



STUDENT PROJECT: The Linus Whizzard: Exploring the NBN Television Archive

Description

The [Linus Whizzard](#) is a powerful search tool developed in 2020 by Special Collections to give University of Newcastle staff and students access to the NBN Television Archive. This platform is a vital resource for anyone interested in the history of Newcastle and the Hunter region, featuring NBN News content from 1982 to 1995.

The Whizzard makes exploring the archive easy by allowing you to search transcripts and on-screen text within the footage itself. Once you've located the specific news stories you need, the footage can be viewed on the [University Special Collections YouTube channel](#), where it is publicly available.

A key part of this project involves identifying news stories related to criminology. The goal is to create detailed finding aids for researchers and to find innovative ways to link this video content with other data and knowledge about crimes in the region.

This project offers a unique opportunity for students to work directly with the archives team. They can gain hands-on experience in accessing historic archives and learn about the important ethical considerations of working with commercial materials, including copyright and conditions of use.

The NBN archive holds a wealth of television news footage that has not been seen or researched since it first aired. This presents a unique opportunity to re-examine historic events and uncover information that may be viewed differently today. We can also connect this footage with new knowledge and resources that are now available.

In 2019, our Special Collections team collaborated with the producers and archivist of the ABC Television series *Revelations*. We worked with them to find historical footage related to crimes committed in the Newcastle region.

Skill Development:

- Work with Special Collection team to understand how the television archive was created.
- Research skills using Linus Whizzard search tool.
- Video/audio editing
- Cultural sensitivity awareness
- Work through ethical, cultural and privacy matters
- Create metadata.
- Transcribing

ORGANISATION: GLAMx Lab, Special Collections at the University of Newcastle Library

LOCATION: GLAMx Lab, Room L329 Auchmuty Library

DAYS & HOURS: GLAMx Lab is opened Mon to Fri 9am-4pm (WFH also available)

About the Organisation:

The GLAMx Living Histories Digitisation Lab is part of Special Collections at the University Library. The facility supports students and researchers working on Special Collections projects, the Lab contains specialised equipment to scan 2D and 3D material, audio-visual formats. Special collections also engage with the wider community via the Hunter Living Histories Initiative.

Located on level 3 of the Auchmuty Library (L329), the GLAMx Lab supports students in University of Newcastle's Work Integrated Learning (WIL) programs across a range of schools and disciplines, as well as student volunteers. It offers the opportunity for participants to learn invaluable digitization and other cultural sector skills designed to improve their employability. A diversity of experiences is available including:

The GLAMx Lab also has a separate Audio-visual Digitization Lab housing the NBN Television archive and an Artefact Conservation Atelier for conservation and 3D digitisation of Aboriginal artefacts and other artefacts for virtual reality (VR) simulation.

Also see <https://www.newcastle.edu.au/library/our-libraries/special-collections/glamx-lab>

Other GLAM sector Competencies

Practice and methods

- Methodology and ethical practices of GLAM sector (Cultural, Ethical, Professional, Legal issues, Guidelines, Copyright, Conditions of use).

Conservation, archival, librarianship, curatorial and related fields.

- Documenting, accessioning, digitising, managing, and organising information.
- Meta data entry
- Preservation of records and artefacts – documentation, accessioning, access and use of artefacts.

Design Research Project & Develop Research skills.

- Design project proposal in consultation with others.
- Navigate the multi-layered aspects of archival and humanities research.
- Application of theoretical knowledge in practice relevant to project. E.g. Historical/heritage assessments, site visits, tangible objects as archival sources and their meaning, analysis by observation, cultural heritage conservation practice, significance assessments, comparative analysis etc.
- Engage with wider community, professional and academics
- Research, analyse, and writing and/or digital literacy skills
- Engage in current topics of community interest
- Project management skills

Interpersonal and communication skills

- Interview techniques, community engagement, networking, and development of effective communication skills.
- Develop new skill through problem solving and discovery in the archive environment.
- Connect with communities via Hunter Living Histories monthly meetings/presentations.
- Opportunity to meet professionals in the field.
- Some projects will offer opportunities to collaborate with colleagues, other employees and students from various disciplines using a teamwork approach.
- Experience in working in an integrated workplace
- Develop writing skills relevant to practice and performance e.g., Report writing, conservation plans etc. Significance assessments, reflecting critically.
- Analysing and reflecting upon their workplace experience

Technical skills - explore and use new technology in digital preservation.

- Digitise archival sources and develop skills associated with digital humanities, particularly emergent 3D virtual and augmented reality.
- Employ innovative technologies, digital skills, and archival components.
- Familiarise with other devices, e.g., oral histories, differences in audio formats (FLAC, WAV, Mp3) lossy and lossless data compression, edit and store audio files,

Publishing and media- learn how to digitise sources for online access via various platforms- such as Living Histories Digital repository, Sound Cloud, YouTube, WordPress, and other various forms of social media.

- There may also be the opportunity to engage with mainstream media
- Reflective process and opportunity to write/edit and publish WordPress posts.

Organisational culture

- Familiarise with organisational structure and work practices
- Time management and resources

To apply for this Placement opportunity, please send your CV and a covering letter addressing the selection criteria and explaining why you would like to be considered for this placement to:

Please contact Dr Ann Hardy at ann.hardy@newcastle.edu.au