

Indigenous Knowledges Symposium

In Practice | **YalbilinyaBirrang (Learn Journey): The University of Sydney Library Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Protocols**



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Yalbilinya Birrang (Learn Journey):

The University of Sydney Library Aboriginal
and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Protocols

Nathan Sentance

Antonia Mocatta



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Context, Concept and Strategic Approach

Antonia Mocatta

Director, Central Services



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Context

- Direction setting and support from the Office of the Deputy Vice Chancellor Indigenous Strategy and Services
- The National Centre for Cultural Competence Library participation in the Cultural Competence Leadership Program
- Local program of work driven by by the Library Cultural Competence Community of Practice
- Cultural competence objectives embedded within the Library's D&I Strategic Program



Protocols Project Concept

- Ideated by the Library Cultural Competence CoP to guide and embed cultural best practice
- Specifically drafted for the academic library context
- Focus on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and engagement – applicable to other First Nations cultural collections
- A holistic program:
 - Cultural audit
 - Protocols
 - Staff engagement
 - Cultural safety



Strategic Approach

- Legitimacy
 - Partnership with Office of the Deputy Vice Chancellor Indigenous Strategy and Services
 - Engagement of a First Nations expert in cultural collections – identified position
- Engagement
 - Deep engagement with Library and University stakeholders
 - Cultural audit – gap analysis
- Governance
 - Project management approach
 - Expert steering group



Protocols Development

Nathan muddyi Sentance

Wingara Mura Adviser in Residence



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My background



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Guiding resources

- ATSILIRN Protocols – Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Library and Information Resource Network
- First Peoples: A Roadmap for Enhancing Indigenous Engagement in Museums and Galleries
- MAAS Australian Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property Protocols
- United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.



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Cultural Audit

Three questionnaires

- Internal Library staff
- Yarning with First Nations staff, academics and students
- First year First Nations students' feelings of the Fisher Library space



Strategic Directions

1. Improve partnerships with DVCISS, Museum, and Archives
2. Increase the historical and cultural context information provided about the collection and collection materials
3. Increase First Nations employment
4. Strengthen the representation of First Nations perspectives within the collection
5. Offer regular cultural competence learning opportunities for staff
6. Develop a better understanding of what is in our collection relates to First Nations culture
7. Improve the cultural safety of Library spaces

Questions?



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