving in the US Navy at Camp Hill, Brisbane. In 1985, he donated the album to the Brisbane Library at the St. Joseph Branch Library Manager, Reginald Smith, Dr Franko-Filippou, a row of 93 years of age and resides in Philadelphia.

On the 26th of August 2016, QUT Liaison Librarian Jennifer Thomas, who is a representative of the Library of Queensland for preservation and conservation at the conclusion of the exhibition, interviewed Dr Franko-Filippou in Philadelphia. The interview will be available as part of the exhibition.

THE DIGITISATION
QUT Library has used an opportunity, including a grant from a generous benefactor, to digitise collections of institutional heritage material and present them online. This is as part of QUT Digital Collections, which is built on an online platform.

The photograph album is part of QUT Stories, a collection highlighting QUT's history and its predecessors' institutions' social and academic history from 1849 to the present.

THE EXHIBITION
The exhibition will be held at Old Government House, Brisbane, and will highlight some contents of the Dr Wilton Wood Russell Love album, after the digitisation is completed. The Old Government House will display the 1862 and 1892 panoramas in the Panorama Room.

THE BENEFITS
The exhibition provides the public with access to unique images and documents that will be of use to researchers, practitioners, industry, and the general public.

- An increased number of Australian cultural heritage materials available via the National Library of Australia's portal, Trove.
- Greater online visibility and the ability to zoom in to images for increased detail.
- Access to materials that are rare or too fragile to be handled frequently.
- The donation of physical artefacts to the State Library of Queensland for preservation and conservation.
- Engagement with community groups, such as historical organisations, the public and interested individuals.
- The possibility of attracting future donations and material for other QUT collections.