Indigenous Knowledges Symposium

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





Nathan "mudyi" Sentance, Australian Museum Dr Antonia Mocatta, The University of Sydney





Yalbilinya Birrang (Learn Journey):

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

Nathan Sentance Antonia Mocatta





Context, Concept and Strategic Approach

Antonia MocattaDirector, Central Services



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

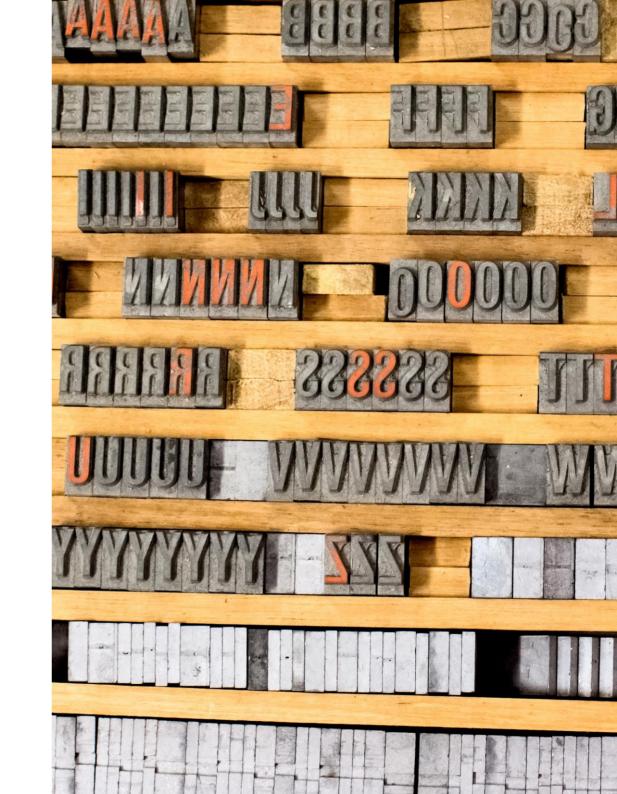




Strategic Approach

- 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





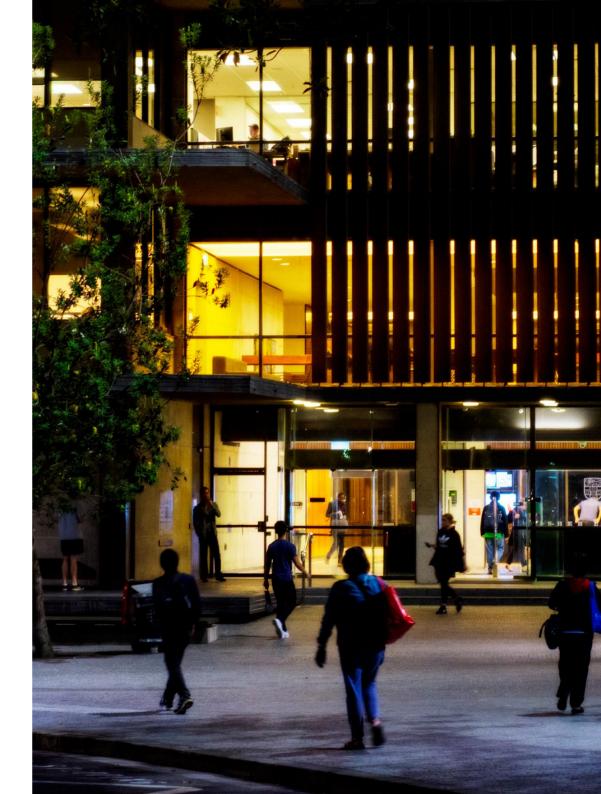
Protocols Development

Nathan mudyi Sentance Wingara Mura Adviser in Residence



My background





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.





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?

