CREATIVE ENGAGEMENT WITH UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

The Council of Australian University Librarians and the Australian Society of Authors will collaborate again in 2015 offering a fellowship to support creative projects using one or more of the university libraries special collections. The fellowship has been made possible through a grant from the Copyright Agency Cultural Fund.

The primary goal of the fellowships is to showcase university libraries special collections by providing Australian authors, artists, scholars and researchers with an opportunity to undertake creative projects using these collections.

Heather Gordon CAUL President explained: “There is a richness of special collections in Australian university libraries and many contain resources that are rare or unique. Our collections and archives play a key role in supporting research. Our collaboration with the Australian Society of Authors will provide access to these resources and generate creative engagement by Australians”.

The CAUL and ASA fellowship for 2015 will provide $15,000 in non-salary funding for visiting artists, authors, scholars and researchers working on projects related to the collections. The grants may be used for travel, accommodation or other project related expenses. Applications will be invited from artists, authors, scholars and researchers from Australia. More details on the application process are available on the CAUL website. The closing date for applications is the 29th of May 2015.

The 2014 CAUL/ASA Fellow, Dr Lyndon Megarrity used the fellowship to undertake research into James George Drake (1850-1941) a Queensland journalist and politician heavily involved in both Queensland and Federal politics at the turn of the century. Dr. Megarrity has written a biographical portrait of Drake for the Fryer Library and intends to publish two journal articles, one on Drake and the Labor Party and one on Drake as a federalist. Dr Megarrity, is a freelance historian and adjunct lecturer at James Cook University, he undertook his research at the Fryer Library of the University of Queensland which holds the James George Drake Collection.

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