





NATIONAL LIBRARY OF AUSTRALIA

**DISCOVERING HISTORY AT SCALE  
THROUGH TROVE**

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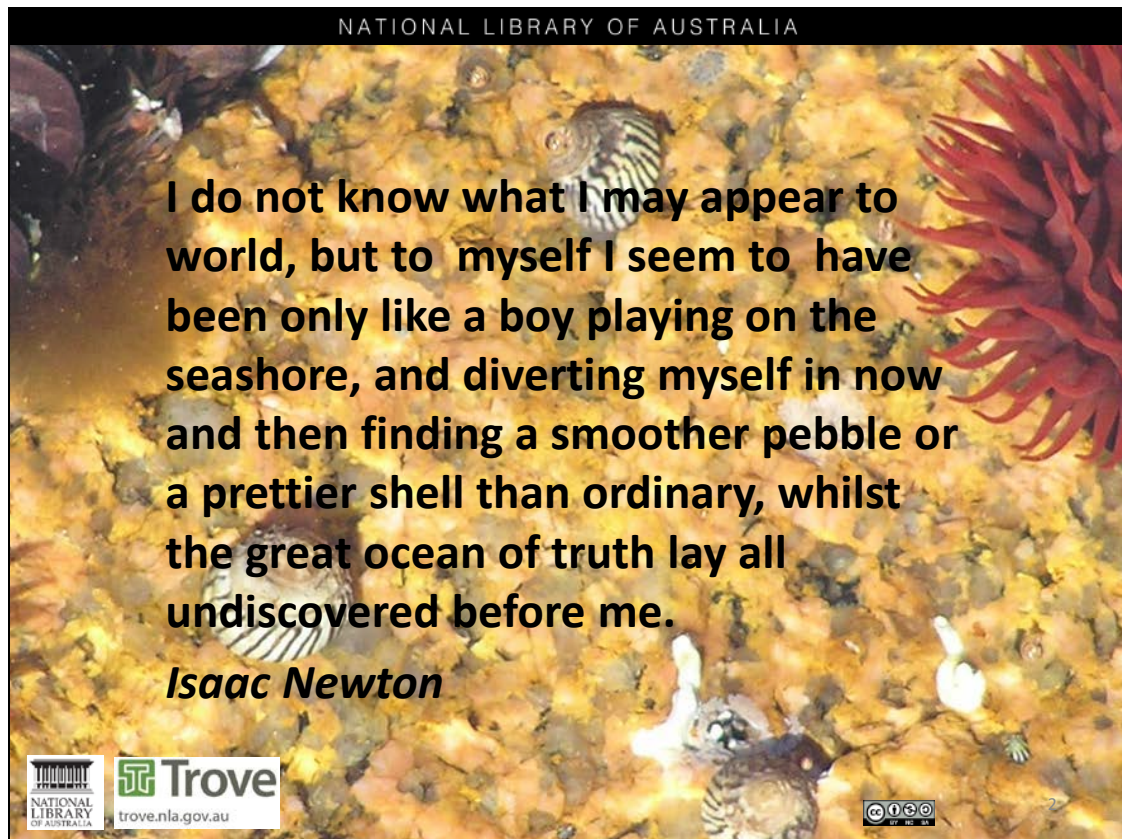
  [trove.nla.gov.au](http://trove.nla.gov.au)

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Welcome to this roundtable: Discovering history at scale through Trove.

As I begin, I 'd like to acknowledge and offer my gratitude to the Traditional Owners of the land on which this event is taking place, and Elders both past and present.

I'd like to commence this roundtable with a quote by Isaac Newton which came to my mind when I started to think about scale:



**I do not know what I may appear to world, but to myself I seem to have been only like a boy playing on the seashore, and diverting myself in now and then finding a smoother pebble or a prettier shell than ordinary, whilst the great ocean of truth lay all undiscovered before me.**

***Isaac Newton***

I do not know what I may appear to the world, but to myself I seem to have been only like a boy playing on the seashore, and diverting myself in now and then finding a smoother pebble or a prettier shell than ordinary, whilst the great ocean of truth lay all undiscovered before me.

Newton's words are very evocative—we get a wonderful and very vivid image of scale. I like the image of the vast ocean yet to be discovered. I think we also get a sense of the playfulness with which Newton approached his research.

In today's roundtable, I hope you will gain a sense of both the scales of history traversed by each of our speakers in their investigations as well as the fun of discovery on Trove and the extraordinary pebbles and shells that have been revealed.

So before I introduce the first of our speakers, I want to very briefly let you know about Trove and how it's evolving.

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I'd like to think Trove is a way into playing with or making discoveries in that 'great ocean of truth' that lies out there.

In terms of its scale, Trove contains over 580 million resources. So it's an indispensable component of the nation's cultural heritage and research infrastructure. It's also well used. It receives over 60,000 visits per day and is the Australian government's fourth most visited website.



Trove has four basic functions:

It's an *aggregator* of collections from around 800 research, cultural heritage and community organisations. A lot of intellectual effort at the National Library goes into normalising the data from the various collections.

In terms of scale, you'll find collections from small historical societies ranging to large universities.

One of the delightful aspects of doing your historical research on Trove is with all of these collections available in one place is context. Information from newspapers can be augmented or rounded out by materials in other formats and from different collections. It's a digital collections *host* – initially well-known for its digitised newspapers but containing journals, books, pictures and manuscripts, music, maps and a rapidly growing born-digital collection.

There's over 200 million newspaper pages already in Trove and there is incredible diversity in the content of these newspapers – ranging from issues of high level significance to the incredible detail that can be found in the regional and rural newspapers.

Similarly, journals content on Trove ranges from the iconic *Bulletin* and *Australian Women's Weekly* to school magazines such as the Bamaga State High School in the Cape York region.

It's a *platform* to research and build – with some basic tools in the interface and a number of APIs to make the data freely available.

There are a multitude of diverse ways researchers are creating knowledge using Trove and feeding this knowledge back into Trove (the entire research lifecycle) which you'll hear about from our speakers this afternoon.

It's a *community* – who research, make connections, correct and enrich the data for others. Trove's users are not just passive consumers – they're partners in enriching the service.





What's ahead for Trove?

**Building Trove's hosted digital content**

Trove's digital content is set to continue to grow massively due both to Modernisation Funding received from the Australian Government, Trove's digitisation partnership program and the generosity of donors and supporters.

**Web Archiving**

At the end of this year, the NLA will offer discovery and delivery of its entire Web Archive collection through Trove. This will integrate the selective and curated PANDORA archive which dates back to 1996, with the bulk harvested Australian Government Web Archive (AGWA) and the .au domain harvests and will allow full-text searching.

**NED**

In an exciting collaboration between Australia's nine national, state and territory libraries, electronic publications deposited online will expand the amount of electronic publications available on Trove.

**Transforming Trove's infrastructure**

As well as adding digital content to Trove, the Modernisation Funding received from the Australian Government is being used to further upgrade the infrastructure underpinning Trove to ensure that Trove continues to evolve – becoming cleaner, clearer, and easier to use.