

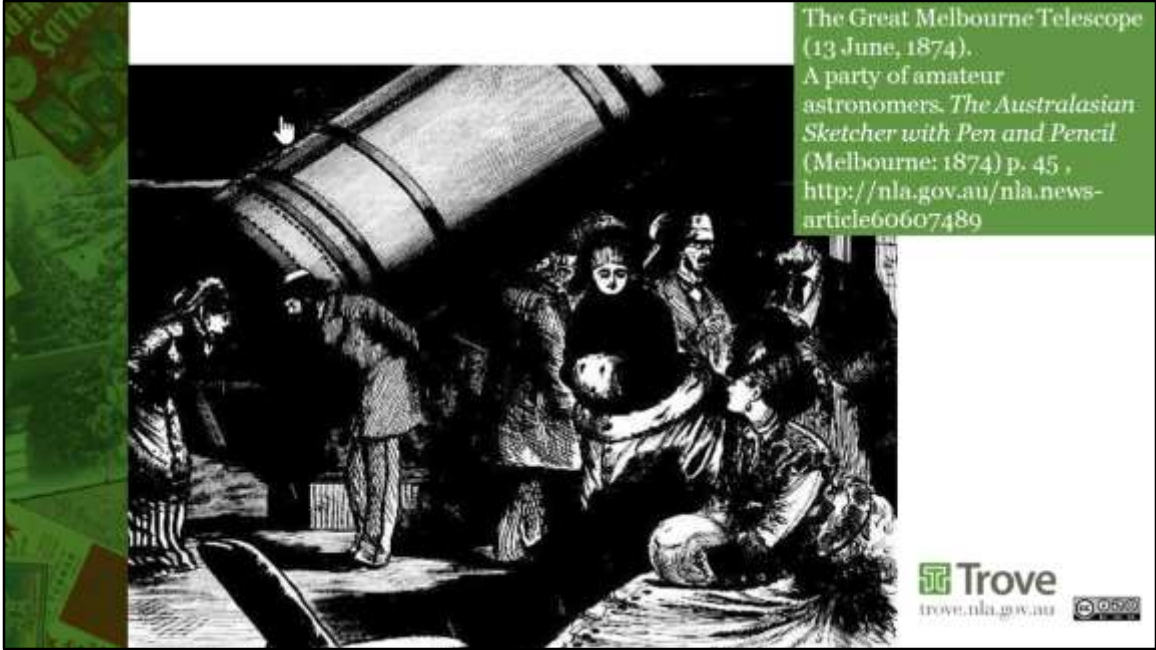
A Treasure Trove of Community Language Newspapers

Hilary Berthon



Hi, my name is Hilary Berthon and I am the Assistant Director of the Trove, responsible for Outreach, at the National Library of Australia.

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 also recognise all those whose ongoing effort to protect and promote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and all cultures will leave a lasting legacy for future generations.



We've heard today about the amazing insights that are available through examination of the output of the Australian migrant and minority press. With this content in mind, I'd like to pick up two themes in this talk: that of surfacing hidden stories; and promoting intercultural understanding that of engaging communities in conversations about their documentary content. And I'd like to use Trove as my lens for this discussion.



So I'd like to begin with a story – and for this I'm going to go to the mainstream press, for reasons that I'll get to later.

(A warning – this story is quite disturbing).

In the early part of the twentieth century sick Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders were routinely removed from their homes and taken to 'lock hospitals'. Melissa Sweet, a public health journalist, became interested in the history of lock hospitals when approached by members of the Carnarvon and Palm Island communities to investigate the history of this medical incarceration. Contemporary coverage was extensive with many details about the lock hospitals widely reported and publicly known at the time. Journalists visited them on a number of occasions and detailed accounts were written and published. Contemporary accounts expressed the dominant view of the colonial world that these hospitals were effective and necessary. By analyzing the newspapers in Trove, Melissa Sweet showed that the intensity of newspaper coverage diminished as the years went on. As attitudes changed, the nature of the suffering experienced by these communities through the practice was largely written out of history and hidden. But the communities in Carnarvon and Palm Island still see the effects of this history today.

Melissa Sweet compiled folders of the newspaper articles sourced in Trove to give to the community members and research participants in WA and Qld. Carnarvon Shire

Council now has a working group looking to develop memorials to pay respects to those taken to the islands. Details gleaned from the Trove search will contribute to a detailed timeline of the history of medical incarceration. The overriding aim of Melissa's work was to aid the community in their efforts to have this history remembered and acknowledged with a public memorial. For those of you who are interested in following up the details of how Trove was used in this research, please find Melissa Sweet's article on this was published in the *Conversation* late last year. Sadly, in the press records, we don't have the direct voice of the Indigenous community and we are reliant on the mainstream press, but with a large corpus of word-searchable newspaper content we can surface a hidden story, acknowledge our intercultural history and provide a basis for healing and justice. We have evidence about what happened and about the prevalent attitudes towards this at the time and we also have the evidence about how, over the years, this practice ceased to be acknowledged and became forgotten in the mainstream press.



Switch attention to the lens. Who's used Trove?

What is Trove? Trove has four basic functions:

1. It's an aggregator of collections from around 800 research, cultural heritage and community organisations. All Australian universities contribute data to Trove.
2. It's a digital collections host – most known for digitised newspapers but more recently expanded into hosting other types of digitised content particularly journals and books, but also a range of unpublished content, as well as born digital content.
3. It's a platform to research and build – with some basic tools in the interface and a number of Application Programming Interfaces (APIs) to make the data freely available. It's a place to open conversations, for interested communities to gather and enrich content.
4. Which brings me to the fourth aspect of Trove. It's a community – who research, make connections, correct and enrich the data for others and there are partners who provide content.

Because Trove contains over 500 million resources from disparate sources ranging from Commonwealth Government departments and universities to local cultural groups and historical societies AND hosts a huge and growing body of digital collections it is ideal for surfacing hidden stories, for allowing people to make

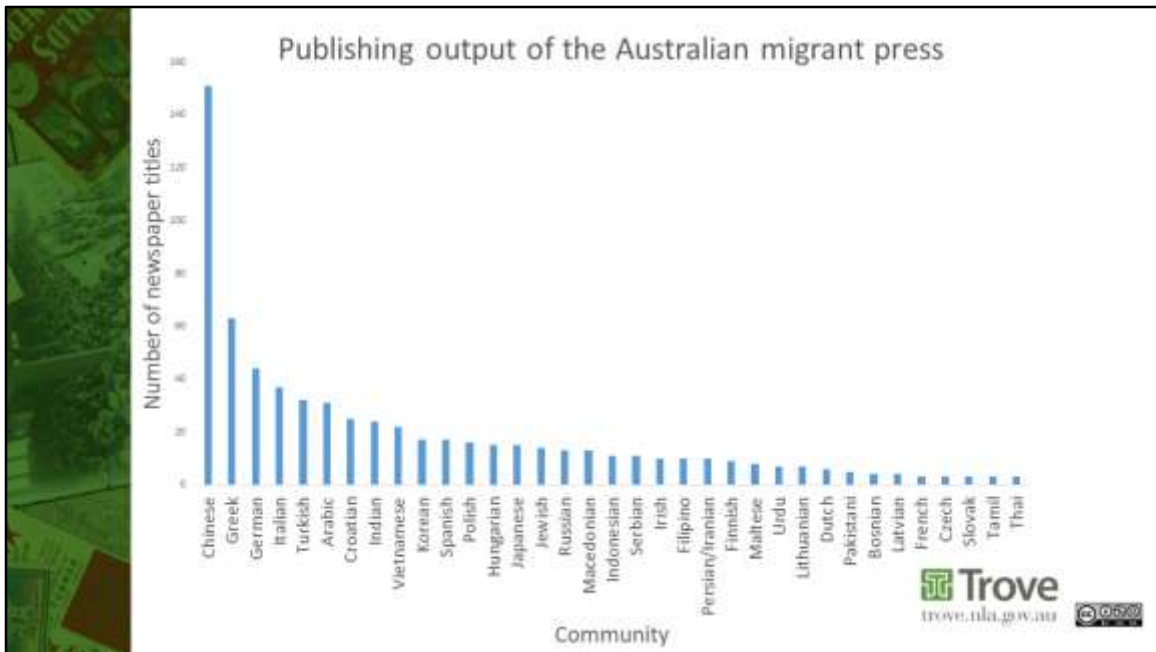
connections and discover new meaning. It's also an ideal platform for people to engage communities in conversation around particular collection material.

The foundations of Trove have been carefully laid over the past years. In June 2017, the NLA successfully completed its Digital Library Infrastructure Replacement Program, positioning it to meet its collecting obligations, continue a tradition of innovation and meet the challenges of being a memory institution in the digital age. This investment has transformed how users discover, consume and engage with the NLA's vast digital collection. It has enabled the NLA to collect and manage its digital collections securely and accountably. The NLA now has flexible systems to support outsourced and mass scale digitisation projects.

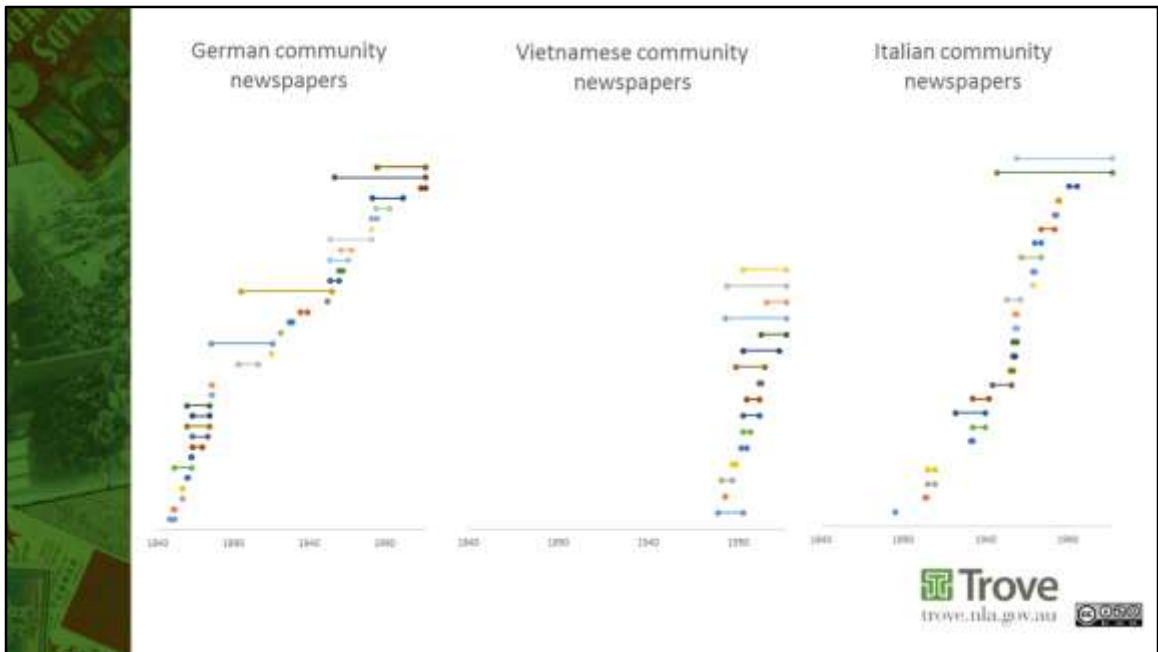
I said that Trove is best known for its digitised newspaper collection, so I'd like to start by talking about Trove's digitized newspaper collection.



Does anyone have any idea what the total number of newspapers ever published in Australia is (approximately)? (7,700 -> 8,000).
Of those, what proportion do you think are migrant community newspapers? (it's approximately 9% - a bit over 700).



Here's a visualization showing the communities which are represented by the highest number of newspapers. (You can see that there's a little bit of a mix of national, cultural and linguistic groups in here - this data is pulled from our Libraries Australia catalogue data).



You can even use this data to find out interesting aspects about when newspapers from particular groups appeared the and longevity of Australian newspapers. Here I've pulled out this data for three different communities' newspapers. (Because our catalogue records are incomplete, I've had to exclude some newspapers which we don't have complete 'life dates' information for). But you can get the general picture.

To date, we have a bit over 1300 newspapers digitized to Trove. This equates to almost 22 million pages or 23 million pages if you include the NSW and Commonwealth gazettes also. That's 212 million articles. Of these, 23 are migrant community newspapers which equates to approximately 1 million articles. So you can see that although Australia has a wealth of migrant community newspapers, they are currently very much underrepresented in Trove. So what community newspapers do we have on Trove?



We have some German titles. The history of German language Australian newspapers is a long one, reflecting the considerable German-speaking population and the persistence of German language and culture in Australia in the nineteenth century. Most of the German-speaking immigrants settled in South Australia. This is reflected in the rich German-language newspaper heritage of this state. A German-language newspaper, the bi-lingual *Die Deutsche Post fuer die Australischen Kolonien*, was the first non-English language newspaper to be published in Australia. When the National Library was first venturing into digitisation of non-English language newspapers we piloted three nineteenth century German newspapers: *Suedaustralische Zeitung* (Adelaide, SA : 1850-1851) , *Süd-Australische Zeitung* (Tanunda and Adelaide, SA : 1860-1874) and the *Adelaides Deutsche Zeitung* (1851 – 1862). The very first issues of the *Suedaustralische Zeitung* were in Roman type, not the traditional Gothic type, and it has been suggested that this was to do with indicating its rejection of tradition—it was considered to be very progressive and radical in its outlook. Later, the Gothic type was used.



The Chinese Advertiser was the earliest bilingual Chinese-English newspaper in Australia, first appearing in May 1856. It was published by Robert Bell, an Englishman, in Ballarat every Saturday, had a circulation of 400 copies and was distributed for free. The name of the newspaper changed later in 1856 to the English and Chinese Advertiser, after which time more of the paper's content was in English. These newspapers were digitized in partnership with Ballarat Library, the Gold Museum in Ballarat, the SLV and the SLNSW who held some of the source copy.



- [Guang yi hua bao= The Chinese Australian Herald \(Sydney, NSW : 1894 - 1923\)](#)
- [Chinese Times \(Melbourne, Vic. : 1902 - 1922\)](#)
- [Chinese Republic News \(Sydney, NSW : 1914 - 1937\)](#)

The Chinese Australian Herald (Guangyi huabao) was the first major Chinese-language newspaper in Australia.

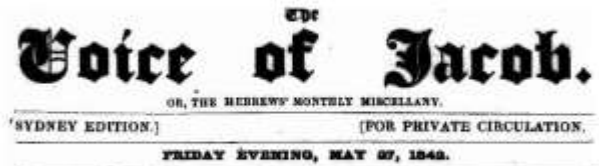
The Chinese Times was Melbourne’s first major Chinese newspaper, published for the first time on 5 February 1902. The Chinese Times changed its Chinese name several times over the years, reflecting shifts in its ownership and political sympathies. From 1919 the newspaper was the official organ of the Chinese Nationalist Party in Australia. It was published in Sydney from 1922 until it ceased publication in 1949. The Chinese Republic News was the official organ of the Chinese Republican community.



- [Tung Wah News \(Sydney, NSW : 1898 - 1902\)](#)
- [Tung Wah Times \(Sydney, NSW : 1902: 1911 - 1936\)](#)

The Tung Wah News began in Sydney in 1898 as a joint-stock company funded by local Chinese merchants. The Tung Wah News became the Tung Wah Times in August 1902, after which it was published once a week.

- [The Voice of Jacob. or, the Hebrews' Monthly Miscellany \(Sydney, NSW : 1842\)](#)
- [Jewish Herald \(Vic. : 1879 - 1920\)](#)
- [The Hebrew Standard of Australasia \(Sydney, NSW : 1895 - 1953\)](#)



The Sydney edition of the Hebrews Monthly Miscellany had 3 issues and contained many extracts from the London voice of Jacob.

The Jewish Herald had both Sydney and Melbourne editions and included a Yiddish insert.

The Hebrew Standard of Australasia was later continued by the Australian Jewish Times which was then continued by the Australian Jewish News. This title was funded by the SLNSW through state government funding.

- [The Irish Harp and Farmers' Herald \(Adelaide, SA : 1869 - 1873\)](#)
- [Harp and Southern Cross \(Adelaide, SA : 1873 - 1875\)](#)

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THE HARP

AND SOUTHERN CROSS.

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The Irish Harp and Farmers’ Herald was published between 1869-1873. In 1869 the Catholic newspaper, the Southern Cross, combined with the Irish Harp and Farmers' Herald. The Harp particularly included news from Ireland, something which had been desired by local Irish Catholics for some time. From 1870, the newspaper became more outspoken about contentious local issues with the editor in 1871 openly criticising Bishop Shiell and supporting Mary MacKillop at a time when her order was under attack from various sides. At the same time he maintained a running feud with the Observer editor over religious matters.

I don’t have pictured here the Irish Exile and Freedom’s Advocate which was a mid-nineteenth century convict newspaper which we also have digitized to Trove and was digitized through a collaboration with the Tasmanian Archive and Heritage Office.



The Dutch Australian Weekly was founded in 1951 by Alfred Schuurman with the assistance of Cumberland Newspapers and was succeeded by the Dutch Weekly.



Le Courrier Australien is a French-language newspaper published in Sydney, New South Wales, Australia. The first issue was published on 30 April 1892 in Sydney. The publication ceased in 2011. In October 2016, the newspaper was revived with a digital version.

The Italian Journal and the Estonian Meie Kodu, like the German newspapers, were part of the National Library’s first foray into digitizing non-English language newspapers.

Although published in Sydney the Italian Journal included news from throughout Australia. Eight thousand copies were sold each week. From 1938 it included an English Section with its own separate masthead. According to Robert Pascoe, the style of language was ‘officious and uncompromisingly “pure”...Dialects were...dismissed as obsolescent by the Mussolini government, so an insistence of Standard Italian in a stilted form was part of the purpose of such a newspaper.’ From March 1940, *Il Giornale Italiano* included a ‘Women’s Section’ supplement, *La donna, la casa, il bambino* which included recipes, fashion news, baby photos and advice for mothers.

Meie Kodu (Our Home) which began in 1949 as a weekly and continues to be published to this day. A piece in English from the first edition describes the purpose

of the newspaper—to *'present the life of Estonians in Australia and elsewhere, the Australian way of life, impartial information on international politics, Estonian cultural activity locally and abroad and to do our part in the fight for Estonian liberation and the combined struggle for the freedom of the world from the threat of Communism.'* This project was a collaboration with the Estonian Archives in Australia which funded the digitisation of *Meie Kodu*.

Berita Repoeblk (Djakarta, Indonesia : 1945 - 1946)

<p>BERITA REPOEBLIK INDONESIA</p> <p>Penerbitan Resmi Pemerintah Repoeblk Indonesia</p>		<p>Langkah 1.5 - minggu 400000 koran. Penerbitan: Tel. Dag. 27 - 28.</p>
<p>Tahoen II. No. 4-5. Terbit tiap-tiap minggu 1 dan 15. Ditetak pada: Pertjetakan Repoeblk Indonesia. 1-15 Djanuari 1946.</p>		
<p>ISI N I J A :</p> <p>Bagian: Pamerintah</p> <p>I. OENBANG-OEYDAU 2</p> <p>II. PERATOEKAN 2</p> <p>III. PENYETAPAN 23</p> <p>IV. PENGOERENJAN, KAKLOE KAP. KETEPANGAN DAR 23</p> <p>V. MERTANI PRGAWAJ NEORBI 2</p>	<p>lah meletakkan djabatanja sebagai Mo- teri Pamerangan. Dalam sbarang berkedo- doekan di Djakarta, 4 Djanuari 1946.</p> <p>Departemen Pamerangan</p> <p>MARLOEMBAT PEREMINTAH REPOEBLIK INDONESIA</p>	<p>MA'LOEMBAT KEMENTERIAN PENYERANJAN.</p> <p>Kepada sekalian penerbit koran dan madjalah.</p> <p>Sepeja djerawat Kementerian Pen- serangan sekalian dapat mengetahui me- serawar rakjat, diluar sepeja sekalian penerbitan, baik koran koran, madjalah atau berwar dan buko-bukoe jang dilu-</p>



Berita Repoeblk Indonesia is a bit of an outlier, in that it was not published in Australia, but in Jakarta. Our digitized newspaper collection will grow to encompass some overseas published newspapers – some published in PNG prior to 1975 are currently being contemplated. This newspaper covers the establishment of the newly independent nation of Indonesia and the support Australians gave. It was supported by the Indonesian Embassy in Australia



Nasza Droga: the newspaper for Poles in Australia

(1952-1954)

Digitisation supported by German digital documentation centre Porta Polonica

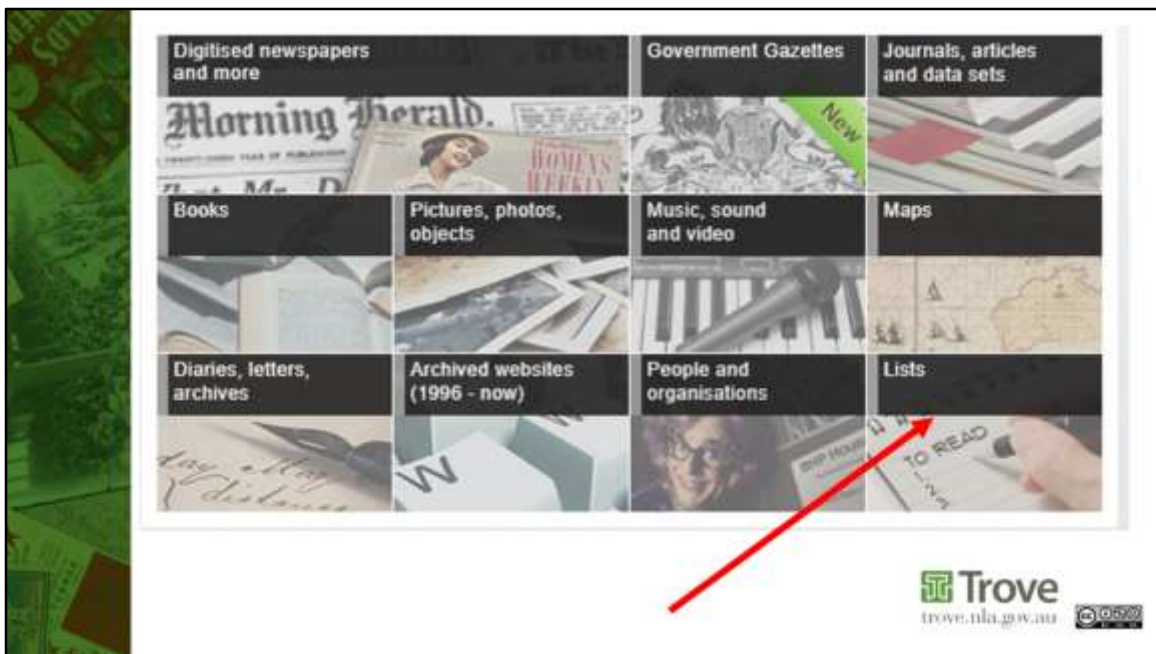


Just this year, we've been able to digitize the Polish Nasza Droga with the support of the German digital documentation centre Porta Polonica through Dr Rodzinski from Flinders University. We hope to get more Polish community newspapers online.



Engagement

I mentioned that one of themes I'd like to follow in this talk is that of engaging interested communities in conversation and the potential for Trove to serve as a platform for intercultural dialogue around migrant press collection material. Trove has some basic tools in the interface that offer the opportunity for interested people to enrich content.



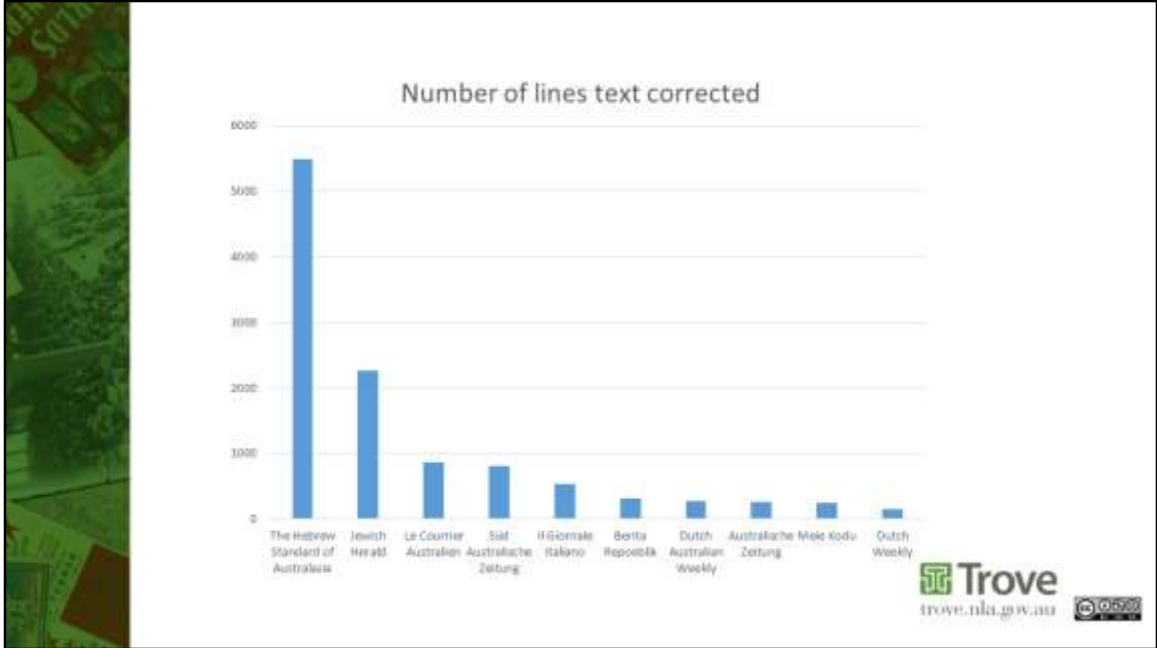
Trove offers the capacity for users to curate lists that relate to content they find on Trove. Lists can be private or made publicly available. So, if I'm a researcher and am finding resources on Trove related to a particular project, I can make a list of these resources, essentially sharing the relationships I've discovered between different sources on Trove, creating a curated subset. To date, almost 70,000 publicly available lists have been added to Trove.

Tags are keywords you can add to items in Trove. A tag can be anything you want it to be, describing a topic, a place, an event, a person, a feeling, or your personal research progress. You can click on any tag to view all items associated with it. Tags may also be searched. Private tags are seen only by you, but public tags are seen by all Trove users. They can help you and other users find items of interest and collect like items together. To date, over 5 million tags have been added to Trove.

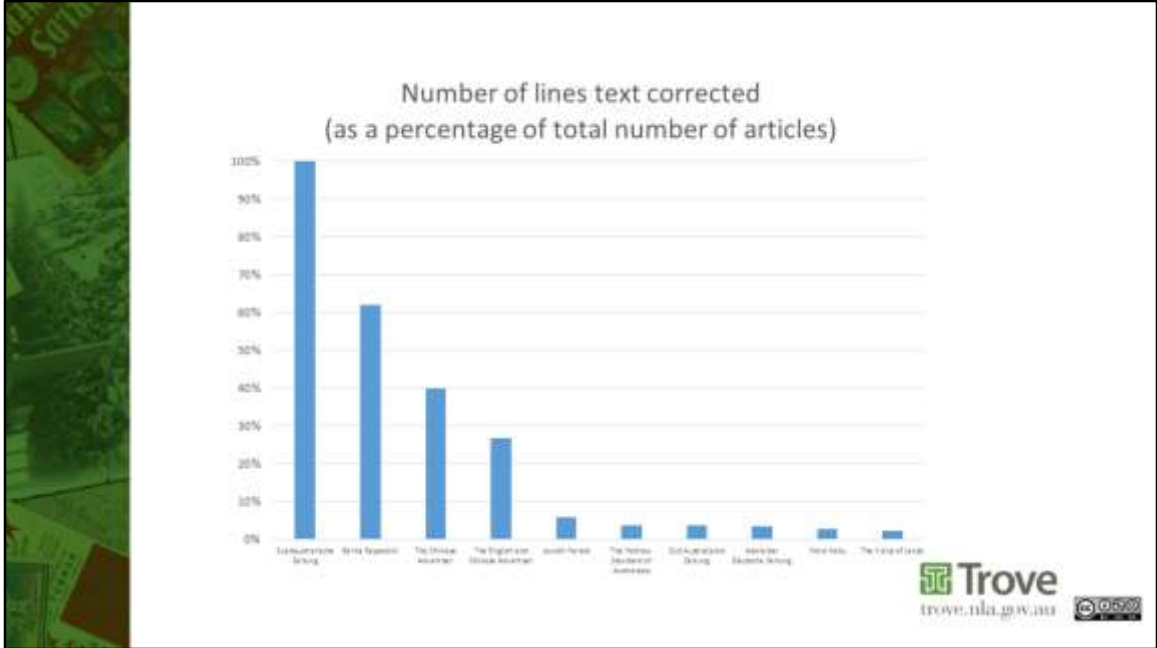
Comments are annotations added by users. These can help you and other users find out more information about an item, such as the names of the people in a photograph, or to provide a review of the item. A comment can contain any information relevant to an item, such as providing more information about an item, adding information about events related to the item, providing links to related items in [Trove](https://trove.nla.gov.au), or even providing a review of a specific book. Comments can be added to

anything in [Trove](#) (except Archived Websites), and can be [searched](#). Again, when you create a comment, you can choose whether to make it public or private. So, if I'm a member of the Australian Lebanese Historical Society or just an individual with a lived experience which relates to photograph, a newspaper report, a journal article or even a diary in Trove, I can enrich that content by adding my comment. Over over 170,000 comments have been added to Trove.

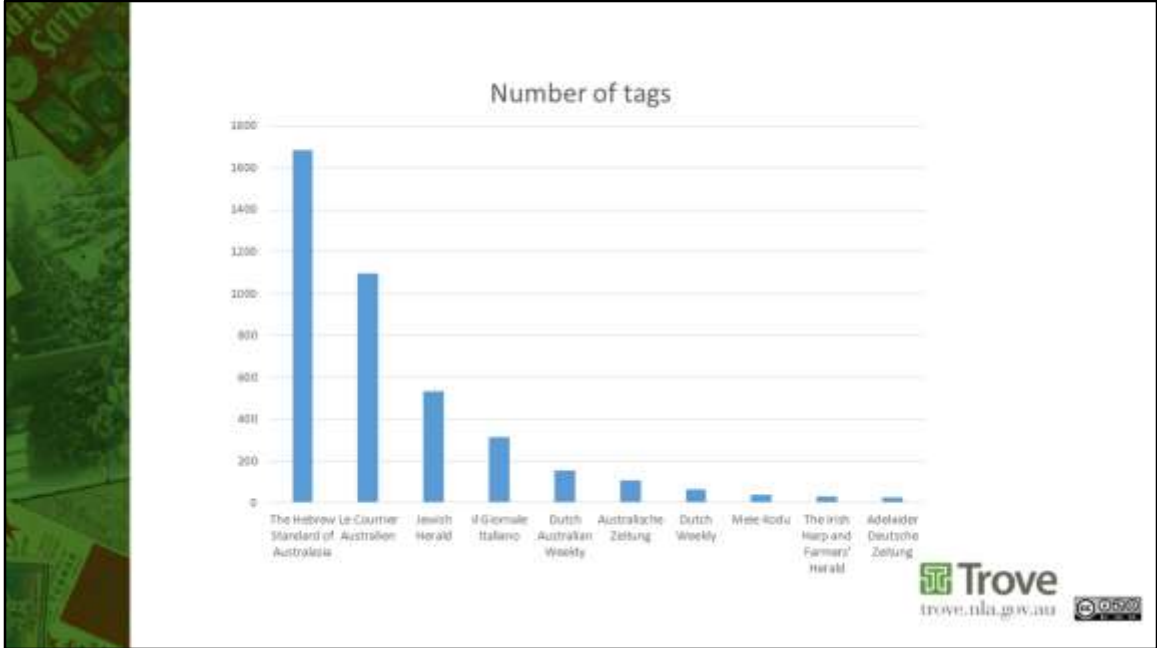
Finally, it's worth mentioning in this context that in the newspapers zone, and we're hoping to roll this out to journal and book content also, it's possible to correct the OCR-generated text to improve searching for everyone. To date, over 242 million lines of text have been corrected. This equates to 622 years of work or \$42 million. So, we have a couple of simple engagement tools which are available for allowing communities to enrich resources which speak about their experience, or which allow researchers to share their findings with the communities which they relate to. So how have these engagement tools been applied to our small subset of Australian migrant newspapers?
Here's the newspapers I looked at.



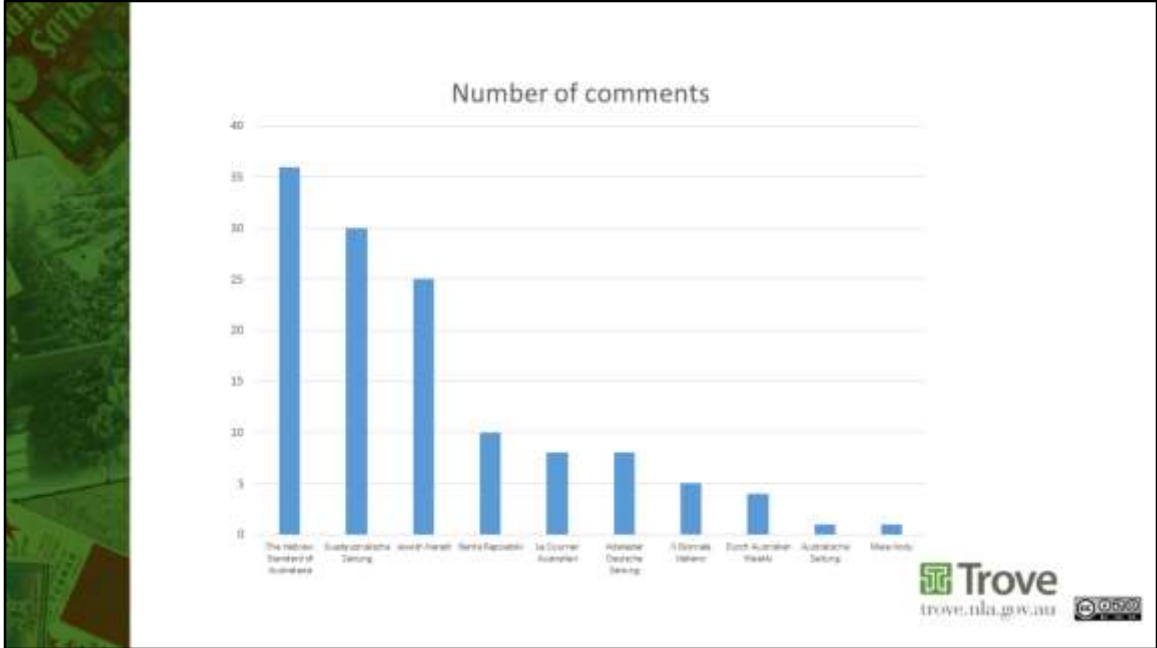
Taking the subset of 23 community newspapers out of the total corpus of 1300+ newspapers, a total of 12,000 lines of newspaper text have been corrected. You can see which newspapers contain the most text corrections – I’ve just shown the top 10 here.



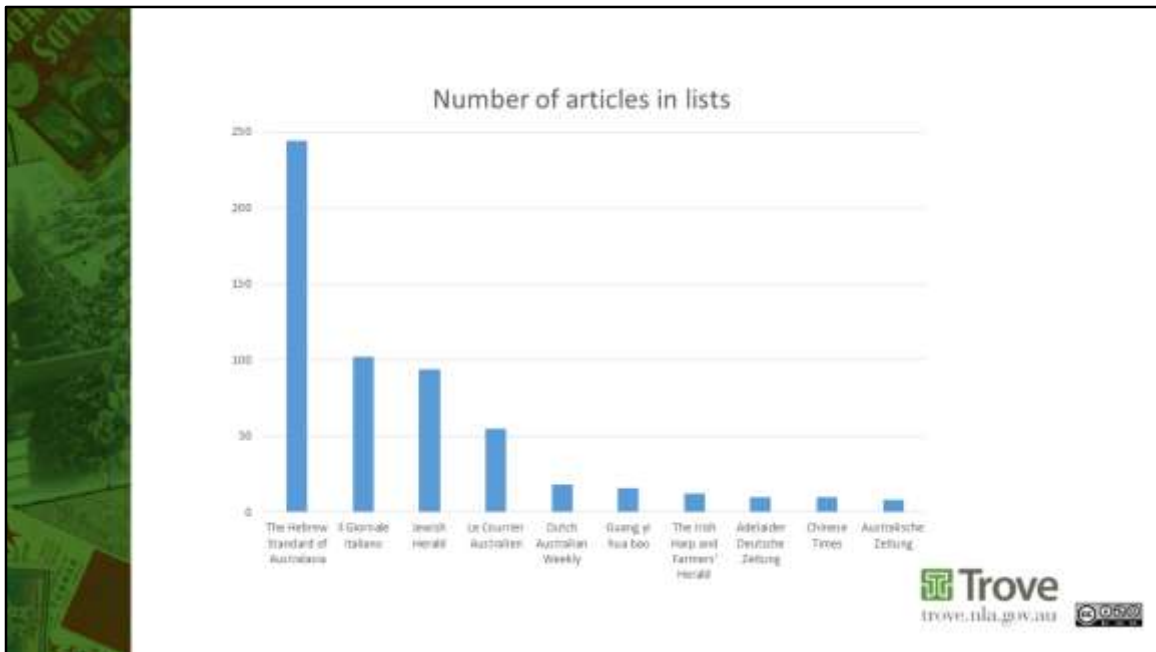
Some newspapers obviously have more content than others – so here’s the number of lines of text corrected expressed as a percentage of the number of articles. Compared with all newspapers, the engagement is quite low. The top 4 newspapers in this graph all have <500 pages. Suedaustralische Zeitung has a correction on every article.



Trove offers the capacity for users to curate lists, and add tags and comments to material in Trove. The total number of tags in the migrant newspaper subset is 4094. Here's a graph that shows which newspapers have been most heavily tagged...



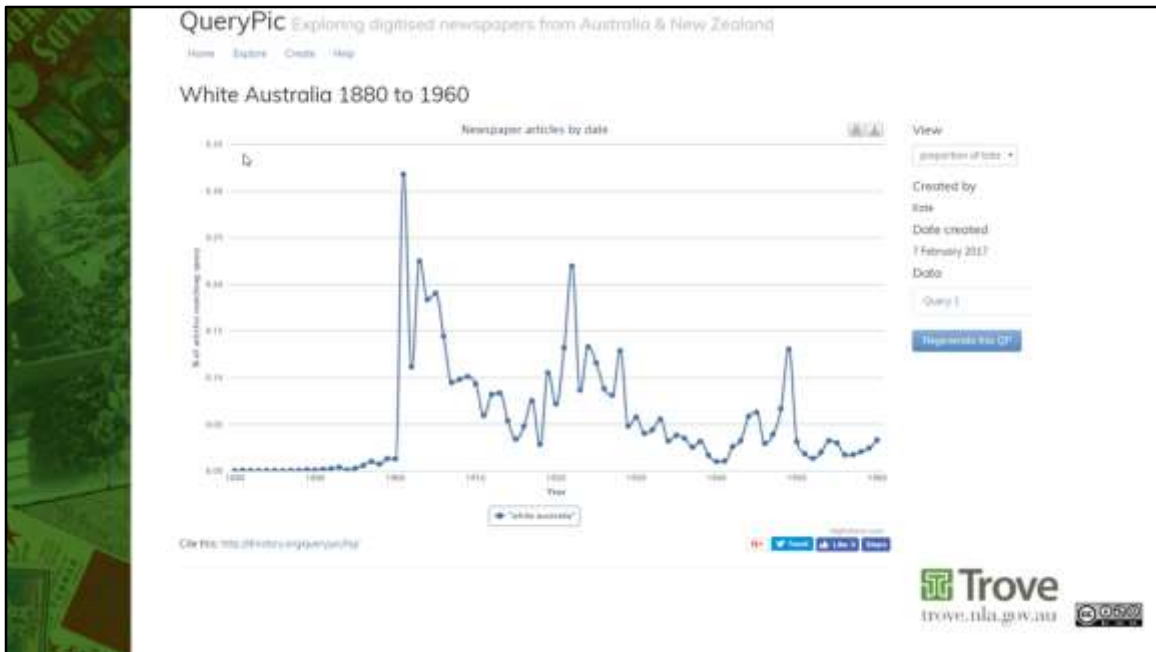
Which have been most heavily commented on... (the total number of comments is 130)



And which have been most incorporated into lists...(579 articles appearing in the subset of 23 migrant newspapers have been incorporated into lists). List topics that people have categorised the migrant newspaper content under are diverse and range from research into pre-WWII communism, ANZAC nurses and Art Deco to family history.

The Hebrew Standard has the most comments, tags and corrections. It also appears the most times in lists.

The potential is certainly there to use a small number of simple tools to enrich the data for everyone and to open conversations between interested communities.



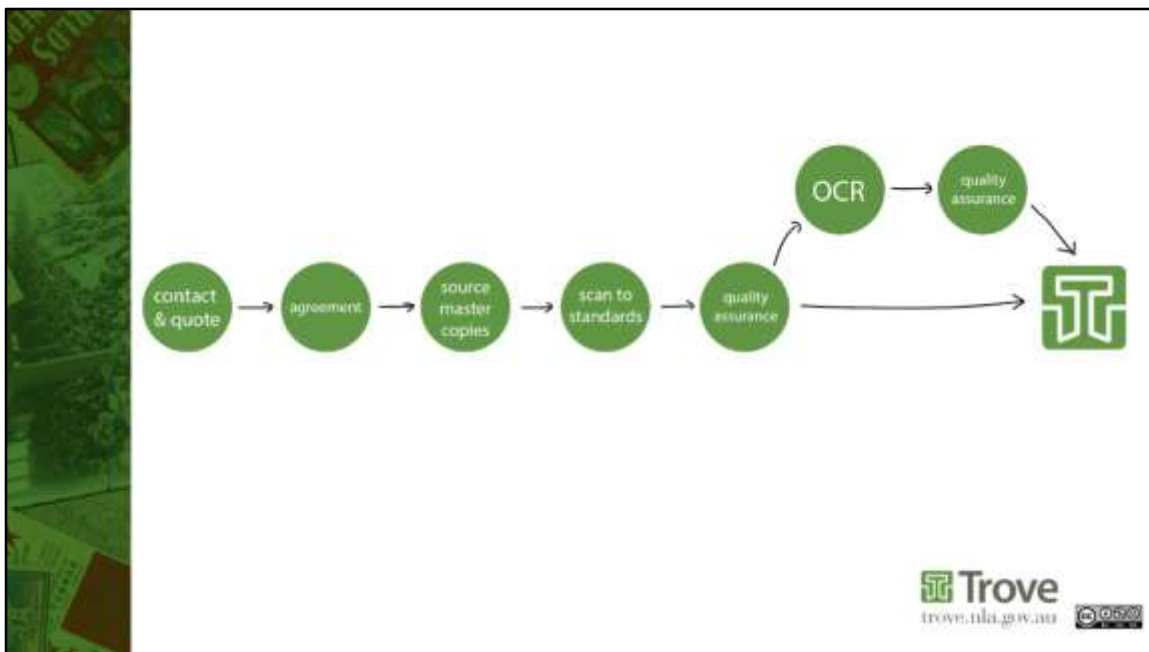
I mentioned earlier that Trove is also a platform. We have an API to make Trove content available for people to build with Trove’s rich stores of data. I’d like to quickly show you one example of what’s possible. QueryPic was developed using Trove’s API by the Tim Sherratt. It provides a way of seeing, searching and understanding the digitised newspapers made available by Trove and NZ’s Papers Past. So I found this search created by user “Kate” earlier this year. She used the search term “White Australia”.



Partnerships

The NLA has a desire to make more of its newspapers, journals and other collection material freely available for everyone. We are currently particularly interested in making materials available to the Indigenous and culturally and linguistically diverse communities. The Library is committed to preserving all its physical, digital and digitized collection for long-term access and this access will always be free of charge. We are actively seeking partnerships to make this happen.

Since 2010 the National Library has partnered with over one hundred organisations such as libraries, historical societies, universities, schools, businesses, local councils, faith, cultural and community groups as well as individuals to digitise specific newspapers, journals and books.



We provide end-to-end support for digitising, managing, preserving, delivering, finding and engaging with Australian newspapers, journals, books and other collection materials now and into the future. So when we digitize material, we go through the process of digital capture, text processing, so that the material is word searchable, content analysis to enabled advanced searching. All files are stored in the NLA's digital repository for long-term access. The NLA undertakes mass digitisation, so, in addition to undertaking capture of some content in-house, we also have panels of suppliers and so organisations that partner with us on digitisation can take advantage of bulk discounts. Material is delivered on Trove, in the context of other content from across Australian organisations and we provide simple tools for the content to be engaged with and enriched.

In terms of migrant press material we have a small body of newspapers, which there is significant potential to build. We have seen evidence of a small amount of community engagement, but again there is potential for some enriching intercultural dialogue to occur as we've seen with much of our other digitized material on Trove. We're interested in including other migrant collection material – such as newsletters, magazines, and pictorial content on Trove.

shore, with the tide about half out and still ebbing. Since he had flown over her earlier in the day Merino had developed a slight list to starboard and she was broadside on to the beach.

slight to moderate seas, but "nothing serious" was expected. The worst of the weather had passed yesterday and conditions should moderate today, Mr. Bahr said.

RESEARCH WILL BE EASIER

STRASBOURG (Reuter). — European inventors will find their paths of research made easier if measures drafted within the Council of Europe for the simplification of

RESEARCH news-article5292WILL BE EASIER, Examiner, 1952. <http://nla.gov.au/nla7529>

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We're also interested in enabling the intellectual content that researchers produce to feed back into Trove and enrich it for everyone and we are currently engaged in a couple of projects with researchers to do exactly that. Academic research outputs are a really important part of the cycle of improvement.

A project that produces enhanced data can feed that back into the original system, improving discovery for the general public, and powering the next generation of research.

It can also enhance the visibility of a researcher's work.



So Trove is a place for drawing together communities around collection material. It's a place where everyone can be involved in enriching the content. It's also a place for surfacing stories. And I'd like to close by showing you a video which demonstrates exactly that.



https://drive.google.com/open?id=1or2H8B4FZSaoulGWz_0slwlvOrRI8EaH