Tips and Practical Advice on Preparing Memory of the World Nomination Dossiers with examples of Indigenous Peoples-related collections from Australia

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1.0 Title of documentary heritage item or collection being proposed

Keep it simple – preferably no more than 3 to 5 words, if possible, to a maximum of 10 words.

Here are some examples:

- Mabo Case Papers
- Warlpiri Drawings
- Archives of Terror
- Book of Kells
- Indigenous Languages Collection
- Family of Man
2.0 Summary

Highlight the nature, uniqueness and significance of the nominated documentary heritage item or collection.

Make sure that you focus on these highlighted points.

Keep the summary short – aim for about 200 words.

Write it last, once you have addressed all the criteria and written the statement of significance.

The nomination form provides many opportunities to describe your documentary heritage item or collection in depth, so the summary should not be detailed.
6.0 Details of the nominated documentary heritage

6.1 Give the exact title of the documentary heritage and the institution(s) nominating it. These will appear on the inscription certificate if the nomination is successful.

6.2 Type of documentary heritage
For example, paper-based documents, documents on palm leaf, stone, metal, photographs, audiovisual material, or digital files
6.3 Catalogue or registration details

Give catalogue or registration details for the documentary heritage item or collection

(if this is too long, either give a summary with sample catalogue entries, accession or registration numbers, or add the catalogue/registration details as an appendix or give the URL for an online inventory).

A nominated collection or archival fonds must be finite, with clear beginning and end dates.

Provide a physical description of the item or collection if this is relevant to its significance.
6.4 Images of the documentary heritage

This can include photos or audiovisual material. Attach photos as JPAG files or supply a CD, DVD or USB key for audiovisual items.
6.5 History/origin/background/provenance

Set out the history of the item or collection – its ‘life story’ or provenance – from the time when it was created to its place in your institution.

This is critical to establishing its authenticity.

You may not know all the details, but aim to provide as comprehensive an account of the item or collection’s history, origin, background – its provenance - as you can.
6.6 Bibliography

A bibliography provides evidence that the documentary heritage item or collection has been used by scholars, and thus knowledge of its impact and influence is in the public domain.

It is desirable that you cite scholarly works written outside your own country, where possible, as well as those of local scholars, to demonstrate the wider influence of the item or collection;
6.7 Names, qualifications and contact details of up to three independent people or organisations with expert knowledge of the significance and provenance of the nominated documentary heritage item or collection.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Qualifications</th>
<th>Contact email</th>
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7.0 Authenticity and integrity

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Is the documentary heritage what it appears to be? Answer these questions:

• Has the identity and provenance of the documentary heritage been reliably established?
• Are there parts elsewhere that are not included in the nomination?
• Has it been altered or damaged?
• Are sections or pages missing?
• Have parts of the documentary heritage been lost?
8. Regional significance – Primary criteria

Does your documentary heritage item or collection meet one or more of the primary criteria?

8.1 Historical significance
8.2 Form and style significance
8.3 Social, community or spiritual significance

Only choose and address the criteria that are relevant to your nominated item or collection – not all criteria will apply to your documentary heritage.
What does the documentary heritage item or collection tell us about the history of the Asia-Pacific region as a whole, or a sub-region such as Central, South, Southeast, East Asia, Melanesia, Micronesia, Polynesia, Australasia? Does it deal with

- Political, economic, social or spiritual movements?
- Leading personalities in regional history?
- Events of significance that changed the region?
- Specific places of regional significance?
- Traditional customs in the region?
- Relations with other regional countries or communities?
- Changing patterns of life and culture in the region?
In June 1992 the High Court of Australia, in its judgement on the Mabo Case, overturned the doctrine of ‘terra nullius’, that Australia was an empty land owned by no one at the time of European colonisation from 1788. The case was brought by Eddie Koiki Mabo from the Torres Strait Islands, and established that native title had not been extinguished by colonisation. The Mabo Case Manuscripts were inscribed on the Memory of the World International Register in 2001, the first from Australia, with the *Endeavour* Journal of James Cook.
8.1 Historical significance

Sorry Books

Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS)

A collection of 461 Sorry Books signed by around half a million Australians in 1998 as a people’s apology for past wrongs to Indigenous Australians, especially the ‘Stolen Generation’ who were subjected to government policies of child removal from the 19th and into the 20th centuries. In February 2008 Prime Minister Kevin Rudd delivered a formal apology in federal Parliament to members of the Stolen Generation.
8.2 Form and style significance

This criterion refers to the physical nature of the nominated documentary heritage item or collection.

- Is it a particularly fine exemplar of its type?

- Does it have outstanding qualities of beauty and craftsmanship?

- Is it a new or unusual type of carrier?

- Or is it an example of a type of document that has now disappeared?
8.2 Form and style significance
Ronald M. Berndt Collection of Crayon Drawings on Brown Paper from Yirrkala, Northern Territory

These unique historical cultural materials document relationships between the Yolgnu people of Arnhem Land, Northern Australia and their land in the period before large-scale changes in the 1970s and 1980s. The Yolgnu people were encouraged to document their land by means of drawings in crayon on brown butcher’s paper, the first time the artists used this medium of expression. They resonate with religious belief and meaning, and demonstrate the complexity and structure of Yolgnu beliefs.
8.2 Form and style significance
Ancient Naxi Dongba Literature Manuscripts
Lijiang Prefecture Administration, Yunnan, China

The Naxi people of northwest China created a unique culture known as ‘Dongba’, and use a pictographic script of over 2000 characters to give voice to their customs and write down their scriptures.
8.3 Social, community or spiritual significance

Is the documentary heritage attached to a specific existing community and demonstrably significant?

You must provide information on what the nominated item represents and how this attachment is expressed, for example:

- Attachment to the heritage of a beloved community leader
- Attachment to the documentary heritage of a specific incident or site
- Attachment to the documentary heritage associated with a spiritual leader or saint
- Attachment to a particular cultural phenomenon such as an Indigenous language
8.3 Social, community or spiritual significance
Western Desert Verbal Arts Collection
PARADISEC

This collection comprises high-quality audio and video archival material, transcriptions and translations of the endangered multi-modal speech arts of Indigenous Australians in the Western Desert area. It documents a wide range of oral practices including narratives, sand stories, iPad stories, children’s songs and games, alternate sign language and special speech styles with narrators spanning three generations. The documentary heritage is contributing to the maintenance and revitalization of endangered languages for Western Desert communities.
This collection is the largest body of published items in Australian Indigenous languages. Children’s readers, Bible translations, dictionaries, traditional legends, language learning kits, and many other works have been used for teaching over 100 Indigenous languages from all over Australia. The collection is extremely valuable from the Indigenous community perspective where languages are being revived.
9.0 Regional Significance - Comparative criteria

The item or collection should be compared to similar items or collections, whether they are inscribed on the Memory of the World registers or not.

• Outline the similarities with other documentary heritage, and note the differences, and the reasons why the nominated documentary heritage stands out.

• Explain the importance of the documentary heritage in its national, regional or international context, if this is applicable.
9.1 Uniqueness or Rarity

A rare item can be something described as unique – the only one in existence.

Is the documentary heritage item or collection rare?

Is it one of a kind (the only one ever created) OR

Is it a survivor of a form of documentary heritage item that was once widespread?

Do similar items or collections exist elsewhere?
Three of just five surviving documents written in the 19th century by Kaurna people of South Australia in Kaurna language. They are a tangible connection for Kaurna people to their ancestors and a significant symbol of Kaurna cultural and spiritual identity.

In 1839 Dresden Mission Society missionaries opened a school for Aboriginal children in Adelaide and learned enough of the Kaurna language to teach them to read and write in their own language. The Kaurna Children’s Letters represent a remarkable tale of survival over nearly two centuries of change and conflict. The missionaries’ recording of Kaurna vocabulary and grammar enabled the language to survive the near extinction of the ‘Adelaide tribe’ in the 19th century. Kaurna language is now taught in schools and University courses and serves as a model for national and international language reclamation programs.
10.0 Gender

Note any specific aspects of the nomination that relate to gender equality. Describe them in detail, and explain what the nominated documentary heritage tells us about the lives of girls and women in Asia and the Pacific, and impacts on gender equality in the region.

Refer to Gender Equality Baseline Study of Memory of the World in Asia-Pacific
11.0 Statement of significance

Summarise the points you have made addressing the primary and comparative criteria, and the test of authenticity and integrity. Then address the following questions:

• Why is this documentary heritage item or collection important to the world and to the Asia-Pacific region?

• What has been the impact of this item or collection on regional history and culture?

• What has been its impact beyond the boundaries of a single Asia-Pacific state?

The statement of significance should be up to 600 words.
Thank you for your attention