

Alicia Cerreto, BA, MPubHist

President
Professional Historians Association (Victoria)
PO Box 1223
Carlton 3053 VIC

Senator the Hon Mitch Fifield

42 Florence Street
MENTONE VIC 3194

Dear Senator the Hon Mitch Fifield

The Professional Historians Association (Victoria), PHA (Vic), the representative body for professional historians across the state of Victoria, is very concerned about the proposed funding cuts to the National Library of Australia (NLA) and the detrimental impact it will have on Trove, the NLA's world-leading knowledge repository.

PHA (Vic) represents a thriving and dynamic professional body of over 160 historians across the state of Victoria. Our members work with communities to create histories that are not only rigorously researched, but also engaging and inspiring. In many cases, this 'colour' is due to the primary source material we can research on Trove.

History and heritage are fundamental to all people's understanding of self, identity and community. The accessibility and affordability of digital technologies means that it is an incredibly exciting time to be a historian and to consider the myriad ways we can creatively engage people with the past.

Trove has revolutionised the way we locate vital historical resources about Australia and Australians. Since it was launched in 2009, it has become firmly established as an indispensable tool for all researchers in the Australian community. Trove not only creates pathways to the treasures within the NLA's collection, but it also connects people to the wealth of resources held in the distributed national collections in various local and state cultural institutions.

The proposal to cease the aggregation of content into Trove from museums and universities (unless fully funded to do so) will severely, and detrimentally, impact Trove, leading to stagnation. This will have a significant impact on our profession. It is the continual inputs from, and collaboration with, Trove's content partners that make it the world-leading resource it is today. The decision to cease aggregating content is entirely at odds with the purpose of Trove. As a gateway to aggregated content, it is meaningless without regular updates.

Professional Historians Association (Victoria) Inc.

E. mail@phavic.org.au

P. 03 9348 9188

W. www.phavic.org.au

 Professional Historians Association (Victoria)

 @PHAVic

Trove has had tremendous success through crowdsourcing, using volunteers to transcribe historical newspaper articles, creating its own community, and making content more accessible. The community outcry to the proposed cuts demonstrates just how Trove belongs to all of us.

As historians, a world without Trove is unimaginable in terms of the way we now work and disseminate our research. The #fundTrove hashtag on Twitter demonstrates the groundswell of support and provides numerous examples of how Trove is used by a huge cross-section of the Australian community to learn more about the past and explore who we are. This decision impacts academic researchers, teachers, librarians and the public at large.

We call on you to reject the proposed funding cuts to the National Library of Australia, to stop the detrimental impact they will have on Trove, the NLA's world-leading knowledge repository.

On behalf of the Professional Historians Association (Victoria), I look forward to your swift and positive response.

Sincerely

Alicia Cerreto
President
Professional Historians Association (Victoria)

Professional Historians Association (Victoria) Inc.

E. mail@phavic.org.au

P. 03 9348 9188

W. www.phavic.org.au

 Professional Historians Association (Victoria)

 @PHAVic