Tim Sherratt

I'm a historian and hacker who researches the possibilities and politics of digital cultural collections. I've worked across the cultural heritage sector and have been developing online resources relating to libraries, archives, museums and history since 1993.

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current digital projects

- **Trove Data Guide** (2023 to present)
  This project aims to give researchers a critical understanding of Trove data, both its limits and its possibilities.
  https://tdg.glam-workbench.net/home.html
- **GLAM Workbench** (2018 to present)
  A collection of tools, examples, and tutorials aimed at helping researchers work with the digital collections of libraries, archives, and museums.
  https://glam-workbench.net/
- **The real face of White Australia** (2010 to present)
  This project aims to make people more aware of records documenting the history of the White Australia Policy.
  https://www.realfaceofwhiteaustralia.net/

recent grants

- ARC Linkage LP200301446, **Everyday Heritage**, $372,528
  Joint Chief Investigator focused on the digital components of the project.
- ARC Linkage LP160101232, **Heritage of the Air: How Aviation Transformed Australia**, $440,000
  Joint Chief Investigator focused on the digital components of the project.
- **Asking questions with web archives – introductory notebooks for historians**, USD$3,500
  Grant awarded in 2019 under the International Internet Preservation Consortium's Discretionary Funding Program for the development of the Web Archives section of the GLAM Workbench.

fellowships & awards

- **British Library Lab Research Award** (2020)
  For work on the Web Archives section of the GLAM Workbench. The judges noted: 'we genuinely think Tim's work has been at the forefront of computational hacking work in GLAMs'.

- **Digital Drop-In**, DXLab, State Library of NSW (2017)

- **Harold White Fellow**, National Library of Australia (2012)

- **Director's Fellow**, National Museum of Australia (2011 to 2012)

- **Winner and First Runner Up in the DH Awards Category 'Best Use of DH for Fun'** (2012)

- **Australia Day Achievement Award**, National Archives of Australia (2009)
  For work on 'Mapping Our Anzacs'.

- **Dwight Prize for Final Year Honours in History and Philosophy of Science** (1985)

employment

- **Freelance digital historian and cultural data specialist** (1997 to present)

- **Associate Professor of Digital Heritage**, University of Canberra (2015 to 2023, part-time from 2017)

- **Trove Manager**, National Library of Australia (2013 to 2015)

- **Digital Humanities Specialist**, Australian National Dictionary Centre, Australian National University (2012)

- **Technical Analyst**, Public Sector Data Program, Australian National Data Service (2010)

- **Adjunct Associate Professor**, Centre for Creative and Cultural Research, University of Canberra (2010 to 2014)

- **Websites Research and Development Officer**, National Museum of Australia (2009 to 2011)

- **Websites Content Developer**, National Archives of Australia (2007 to 2009)

- **Postdoctoral Fellow**, History Program, Research School of Social Sciences, Australian National University (2003 to 2006)
  Working on an ARC-funded project entitled 'The Human Elements: A Cultural History of Australian Weather'

- **PhD studies**, History Program, Research School of Social Sciences, Australian National University (1999 to 2003)

- **Deputy-Director**, Australian Science Archives Project (University of Melbourne) (1996 to 1997)

- **Manager, Canberra Office and Head of Information Services**, Australian Science Archives Project (University of Melbourne) (1994 to 1996)

- **Senior Archivist**, Australian Science Archives Project, University of Melbourne (1993)

education

- **Australian National University – PhD 2005**
  Thesis: 'Atomic Wonderland: Science and Progress in 20th Century Australia'

- **University of Melbourne – BA (Hons) 1985**
  Thesis: 'A Political Inconvenience: Australian Scientists at the British Atomic Tests, 1952–1953'

books & monographs

- *Inigo Jones: The Weather Prophet*, Metarch Papers, no. 16, Bureau of Meteorology, 2007.
  https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.3586044

- With Tom Griffiths and Libby Robin, *A Change in the Weather: Climate and Culture in Australia*, National Museum of Australia Press, Canberra, 2005.

- With Lisa Jooste and Rosanne Clayton, *Recovering Science — Strategies and Models for the Past, Present and Future — Proceedings of a conference held at the University of Melbourne, October 1992*, ASAP Canberra, 1995.
  http://www.asap.unimelb.edu.au/confs/recovering/

articles & book chapters

- 'An approach to assess the quality of Jupyter projects published by GLAM institutions', *Journal of the Association for Information Science and Technology*, vol. 74, no. 13, December 2023, pp. 1550-1564.
  https://doi.org/10.1002/asi.24835

- 'Digital revolutions: The limits and affordances of online collections', in Paul Ashton and Paula Hamilton (eds), *The Australian History Industry*, Australian Scholarly Publishing, 2022.
  https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.4925423

- With Kate Bagnall, 'Missing Links: Data Stories from the Archive of British Settler Colonial Citizenship', *Journal of World History*, vol. 32, no. 2, June 2021, pp. 281-300.
  https://doi.org/10.1353/jwh.2021.0025

- 'More than newspapers', *History Australia*, volume 18, number 4, November 2021.
  https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.5595420

- 'Hacking heritage: understanding the limits of online access', in Hannah Lewi, Wally Smith, Dirk vom Lehn, and Steven Cooke (eds), *The Routledge International Handbook of New Digital Practices in Galleries, Libraries, Archives, Museums and Heritage Sites*, Routledge, 2019, pp. 116–130.
  https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.5035855

- 'Unremembering the forgotten', in Matthew Gold and Lauren Klein (eds), *Debates in Digital Humanities 2019*, University of Minnesota Press, 2019, pp. 123–140.
  https://doi.org/10.5749/9781452963785

- With Kate Bagnall, 'The people inside', in Kevin Kee and Timothy Compeau (eds), *Seeing the Past with Computers: Experiments with Augmented Reality and Computer Vision for History*, University of Michigan Press, 2019, pp. 11–31.
  https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.3579530

- 'Trove: connecting us to the past', *Teaching History* (Journal of the History Teachers Association of NSW), vol. 53, no. 2, June 2019.
  https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.3544673

- 'Withheld, pending advice', *Inside Story*, 2 February 2018.
  https://insidestory.org.au/withheld-pending-advice/

- 'Asking better questions: History, Trove and the risks that count', *CopyFight*, NewSouth Publishing, 2015, pp. 112-124.
  https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.12747258

- 'Contexts, connections, access: The glorious possibilities of getting it all wrong', *Archives and Manuscripts*, vol. 42, no. 2, pp. 209–10.
  https://doi.org/10.1080/01576895.2014.911691

- 'It's all about the stuff: Collections, interfaces, power and people', *Journal of Digital Humanities*, vol. 1, no. 1, Winter 2011.
  https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.12747236

- 'Bringing life to records: "Mapping Our Anzacs" at the National Archives of Australia', in Kate Theimer (ed.), *A Different Kind of Web: New Connections Between Archives and Our Users with Web 2.0*, Society of American Archivists, 2011, pp. 128–138.
  https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.12747304

- 'Frontiers of the future: Science and progress in 20th-century Australia', in Deborah Bird Rose and Richard Davis (eds), *Dislocating the Frontier: Essaying the Mystique of the Outback*, ANU E-Press, Canberra, 2006, pp. 121–142.
  https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.5111320

- With Tom Griffiths, 'What if the northern rivers had been turned inland?', in Stuart Macintyre and Sean Scalmer (eds), *What If? Australian History as it Might Have Been*, Melbourne University Press, Melbourne, 2006, pp. 234–254.

- 'Civilisation versus the giant, winged lizards – changing climates, changing minds', *Altitude*, no. 7, 2006.
  https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.3586002

- 'Human elements', in Tim Sherratt, Tom Griffiths and Libby Robin (eds), *A Change in the Weather: Climate and Culture in Australia*, National Museum of Australia Press, Canberra, 2005, pp. 1–17.
  https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.12747356

- 'Remembering Lawrence Hargrave', in Graeme Davison and Kimberley Webber (eds), *Yesterday's Tomorrows: The Powerhouse Museum and its Precursors, 1880–2005*, Powerhouse Museum in association with UNSW Press, Sydney 2005, pp. 174–185.
  https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.5111286

- 'Science, history of', in Graeme Davison, John Hirst, Stuart Macintyre (eds), *Oxford Companion to Australian History*, Oxford University Press, Melbourne, 1998, pp. 572–573.
  https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.12747281

- 'CSIRO', in Graeme Davison, John Hirst, Stuart Macintyre (eds), *Oxford Companion to Australian History*, Oxford University Press, Melbourne,1998, pp. 164–165.
  http://discontents.com.au/csiro

- With Gavan McCarthy, 'Mapping scientific memory — Understanding the role of recordkeeping in scientific practice', *Archives and Manuscripts*, vol. 24, no. 1, May 1996, pp. 78–85.
  https://publications.archivists.org.au/index.php/asa/article/view/8549

- '"A physicist would be best out of it": George Briggs at the United Nations Atomic Energy Commission', *Voices*, Autumn 1993, pp. 17–30.
  https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.12741677

- 'Australian scientists at the British Atomic Tests', in Robyn Williams (ed.), *Science Show 2*, Nelson, 1985, pp. 216–219.
  https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.12741555

- '"A political inconvenience" — Australian scientists at the British atomic weapons tests, 1952–1953', *Historical Records of Australian Science*, vol. 6, no. 2, 1985, pp. 137–152.
  https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.5111263

software packages

- **trove-newspaper-harvester**
  Tool for downloading large numbers of digitised newspaper articles from Trove.
  https://zenodo.org/doi/10.5281/zenodo.7103174

- **trove-query-parser**
  Convert a query from the Trove web interface into a set of parameters that can be used with the Trove API.
  https://wragge.github.io/trove_query_parser/

- **trove-newspaper-images**
  Tool to download digitised newspaper articles from Trove as images.
  https://wragge.github.io/trove_newspaper_images/

- **Omeka S API client**
  Tools to interact with the Omeka S REST API.
  https://wragge.github.io/omeka_s_tools/api.html

- **RecordSearch Data Scraper**
  Tools for extracting data from the National Archives of Australia's online database, RecordSearch.
  https://wragge.github.io/recordsearch_data_scraper/

invited posts & presentations

- **Portals, platforms, and participation: building online collaboration around GLAM collections**, 17 November 2022
  Keynote presentation for Diversity, Diasporas and Digitality: The Worlds of Wikimedia and beyond (WOW22)
  https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.7882628

- **DIY infrastructure – building the GLAM Workbench**, 16 November 2022
  Keynote presentation for Reviewing, Revising, and Refining Open Social Scholarship: Australasia.
  https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.7882572

- **The American World Gazetteer (or too much text, too little time...)**, October 2022
  Invited presentation for the Library of Congress's Computing Cultural Heritage in the Cloud Data Jam.
  https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.7882489

- **Exploring government departments by linking Wikidata to the National Archives of Australia** (October 2022)
  Invited post for Wikimedia Australia.
  https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.12747396

- **Living archaeologies of online collections**, July 2022
  Invited presentation for Computational Access Guide Launch - Lowering the Barriers to Computational Access for Digital Archivists, Digital Preservation Coalition.
  https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.7882458

- **Exploring Australian GLAM data**, 24 November 2021
  Invited key story presentation for ResBaz Queensland.
  https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.5760042

- **Exploring collections through the GLAM Workbench**, May 2021
  Keynote presentation for the XVIII Congrés D'Arxvística I Gestió De Documents De Catalunya.
  https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.5121224

- **Exploring digital collections with the GLAM Workbench**, 4 November 2020
  Invited presentation for the Digital Humanities and Digital Archives Symposium, National Library of Estonia.
  https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.4632727

- **Hacking heritage: exploring the limits of access**, 25 November 2019
  Invited webinar presentation in the Swedish National Heritage Board's #OpenGLAMNow series
  https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.3552266

- **Who belongs? Reading identity, ownership, and legitimacy**, 5 February 2019
  Invited presention at From text to data – new ways of reading, National Library of Sweden.
  https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.3544686

- **"The badge of the outsider": Open Access and Closed Boundaries**, 20 November 2017
  Invited presentation at Sharing is Caring 2017, Aarhus, Denmark.
  https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.3545830

- **The language of Parliament** (March 2016)
  Invited post for the Museum of Australian Democracy.
  https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.6872590

- **The practice of play**, 24 February 2017
  Keynote presentation at HDR Summer School, Deakin University.
  https://doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.4696258

- **Caring about access**, 10 November 2016
  Invited presentation at Digital Directions 2016, National Film and Sound Archive, Canberra.   https://dx.doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.4229402

- **Turning the inside out**, 19 October 2016
  Keynote address at Forging Links, Australian Society of Archivists conference, Parramatta.
  https://dx.doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.4055013

- **A life reduced to data**, 26 August 2016
  Keynote address at Migrant (R)e-Collections, Lorenz Centre, Leiden.
  https://doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.4479281

- **Telling stories with data**, 19 August 2016
  Keynote address at Working History, Professional Historians' Association conference, Melbourne.
  https://doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.4479284

- **#Borderfarce, building, and a hacker's reward**, 7 September 2015
  Invited presentation to the National Scholarly Communications Forum, Canberra.
  https://doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.4479290

- **Unremembering the forgotten**, 3 July 2015
  Keynote address at the international Digital Humanities Congress, Parramatta.
  https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.3566887

- **Myths, mega-projects, and making**, 13 February 2015
  Joint keynote address at EuropeanaTech 2015, Paris.
  https://doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.4479503

- **Digitised newspapers and the varieties of value**, 29 September 2014
  Invited presentation at the Europeana Newspapers workshop, 'Newspapers in Europe and the Digital Agenda for Europe', London.
  https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.12747313

- **Life on the outside: Collections, contexts and the wild, wild, web**, 20 September 2014
  Keynote address to the Japanese Association for the Digital Humanities Annual Conference, Tsukuba, Japan.
  https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.3566879

- **"A map and some pins": Open data and unlimited horizons**, 25 April 2013
  Keynote address to the Digisam conference on Open Heritage Data in the Nordic Region, Malmö, Sweden
  https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.3550565

- **Exposing the archives of White Australia**, 26 February 2013
  Invited presentation in the UK Institute of Historical Research's Digital History Seminar series.
  http://discontents.com.au/exposing-the-archives-of-white-australia/

- **Archives of emotion**, 29 November 2012
  Invited presentation to the Rethinking Archival Methods workshop, Sydney.
  https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.5112752

- **Mining for meanings,** 8 May 2012
  Harold White Fellowship public lecture, National Library of Australia.
  http://discontents.com.au/mining-for-meanings

- **Collections, interfaces, power and people**, 10 January 2012
  Invited presentation at McGill University, Montreal, Canada.

- **Every story has a beginning**, 14 September 2011
  Keynote presentation at the Australian and New Zealand Society of Indexers Annual Conference, Melbourne.
  https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.12747345

- **Confessions of an impatient historian**, 8 June 2011
  Invited presentation to the Scholars' Lab, University of Virginia.

- **Of maps and metadata**, 6 April 2009
  Public lecture at the New York Public Library, New York, USA.

- **Inigo Jones: the weather prophet**, 8 June 2005
  Public lecture at the National Archives of Australia, Canberra.
  https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.12747354

other posts & presentations

- **The multiplication of contexts**, 2017
  Presented at the University of Canberra as part of the Centre for Creative and Cultural Research's seminar series.
  https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.3544677

- **Closed Access**, 22 June 2016
  Paper at DHA2016 Conference in Hobart.
  https://doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.4479278

- **The perfect face**, 13 October 2015
  Presented at the National Digital Forum, Wellington, NZ.
  https://doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.1577665

- **Stories for machines, data for humans**, 10 April 2015
  Presented at the New Factual Storytelling Symposium, University of Canberra.
  https://doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.4479500

- **Seams & edges: Dreams of aggregation, access and discovery in a broken world**, 3 February 2015
  Presented at ALIA Online, Sydney.
  https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.3556475

- **From portals to platforms: Building new frameworks for user engagement**, 21 October 2013
  Presented at the LIANZA 2013 Conference, Hamilton, New Zealand
  https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.3563238

- **Small stories in a big data world**, 20 November 2012.
  Presented at the National Digital Forum, Wellington, New Zealand.
  https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.12747371

- **Mining the treasures of Trove: New approaches and new tools**, February 2012
  Presented at VALA2012, Melbourne.
  https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.12747363

- **Pathways to memory**, July 1996
  Presented at AusWeb96 - The Second Australian World Wide Web Conference.
  https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.5112768

- **A world to win: The WWW experience of a small organisation with big dreams**, 3 June 1995
  Presented at the Asia-Pacific WWW Conference.
  https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.5112651

other digital projects

- **TroveNewsBot – the Fediverse edition** (2023)
  Updated version to work with Mastodon.
  https://wragge.github.io/trovenewsbot-fedi/

- **The Redaction Zoo** (2017)
  Work exhibited as part of the 'Beauties and Beasts' exhibition, Belconnen Art Centre, 6–28 May 2017.
  https://doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.4981433

- **Real words :: Imagined tweets** (2017)
  Historical Hansard interjections reimagined as tweets.
  http://hansard-interjections.herokuapp.com/tweets/

- **redacted** (2016)
  Interface to explore redactions extracted from digitised ASIO files.
  http://owebrowse.herokuapp.com/redactions/

- **Historic Hansard** (2016)
  An experimental, easy-to-read version of the proceedings of the Commonwealth of Australia Parliament.
  http://historichansard.net/

- **Closed Access** (2016)
  A workbench for exploring closed files in the National Archives Australia.
  http://closedaccess.herokuapp.com/

- **The Vintage Face Depot** (2015)
  A twitter bot providing uncanny connections with the past.
  https://wragge.github.io/face-depot/

- **In a word… — Currents in Australian affairs, 2003–2013** (2014)
  Exploring keywords from Radion National programs.
  https://inaword.herokuapp.com/

- **Eyes on the Past** (2014)
  An experiment in building evocative and unexpected interfaces to digitised newspaper collections.
  http://eyespast.herokuapp.com/

- **Trove places** (2014)
  Explore Trove's digitised newspapers by place.
  https://troveplaces.herokuapp.com/

- **Trove API Console** (2013)
  Learn how to use the Trove API by example.
  https://troveconsole.herokuapp.com/

- **TroveNewsBot** (2013)
  A widely cited example of the possibilities of using Twitter bots to mobilise cultural collections, nominated in the DH Awards 2013.
  https://twitter.com/TroveNewsBot

- **The Future of the Past** (2012)
  Winner of the DH Awards 2012 category 'Best use of DH for fun'.

- **QueryPic** (2011)
  A heavily used research tool that visualises search results in Trove's digitised newspapers. Now part of the GLAM Workbench.
  http://dhistory.org/querypic/

- **Headline Roulette** (2010)
  How well do you know your Australian history? A simple game using Trove's digitised newspapers.
  https://headlineroulette.net/

- **Mapping Our Anzacs** (National Archives of Australia, 2008)
  An innovative project displaying places of birth and enlistment of Australian WWI service personnel. It was judged winner of 'Archives website of the year' by the ArchivesNext blog.

- **Muslim Journeys** (National Archives of Australia, 2007)
  An online exhibition I curated and edited which won the Australian Society of Archivists Mander Jones award for 'best publication that uses, features or interprets Australian archives, written by or on behalf of a corporate body'.

- **Bright Sparcs** (Australian Science Archives Project, 1994)
  A biographical database of Australian scientists — one of the first resources of its kind on the web. Now part of the Encyclopedia of Australian Science.

professional activities

- Organiser of THATCamp Canberra – 2010, 2011, 2014

- Committee member, Australasian Association for the Digital Humanities – 2011 to 2015

- Member of the organising committee for the Linked Open Data in Libraries, Archives and Museums International Summit (LOD-LAM), San Francisco – 2011

- Member of the Academic Advisory Panel for Vrroom, National Archives of Australia – 2006 to 2007

- Co-organiser of the symposium 'Climate and Culture in Australia' supported by the National Academies Forum and the Bureau of Meteorology – 2002

- Specialist advisor on Documenting a Democracy, National Archives of Australia – 1999 to 2000

- Editor of the History of Australian Science Newsletter – 1991 to 1996

- Organiser of the symposium 'From Maralinga to Pine Gap — The Historical Fallout', University of Melbourne – 1987