

Everything Old Is New Again: Newspapers and Auction Catalogs in the Age of Web 2.0

Australian Newspaper Digitisation Program:

“Many Hands Make Light Work”

Keith Jeffers - Director, IT Services

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF AUSTRALIA

15th DECEMBER 2009, CNI - WASHINGTON DC





Australian Newspapers

DIGITISATION PROGRAM

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Latest news

The Sydney Morning Herald now available!

The first 50 years of the Sydney Morning Herald are now publicly available. (The Sydney Herald 1831-1842 and The Sydney Morning Herald 1842-1881). Issues from 1882- 1954 will be added weekly over the next few months.

The Melbourne Argus 1846-1945 complete

The Argus (and its previous title the Melbourne Argus) from 1846 - 1945 are now completed and available. The remaining 10 years (1945-1954) of the Argus will be made available in 2010 (mid to end of year).

Crowdsourcing - public correct 7 million lines of text!

About the program

The National Library of Australia, in collaboration the Australian State and Territory libraries, began a program in March 2007 to digitise out of copyright newspapers.

In July 2008 the [Australian Newspapers](#) was released to the public. This is a free online service that enables full-text searching of newspaper articles. The service includes newspapers published in each state and territory from the 1800s to the mid-1950s, when copyright applies. The first Australian newspaper, published in Sydney in 1803, is included in the service. By 2010 the service will comprise 40 million searchable articles.

[Frequently asked questions.](#)

Interesting Things

[In the Media](#)

[Presentations](#)

[Publications](#)

[Statistics](#)

Related links

Search Australian digital content in [Trove](#)

The [Australian Women's Weekly](#) Digitisation Project

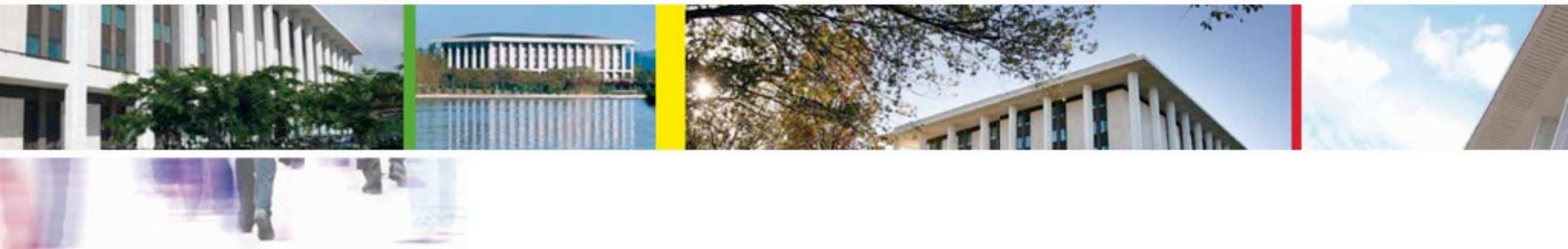
The [Australian Newspaper Plan - ANPlan](#)



<http://www.nla.gov.au/ndp/>

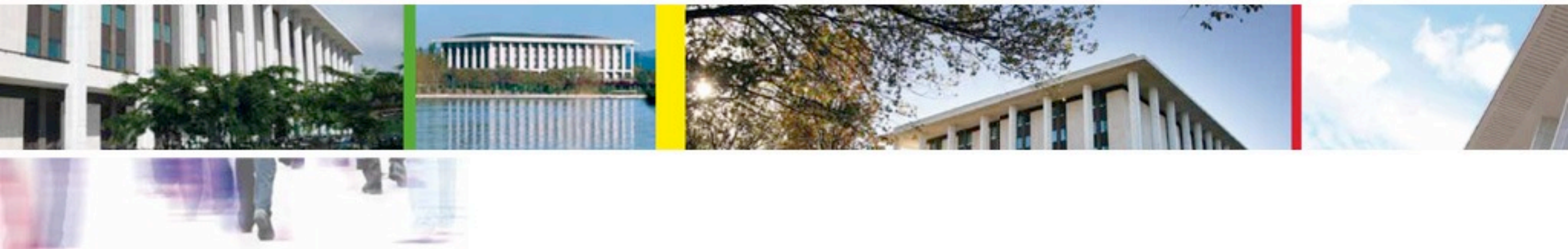
Objectives

- Increase access to Australian newspapers
- Build a national service that will provide free online access from the first Australian newspaper published in 1803 through to the end of 1954
- Key Features of the service
 - Online access
 - Freely available
 - Full text searchable
- Allow user interaction - Web2.0
 - Unmoderated OCR Text Correction
 - Tagging
 - Commenting



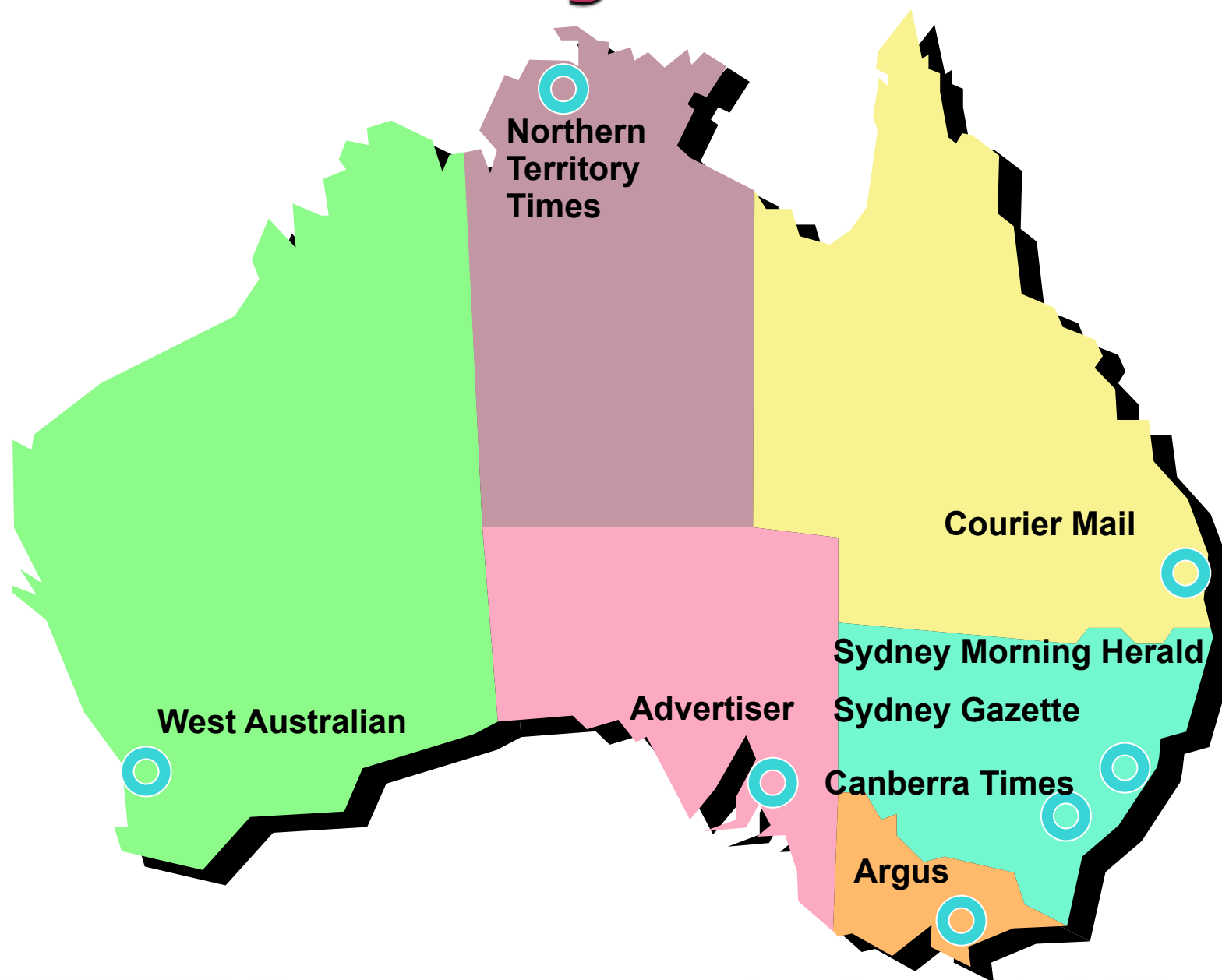
Release

- Very early release, 6 weeks in to development
- Appealed for volunteer ‘testers’
- Beta mode for 1 year, half million testers, thousands of suggestions
- Development method later used for VuFind Catalogue and Trove - will now become the typical release methodology
- Internally developed, project managed by Rose Holley



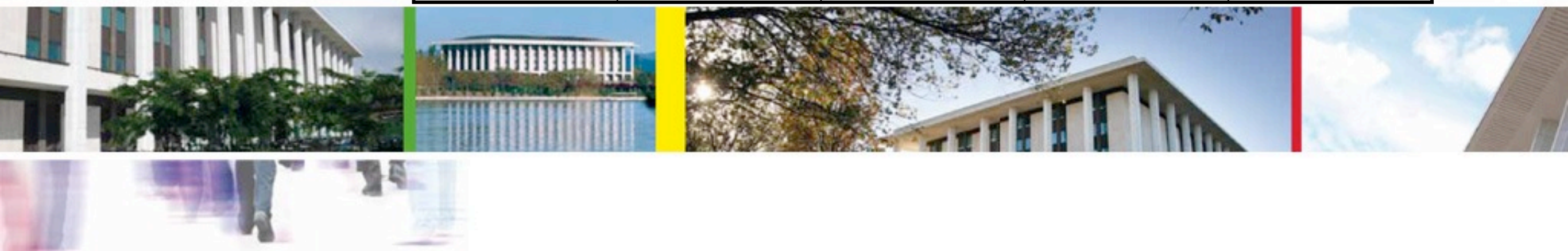
National Program and Content

- Initial focus on major titles from each state and territory
- 'Regional' titles being contributed by libraries 2009 onwards
- Coverage: published between 1803 – 1954 (out of copyright)



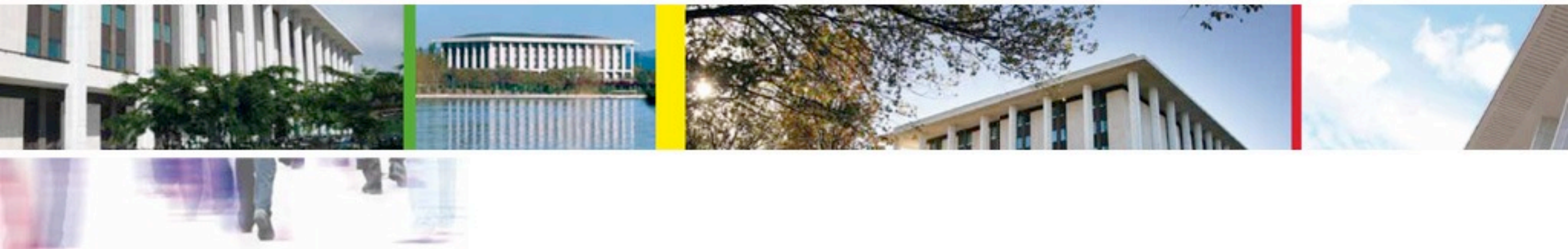
Statistics

	Nov 2008	Feb 2009	Aug 2009	Dec 14, 2009
# Pages in Service	367,000	367,000	538,334	968,463
# Articles in Service	3.5 M	3.5 M	5.8 M	10 M
#Registered Users				6,573
# Lines corrected	1 M	2.2 M	4.7 M	7.8 M
# Articles Corrected	60,000	104,000	216,000	354,749
# Comments	800	1806	3441	4939
# Tags	18,000	43,000	105,028	219,829
# Unique Visitors	94,000	205,000	347,000	823,000



Behind the scenes

1. Software development
 - Newspapers Content Management System
 - Quality Assurance modules
 - Search and Delivery System (Trove released 2 Dec 09)
2. Infrastructure – storage
 - 63 TB
3. Digitisation (outsourced)
 - Scanning of microfilm
 - OCR of articles
 - Additional processes (categorising, zoning, re-keying)
4. Quality assurance of data
 - Before acceptance/delivery

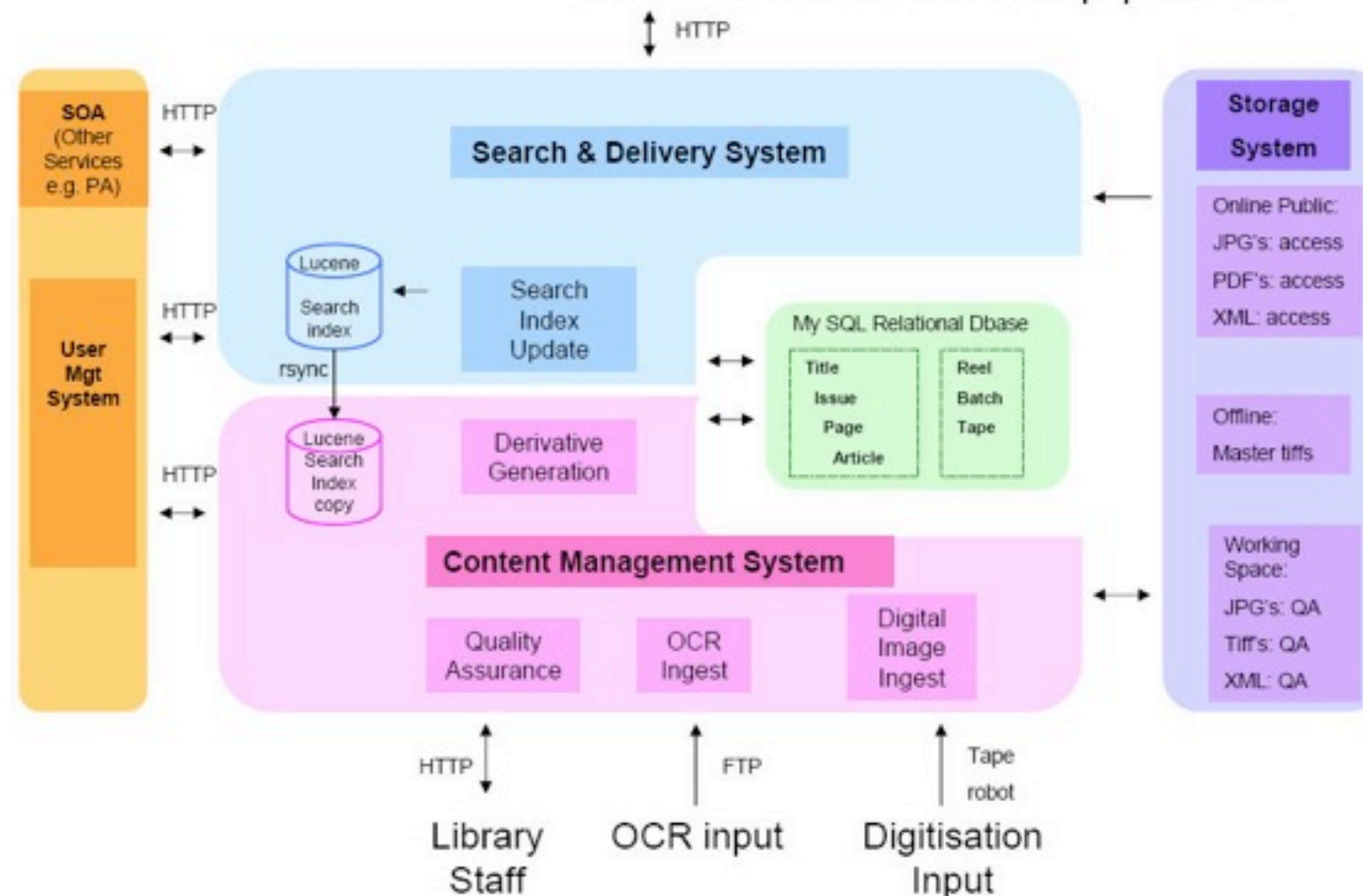


The Technical Bit

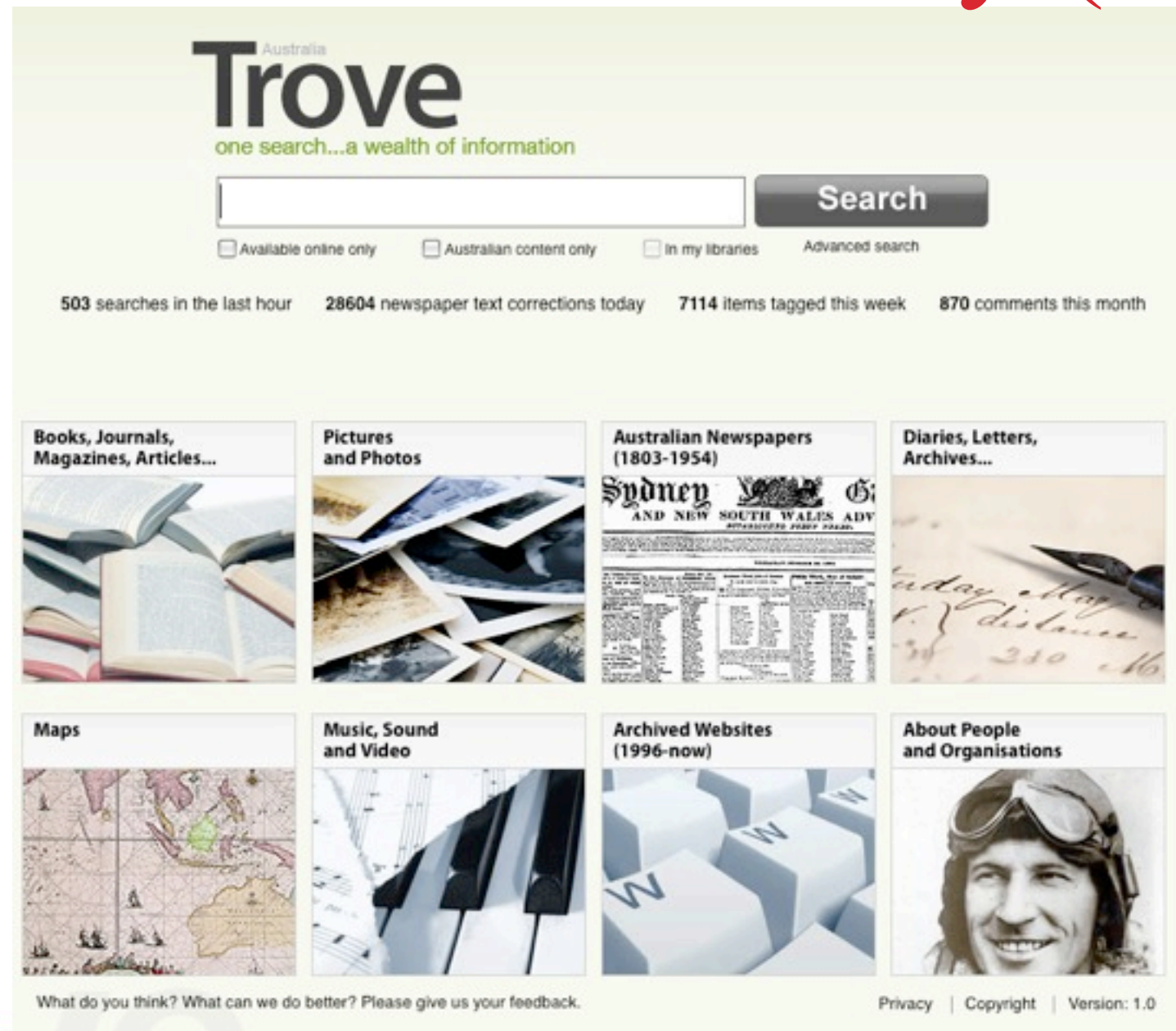
Australian Newspapers Digitisation Program
System Architecture - August 2008

Public users – Australian Newspapers Beta

- Redhat Linux Servers
- MySQL
- Lucene
- EMC SAN
- SSD Disks



Search & Delivery (Trove)



<http://trove.nla.gov.au/>

Trove was released
on the 2nd
December 2009
replacing the
original Newspaper
Delivery System



To login or not to login.. ?

Login

Username

Password

Login

Forgotten your password? [Click here to reset it](#)

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Signup!

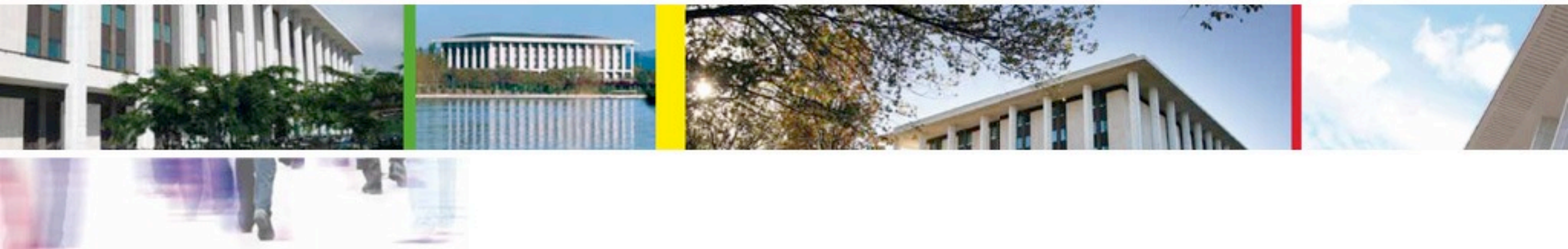
If you don't yet have a username and password, [click here to signup](#) - it only takes a minute.

Why signup? Why login?

It is *not necessary* to signup or login to use to this system.

However, if you do login:

- any tags or notes you add to books, articles, photographs etc become associated with your username
- you can view just your tags and notes
- you can choose to make some tags and notes "private", that is, visible only to yourself
- you don't need to respond to a [captcha challenge](#) when adding tags or notes.
- you'll be credited with any corrections to the electronically generated newspaper article text you choose to make, and one day your efforts may be recognised by your name appearing on the Australian newspapers "text correctors hall of fame"!
- you can merge editions of books together and separate incorrectly merged editions or versions of books
- soon, you'll be able to create lists of results you've found and publish them for other users to browse



washington canberra

Search

☐ Available online ☐ Australian content ☐ In my libraries [Advanced search](#)

Show me only:

▼ Title

The Argus (Melbourne,... (1,334)
The Canberra Times (ACT... (1,081)
The Advertiser (Adelaide,... (69)
The Courier-Mail (Brisbane,... (19)
The Sun-Herald (Sydney,... (10)
The Sydney Morning Herald... (9)
Northern Territory Times... (7)
Northern Territory Times... (6)
The Mercury (Hobart,... (6)

▼ Category

News (1,711)
Advertising (752)
Detailed lists, results, guides (44)
Family Notices (34)

► Illustrated

► Decade

► Word Count

Australian Newspapers (1803-1954)

Showing: 1 - 20 of 2,541

WASHINGTON TREES FOR CANBERRA

The Canberra Times (ACT..., Thursday 28 July 1932 p 2
... 'Mra W Washington TREES FOR . Two trees, the gift of President dent Hoover, "will" be planted in the grounds of Parliament House, **Canberra**, on Monday by members of a party of 12 American boys, ... we're taken from the grounds of the Capitol in **Washington**. ... 64 words

CANBERRA FLAG FOR WASHINGTON

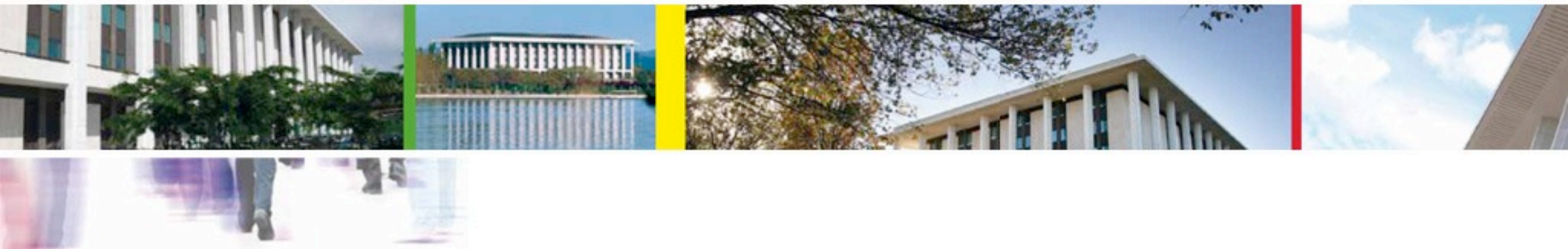
The Argus (Melbourne,..., Saturday 12 August 1939 p 9
... S **CANBERRA FLAG FOR WASHINGTON ! CANBERRA**, Friday.-Expressing the [?] that will be regarded as a symbol [?] affinity between the cities. the [?]ster for the Interior (Senator Foll) J sent a flag of the Cily of **Canberra** SwLconV,IL'i5lnn 'rs of the District of CT' "in which the City of Wash K" ... 107 words

WASHINGTON. CANBERRA'S ELDER SISTER.

The Canberra Times (ACT..., Friday 13 May 1927 p 5
... **WASHINGTON. CANBERRAS ELDER SISTER.** **Washington**, the capital city of the United States of Americt, is the prototype type and; in. a sense, the inspiration of **Canberra**. It is a city embodying many dc'as which are planned for **Canberra**^ and a 'review of the history of its con 3truction and of the ... 1084 words

APPOINTED TO CANBERRA WASHINGTON, Sunday (A.A.P.)

The Argus (Melbourne,..., Monday 14 April 1941 p 3
... **APPOINTED TO CANBERRA WASHINGTON.** Sunday (A.A.P.) Mr Randolph A Kidder, United States Vice-Consul in Sydney, has been designated signated Third Secretary of the Legation in **Canberra** and will serve there in a dual capacity ... 34 words



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Cite: <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article1213207>

Tags (Keywords) Add New Tags

Comments Add New Comment
No comments yet.

ELECTRONICALLY
TRANSLATED TEXT Fix this Text

Why may this text have mistakes?
How to correct this text?

No corrections yet

On page 5

WASHINGTON.
CANBERRAS ELDER
SISTER.

Washington, the capital city of the United States of America, is the prototype and, in a sense, the inspiration of Canberra. It is a city embodying many ideas which are planned for Canberra, and a review of the history of its construction and of the ideals represented there reveals a striking similarity to our own city.

Washington is undoubtedly one of the ideal cities of the world. A long sustained and conscious effort to banish ugliness and to exalt beauty is apparent on every hand. It is a city built to a

CANBERRA TIMES

TY PLANNING.

In Australia.

CANBERRA'S LEADING
EXAMPLE.

The initial development of any town or city may be likened to the life of a child from infancy, through the many stages of its growth until vigorous life is attained. A careful study of the characteristics of the importance when visualising the transition from the rudimentary stage of existence, and of the aid to assist expansion in the direction, and correct degree. Detail has to be considered with an eye to the ultimate end, careful course must be entered, conflicting cross currents may hinder or mar the embryonic settlements of the pioneers. Australia and America, were primarily for immediate needs, and in many instances were selected at hazard rather than wise choice and with regard to ramifications. With the passage of time and the growth of population, more accurate allocation of space necessary, and from the military surveys there developed a survey system, to form a basis for development. It was not until about the middle of the century that serious efforts were made in Australia for the ordered development of towns in accordance with natural possibilities, and with due

IMPERIAL DELHI

INDIA'S NEW CAPITAL

STORY OF ITS CONSTRUCTION

India's new capital city is known as Imperial Delhi, as distinct from the ancient city of Delhi, which was formerly the capital of the Mogul Empire, came into full occupation in March of this year, only a few weeks before the transfer of the seat of Australian Government to Canberra. Partial occupation was accomplished in October of last year, but the Government House was not completed until early this year.

The planning and development of new Delhi has been in progress since 1912, and India's capital has thus risen side by side in point of time with the Australian Federal Capital, but the history and conditions of their respective building have differed far more than might have been assumed from the national differences existing between India and Australia. The primary factor which has aided Delhi and has made Canberra an almost unprecedented task has been that the former city had the resources and conveniences of the old city to aid it, whereas Canberra has been developed by sheer pioneering from a simple rural area into a modern city. The help which old Delhi gave to the new creation may be imagined from the fact that in the 1911 census

V. at the Coronation Durbar on December 12, 1911, of the official transfer of the capital of British India from Calcutta to Delhi. In laying two inaugural stones three days later the King-Emperor said:—

"It is my desire that the planning and designing of public buildings to be erected will be considered with the greatest deliberation and care, so that the new creation may be in every way worthy of this ancient and beautiful city."

The first step taken in the building of the city was the appointment of a town planning committee to advise on the choice of a site for and a lay-out of the new capital. After full consideration of all possible sites near the existing city of Delhi, on which a new capital could be built, they found two alternative sites, known respectively as the northern and southern sites.

The northern site, although found to be suitable in many respects, was considered to be too small for the proposed new city, in addition to part of the area being liable to flooding.

The committee, therefore, recommended the southern site. They found it

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Need help? 

Keyboard Shortcuts 

 Save  Save & Exit  Cancel

 Undo Line  Insert Symbol

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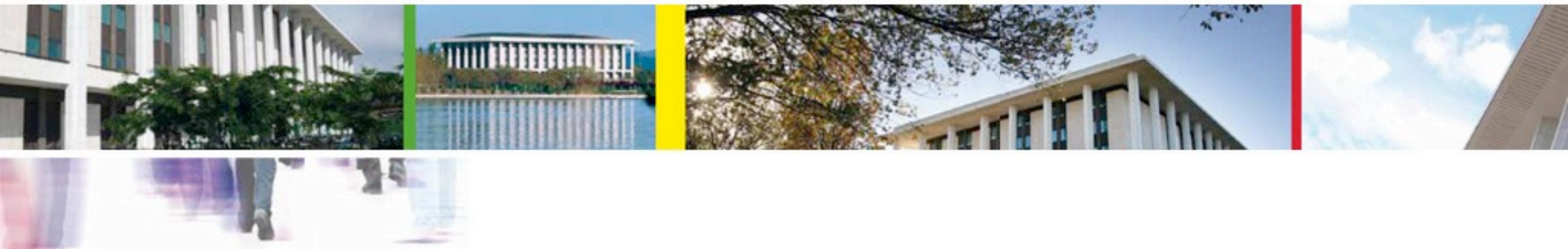
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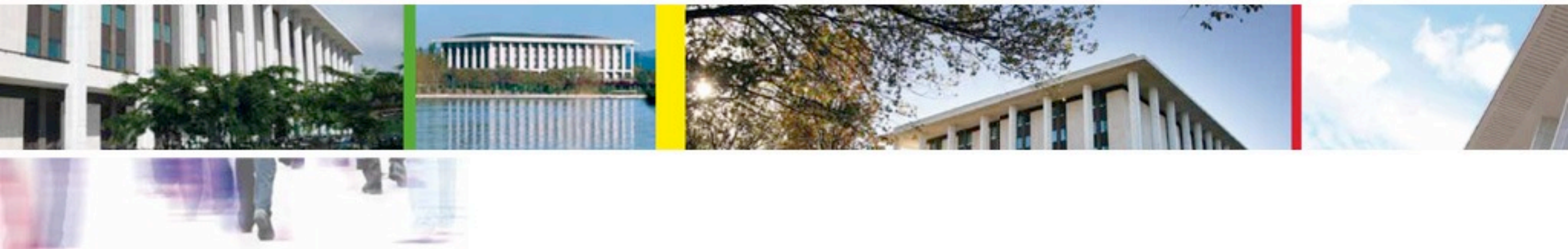
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Recent corrections

Article	Changed	Old lines	New lines
WASHINGTON. CANBERRA'S ELDER SISTER. (News), The Canberra Times (ACT : 1926-1954), Friday 13 May 1927 page News	2009-12-01 12:37	type and; in. à sense, the inspiration of oí ¿anbcr'ra. It is a city embodying many	type and; in a sense, the inspiration of Canberra. It is a city embodying many



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The Canb

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How to correct this text?

1 correction by kjeffers (NLA) - Show corrections

On page 5

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Add New Tags

Add keywords to describe this article.
Separate tags with a comma:

Canberra Historic Society

e.g. interesting, world war 2, rainfall

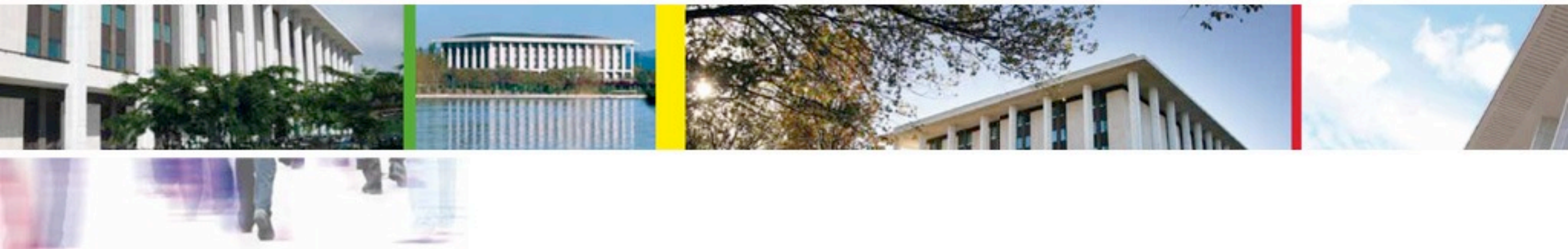
☒ Make these tags public (anyone can see them)

Cancel Ok

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Add New Comment

Add a comment for this article.

Although Canberra is similar to Washington DC. The designer of Canberra; US born Walter Burley Griffin, said that Canberra is not based on any other city:
"I have planned a city that is not like any other in the world. I have planned it not in a way that I expected any government authorities in the world

☒ Make this comment public (anyone can see it)

Cancel Ok

Washington is undoubtedly one of the ideal cities of the world. A long sustained and conscious effort to banish ugliness and to exalt beauty is apparent on every hand. It is a city built to a fixed plan from the very beginning. The eyesores of industrialism and the irregularities of haphazard development have been alike avoided. Imposing buildings face her open spaces. Artistically executed statues crown her squares. Her streets are bordered with shade trees, and down her broad avenues



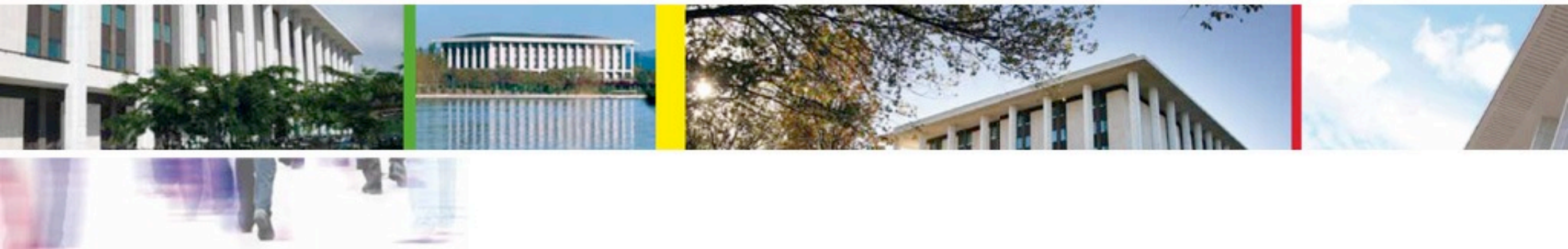
[1952 Washington D.C. UFO incident](#) [1954 Washington Redskins season](#) [1966 Washington Redskins season](#) [1969 Washington Redskins season](#) [1978 Washington summit](#) [1982 Washington Redskins season](#) [1988 Washington Redskins season](#) [1999 Washington Redskins season](#) [2000 Washington Redskins season](#) [2001 Washington Redskins season](#) [Ainsworth, Washington](#) [Annunciation \(van Eyck, Washington\)](#) [Bainbridge Island, Washington](#) [Battle of Fort Washington](#) [Booker T. Washington](#) [Burning of Washington](#) [Bushrod Washington](#) [Camp Washington Chili](#) [Chewelah, Washington](#) [Chinook, Washington](#) [City of Washington \(ship\)](#) [Clark Island \(Washington\)](#) [Codex Washingtonianus](#) [Cypress Island \(Washington\)](#) [Death of a Washington](#) [Madame](#) [Denzel Washington](#) [Dinah Washington](#) [Discovery Bay, Washington](#) [Dupont Circle, Washington, D.C.](#) [Economy of Spokane, Washington](#) [Elberton, Washington](#) [Ellen Washington](#) [Ellensburg, Washington](#) [Embassy of Jamaica in Washington, D.C.](#) [Embassy of Russia in Washington, D.C.](#) [Embassy of the Republic of Macedonia in Washington, D.C.](#) [Embassy of Uzbekistan in Washington, D.C.](#) [Essie Mae Washington-Williams](#) [Fairfax Bridge \(Washington\)](#) [Federal Way, Washington](#) [File:SS Washingtonian.jpg](#) [First inauguration of George Washington](#) [Five Minutes \(Bonzo Goes to Washington song\)](#) [Fort Washington \(New York\)](#) [Fort Washington Plaza](#) [Fort Washington, Maryland](#) [Francis Scott Key Bridge \(Washington, D.C.\)](#) [George Washington](#) [George Washington and religion](#) [George Washington and slavery](#) [George Washington bibliography](#) [George Washington Carver](#) [George Washington Crile](#) [George Washington Custis Lee](#) [George Washington Goethals](#) [George Washington Greene](#) [George Washington in the American Revolution](#) [George Washington in the French and Indian War](#) [George Washington Jones \(Tennessee politician\)](#) [George Washington McPhee](#) [George Washington Memorial Park \(Paramus, New Jersey\)](#) [George Washington Parke Custis](#) [George Washington Smith \(architect\)](#) [George Washington Williams](#) [George Washington's early life](#) [Georges Washington de La Fayette](#) [Germantown, Washington County, Ohio](#) [Grand Mound, Washington](#) [Grand Opera House \(Seattle, Washington\)](#) [Grays River \(Washington\)](#) [Haji Washington](#) [Harold Washington](#) [Henry Washington Hilliard](#) [His Excellency: George Washington](#) [Historic Washington State Park](#) [History of Spokane, Washington](#) [Holman, Washington](#) [Hoodsport, Washington](#) [Inchelium, Washington](#) [Index, Washington](#) [Interstate 5 in Washington](#) [Interstate 90 in Washington](#) [Jackie Washington](#) [Jakob von Washington](#) [Jesse](#)



Sample of user activity

Time	User	Activity
12:23	user 1	Corrects text in the article but doesn't know how to insert the pound symbol
12:24	user 1	Creates a comment on the same article saying that he doesn't know how to enter the pound symbol.
19:13	user 2	Enters the pound symbol in the article.
23:09	user 3	Spots an error in the correction by user 1, and fixes it.

- Users seem to observe accidental mis-corrections of others within a short space of time and correct them.
- There have been two reported site spamming
- Correctors help each other



Who are the text correctors?

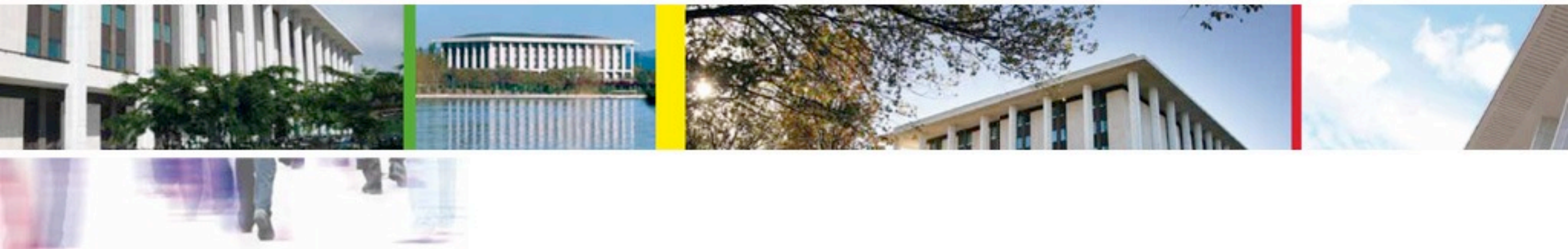
Picture Flickr:
LucLeqay

Top Text Corrector:
309829 lines



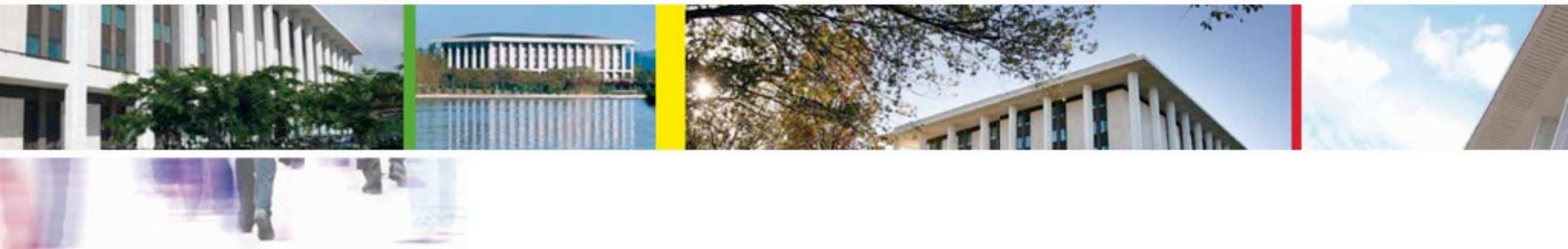
Motivating Factors

- Pleasure
- Short and long term goals
- Concentrating on outcomes
- Trust and Respect given
- The challenge



Maintaining Motivation

- **Detailed instructions** - If you want a specific result, give us specific instructions. We will work better when we know exactly what's expected.
- **Team Spirit** - Create an online environment of camaraderie. We'll work more effectively when we feel like part of team or virtual community. We don't want to let others down.
- **Recognise achievement** - Make a point to recognize achievements one-on-one and also in group settings. We like to think we are being noticed and are making a difference. Show us how we fit into the big picture.
- **Raising the bar** – The more we do the more you should expect us to do. We'll do a lot more if you give us a lot more content. That would be our highest motivational factor.



User Opinion

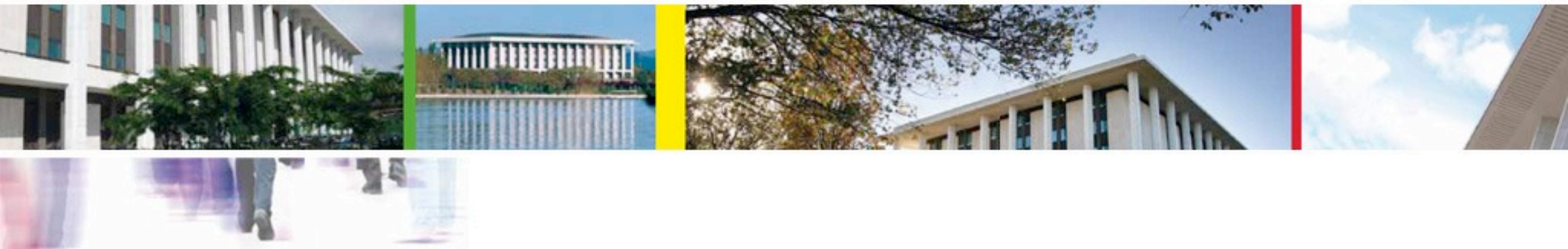
'OCR text correction is great! I think I just found my new hobby!'

'It's looking like it will be very cool and the text fixing and tagging is quite addictive.'

'An interesting way of using interested readers "labour"! I really like it.'

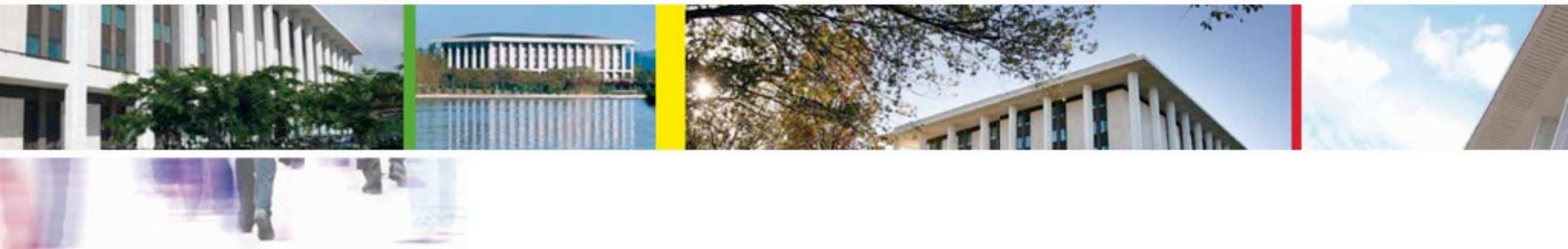
'A wonderful tool - the amount of user control is very surprising but refreshing.'

'I applaud the capability for readers to correct the text.'



The future

- Extend the tagging, commenting and correction features to other services (Catalogue, Picture etc) through Trove
- Improve text correction features
- Advanced searching of layers of enhancements
- Communication mechanism
- User profiles
- More stats and where they are in big picture
- Alerting to new content
- Guidelines for enhancement activities



Thank You

kjeffers@nla.gov.au



National Library of Australia