

VALE MRS HAZEL HAWKE

a proud West
Australian



Hazel Hawke c. 1989 JCPML00425/243

Many of you will have noted Hazel Hawke's recent passing. You may not, however, be aware that Mrs Hawke had a valuable connection with Curtin University Library.

She was a proud West Australian and her strong ties to her home state were the motivation for her donation of a consignment of her papers to the library between 1999 and 2009. The library is honoured to take care of the Hazel Hawke collection which documents her time at the Prime Minister's Lodge (1983–1991) with speeches delivered in her role as Prime Minister Bob Hawke's wife, a series of interviews, plus photographs which provide an insight into her public work and some of her personal interests.

As part of her strong interest in and involvement with community and social issues, Mrs Hawke and her family also worked closely with the library to establish the Hazel Hawke Undergraduate Scholarship. This annual scholarship is available to mature age applicants whose finances would not normally allow them to study at university and remains a lasting legacy to a remarkable woman.

The Hazel Hawke Collection can be accessed online <http://john.curtin.edu.au/hawkeh/index.html>.

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DIGITAL HERITAGE COLLECTIONS

– NSLA, Digital Collecting, and Digital Preservation

Born digital materials are our future documentary heritage. Email correspondence, digital photographic collections, research data sets, collaborative research and social media platforms, applications, digital art, informally published books and articles online (grey literature), websites, blogs, comments streams, and much more are the documentary record of today's society.

Digital information (born digital and turned digital) is dependent on technology to access and read it in an understandable format. Over a relatively short period of time, the technology becomes obsolete as new versions of hardware, software, file formats, and media regularly supersede older versions. This obsolescence drastically increases the risks that digital information will be lost, will lose its authenticity or context, or become inaccessible.

Collecting born digital material is changing the way libraries do business. In the digital environment, electronic information may not survive being neglected beyond 5–7 years. For example, acquiring archival collections at the end of the career of an influential person may no longer be an option if most of their work is in digital form – it could already be lost; a box of glass-plate negatives can be found and viewed 100 years later while a floppy disk with digital photos may not be accessible after 10 years.

Legal deposit legislation, in place for printed material, is expanding to digital materials. Some states already have this enacted or in development. In March the federal government announced that the Copyright Act 1968 will be amended to provide for the legal deposit of published digital material with the National Library of Australia.

Once selected and brought into the collection, the preservation of digital assets is an active process including staged assessment, reformatting, integrity checking, storage and providing access to the content on changing platforms. Some of these processes mirror print activities (with much tighter timeframes)

but some require new technical capabilities.

National & State Libraries Australasia (NSLA) is the peak body for the National, State and Territory Libraries of Australia and New Zealand. Member libraries are working together to develop shared principles, processes, and skills in digital collecting and digital preservation, and to explore a collaborative framework for digital infrastructure.

A number of projects and approaches are being initiated by this work. A digital preservation project begun in 2012 and led by the National Library of New Zealand and the National Library of Australia, is the scoping and modelling of a Technical Format Registry to suit the requirements of State and National Libraries. NSLA is consulting with the University of Portsmouth (UK) and the National Archives and Records Administration (USA) on this project and will move to implementation in 2013–2014.

For more information

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