

Australia

Submitted by Julia Child

National board members

Julia Child is acting as network convenor currently. There are no official roles for the network.

Board meetings held during the year

Not applicable

Annual branch meetings

Not applicable

Branch membership figures

Not known - this is managed centrally by IAML now.

Additional comments

Whilst our network continues to be quiet with many Library staff supporting multiple subject areas, our libraries are continuing to develop and maintain strong music collections and music related services. Queensland University of Technology, Griffith University, University of Melbourne and University of Sydney continue to be active in the network.

Common themes across our academic institutions include strengthening relationships with faculty, increasing the visibility of non-traditional research outputs, and adapting collections to align with major course redevelopments. Whilst not specific to music, all institutions are grappling with issues of learning and assessment, and research ethics, in the context of AI.

At the University of Sydney, long-standing IAML member Julia Child commenced as Manager Student Engagement at the University of Sydney, taking over responsibility for the Conservatorium of Music Library space, collections and services. She is working closely with Sally Chik, who is Manager of Academic Engagement, overseeing the team that supports information and digital literacy skills development and academic engagement across a number of faculties, including music.

Following organisational change in January this year, a new Research Services team now supports publishing and research impact across all faculties. University Librarian Philip Kent is retiring, having led significant and positive organisational change, strengthened faculty ties, and elevated the profile of Rare Books & Special Collections.

The University of Sydney Library has been working closely with local music supplier Clear Music to create an acquisitions profile, ensuring the selective and systematic growth of its 80,000-strong print score collection to support current teaching, performance, and research needs. This work has a particular focus on increasing the representation of women and Australian composers, including First Nations composers, and developing the collection to support the new Music Theatre programme.

Recent provenance research on Handel's Italian Cantatas (with assistance from prominent Handel scholar Donald Burrows), revealed that it was penned by Handel's principal assistant, John Christopher Smith Senior. This is the only copy of Smith's work outside of Europe. The work was located in the Dalley Scarlett collection, which consists of significant rare Baroque and Classical music, and is undergoing cataloguing. Another significant acquisition has been the donation of first and early editions of Mozart by Richard Charteris, Emeritus Professor in Historical Musicology.

University of Melbourne are deepening relationships with music colleagues and furthering discussions around supporting student cohorts across the Faculty of Fine Arts and Music. There has been growing interest in making non-traditional research outputs more discoverable online, and the library continues to provide support and tools to enable this.

Work continues on the processing of a backlog of donated scores from many decades' past. Library staff are undergoing a process of checking the condition of the scores, crosschecking against our existing collection for duplicates, and music specialists are then selecting based on our collection development priorities.

A major upgrade is in progress to house the University of Melbourne's Rare Music collections safely and appropriately into the future. This is a part of the Baillieu Library Special Collections Redevelopment, which will result in a fit-for-purpose storage environment to reflect the University's Special Collections' value and significance.

At the National Library, our central online source for collections across the country, Trove, celebrated its 15 year anniversary. From humble beginnings as an aggregator for a range of library services, Trove has grown into a home for freely accessible cultural content that reflects our vibrant contemporary and historical cultures. As Trove reached this anniversary they produced a fascinating overview of music in their collections which can be accessed [here](#).

Trove also released a new strategy for 2025 - 2033. "Our Strategic Vision groups our purposes into three core action areas – Collect, Engage and Enable – and outlines our priorities within each. Priorities include a focus on First Nations Australians, regional, rural and remote Australians and culturally and linguistically diverse people; minimising our environmental footprint; engaging with publishers and independent publishing communities; and using emerging technologies."