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Sensitivity message

Please note: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people should be aware that the collection databases may contain images, voices or names of deceased persons in photographs, film, audio recordings or printed material.

Some material may contain terms that reflect authors' views, or those of the period in which the item was written or recorded but may not be considered appropriate today. These views are not necessarily the views of AIATSIS. While the information may not reflect current understanding, it is provided in an historical context.

About Mura

Mura® is the online catalogue for AIATSIS' collection of print, audio, photographic and moving-image material.

The Mura catalogue is a searchable register of each item (for example, a book or film). This allows you to view information about items, but in most cases, you cannot read or view the items themselves online.

Mura is a word from the Ngunnawal language meaning "pathway".

Simple search

You can access Mura from the AIATSIS Collection website.

<https://collection.aiatsis.gov.au>

You can search Mura by **keywords**, (any word or phrase) as shown in the example below.

Click the **title** of a search result to view the full catalogue record for that item.

Refining your search

Use the first drop-down menu to limit your search to a particular format type such as print or audio.

Use the second drop-down menu to search for a particular creator, title, language/group, place or subject.

By default, the search will include all formats (“Everywhere”) and every category (“Everything”).

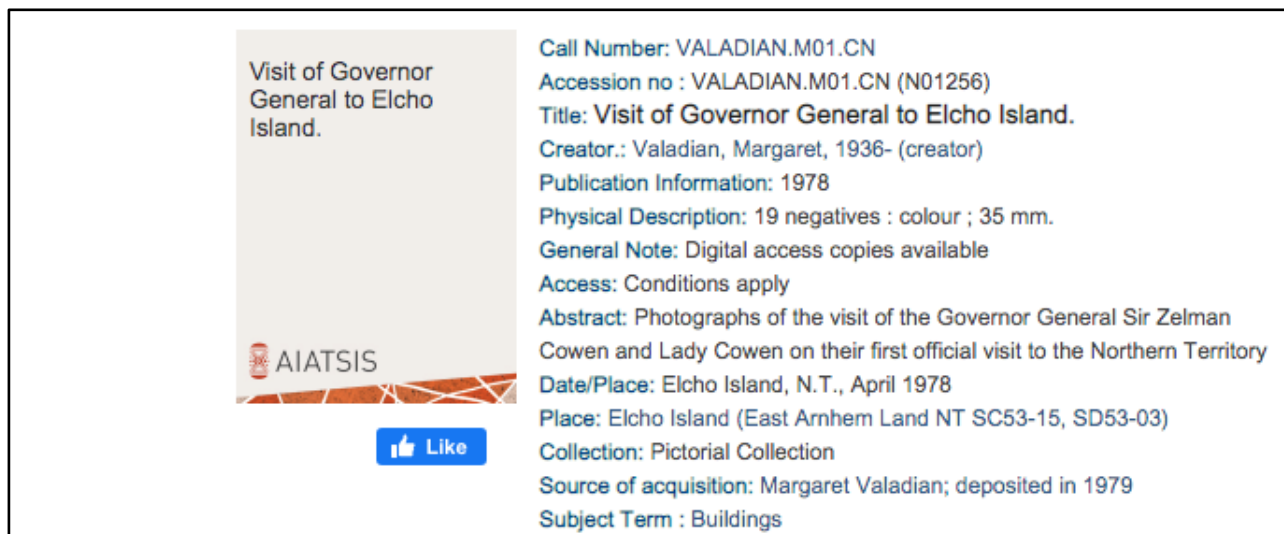
The screenshot shows the AIATSIS Mura® Collections Catalogue search results page. The search bar contains the text "Indigenous health". The left sidebar has three filter sections: "Material Type" with options like "Book", "Article/Chapter", and "CD-ROM, disk, file or ..."; "Creator" with options like "Australian Institute of ...", "Cawte, John", "Bates, Daisy, 1859-19...", "Australia. Aboriginal a...", and "Australian Institute of ..."; and "Publication Date". The main content area shows 4305 results found. Two results are visible: 1. "Indigenous health" by Calma, Tom, published in 2008, source Partyline: the newsletter of the National Rural Health Alliance no. 33, Aug 2008: p. 4-5. 2. "Indigenous health" / editor: Justin Healey, published in 2004, ISBN 9781920801090, Call Number p HEA. Red arrows point from the text above to the search bar and the filter sections in the sidebar.

The side bar on the left allows you to limit (or “filter”) your search results by clicking checkboxes. This is useful if you are focusing on a particular material type, creator, subject, language group, place, or items published in a particular date range.

In the example above, you could filter the search results to only show books by Daisy Bates, by ticking the relevant checkboxes and then clicking “Include”.

Clicking “More” or “Expand All” will show more filtering options.

Interpreting a catalogue record



The image shows a digital catalogue record for a photograph. On the left is a thumbnail image with the text 'Visit of Governor General to Elcho Island.' and the AIATSIS logo. On the right is a list of metadata fields:

- Call Number: VALADIAN.M01.CN
- Accession no : VALADIAN.M01.CN (N01256)
- Title: Visit of Governor General to Elcho Island.
- Creator.: Valadian, Margaret, 1936- (creator)
- Publication Information: 1978
- Physical Description: 19 negatives : colour ; 35 mm.
- General Note: Digital access copies available
- Access: Conditions apply
- Abstract: Photographs of the visit of the Governor General Sir Zelman Cowen and Lady Cowen on their first official visit to the Northern Territory
- Date/Place: Elcho Island, N.T., April 1978
- Place: Elcho Island (East Arnhem Land NT SC53-15, SD53-03)
- Collection: Pictorial Collection
- Source of acquisition: Margaret Valadian; deposited in 1979
- Subject Term : Buildings

There are many information fields in a catalogue record, and these will vary depending on the type of item. The key fields to understand are:

Call Number: Usually a combination of letters and numbers. This is a unique identifier that helps locate an item on a shelf or on computer systems. There is a guide to the different Call Numbers used on Mura: <https://aiatsis.gov.au/research/guides-and-resources/how-search-collection>

Title: The title of the item, like the title of a book or film.

Creator: The creator of the item, for example, the author of a book, or a photographer.

Digitisation status: Whether the item is digitised or not. If not, it may not be available for requests.

Access: This tells you whether there are any access conditions in place. “Open” items can be viewed and copied.

“Conditions Apply” usually means the items can be viewed but may have restrictions on copying or quoting, which varies from item to item.

“Closed” items will require permission from a depositor and/or community.

“Restricted” items may be for men or women only, or require permission from the relevant community or creator.

Published items will not have this field - they are “Open”, though copyright laws apply.

Place: The location(s) mentioned or referenced in the item, or where the item was created (for example, where a book is set, or where photographs were taken).

Collection: This tells you whether the item is part of the Print, Sound (also known as Audio), Pictorial (also known as Photographic), or Moving-Image collections.

Language/group: A list of peoples and languages referred to in the item. Indigenous Australian languages can be known by a range of names and spellings. AIATSIS assigns an alpha-numeric code to each language variety, with a community-preferred name and spelling, to form a reference name, for example “Wiradjuri language (D10)”.

A note about articles and chapters

There are many catalogue records for individual articles and chapters that are found in sources such as serials, journals and books. In these cases, the Title field refers to the article or chapter, but the Call Number relates to the source. Take note of the **Source** field to find out the issue/volume/chapter and page numbers.



The screenshot shows a catalogue record for an article titled "Canberra life". On the left is a thumbnail image of the article cover, which includes the text "Canberra life" and the AIATSIS logo. To the right of the thumbnail are several metadata fields. The "Source" field is highlighted in blue and contains the text "National Library of Australia News Vol. 10, no. 8 (May 2000), p. 10-13, ill.". A red arrow points from the "Source" field back to the text in the paragraph above.

Canberra life	Call Number: S 02.1/17
	Title: Canberra life
	Creator.: Ford, Tom
	Publication Information: c2000
	Abstract: Photographic essay on Canberra; includes a photograph of breakfast at the Aboriginal Tent Embassy
	Place: Canberra (ACT SI55-16)
	Collection: Print - Serial Analytics
	Source: National Library of Australia News Vol. 10, no. 8 (May 2000), p. 10-13, ill.
	Subject Term : Politics and Government - Political action - Indigenous embassies and political missions - Tent Embassy, Parliament House, Canberra

In this example, the article Title is "Canberra life". The Call Number "S 02.1/17" is the call number of the whole series of "National Library of Australia News" magazines. The Source field tells us that the article is in the May 2000 edition, on pages 10 to 13.

Subject search links

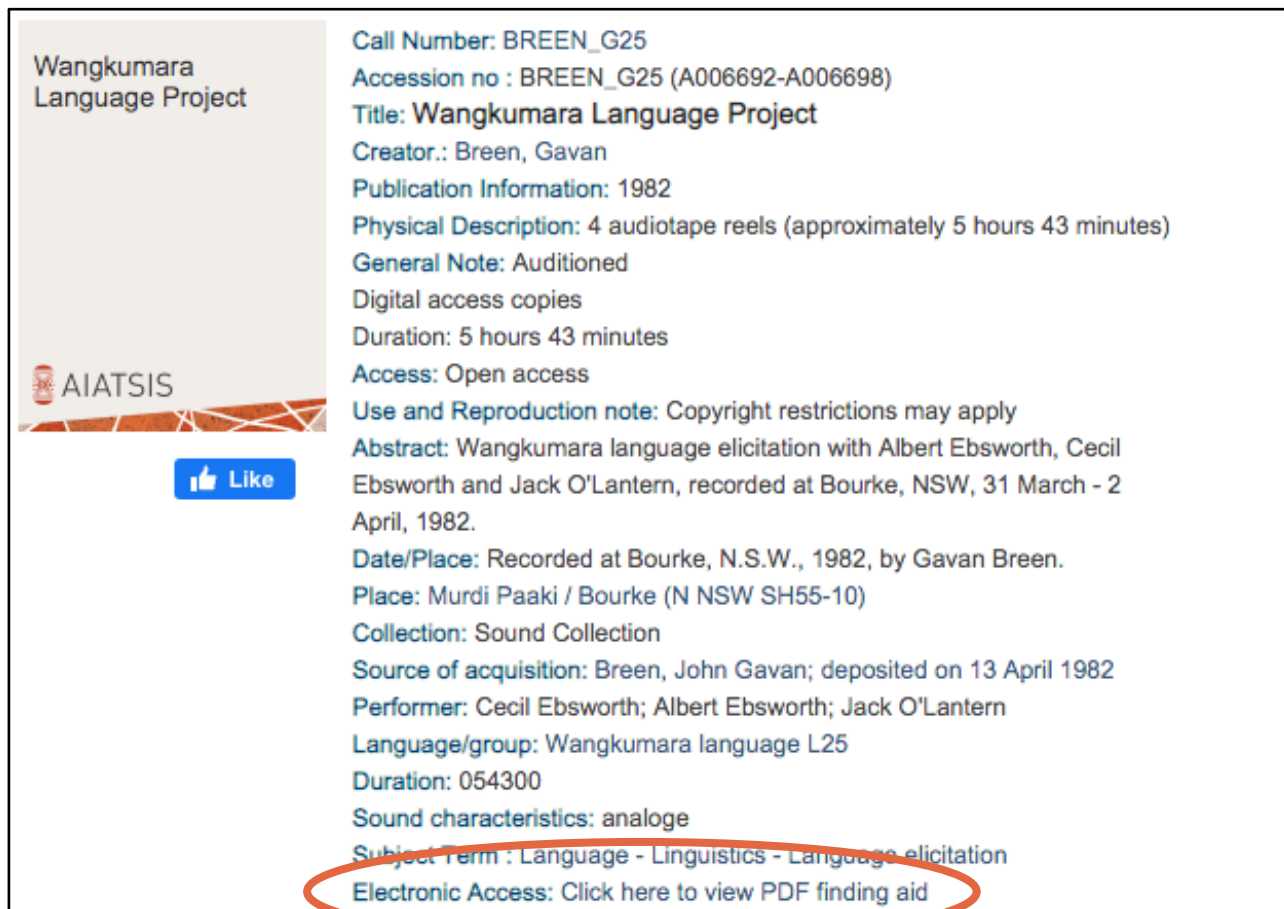
Some of the information fields such as Creator, Place, Language/group and Subject Term will be coloured in blue. This means they are hyperlinks – click them to create a new search for that subject.

A note about photographic and audio collections

In the case of audio and photographic material, the catalogue record will refer to a whole collection of recordings or photographs. It does not contain information on each item in that collection. This information may be available in a finding aid or caption list (see next section), or on the photographic collection platform (only available on-site at AIATSIS).

Finding aids and caption lists

These documents provide more detailed information about manuscripts, audiovisual and photographic collections. These are usually linked from the collection record in Mura.



Wangkumara Language Project

Call Number: BREEN_G25
Accession no : BREEN_G25 (A006692-A006698)
Title: Wangkumara Language Project
Creator.: Breen, Gavan
Publication Information: 1982
Physical Description: 4 audiotape reels (approximately 5 hours 43 minutes)
General Note: Auditioned
Digital access copies
Duration: 5 hours 43 minutes
Access: Open access
Use and Reproduction note: Copyright restrictions may apply
Abstract: Wangkumara language elicitation with Albert Ebsworth, Cecil Ebsworth and Jack O'Lantern, recorded at Bourke, NSW, 31 March - 2 April, 1982.
Date/Place: Recorded at Bourke, N.S.W., 1982, by Gavan Breen.
Place: Murdi Paaki / Bourke (N NSW SH55-10)
Collection: Sound Collection
Source of acquisition: Breen, John Gavan; deposited on 13 April 1982
Performer: Cecil Ebsworth; Albert Ebsworth; Jack O'Lantern
Language/group: Wangkumara language L25
Duration: 054300
Sound characteristics: analogue
Subject Term : Language - Linguistics - Language elicitation
Electronic Access: [Click here to view PDF finding aid](#)

Audio and moving image collections may have finding aids, and photographic collections may have caption lists, but not every collection has one.

If the link on the catalogue record does not work, search for the finding aid here:
<https://aiatsis.gov.au/research/guides-and-resources/collection-finding-aids>

Search using the Call Number of the collection – you can copy this from the Mura record.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Biographical Index

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Biographical Index (ABI) is an index of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander names selected from generally available publications held at AIATSIS. These publications are books and articles created by, with, or about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

You can limit your search result to only ABI records using the first drop-down menu.

Interpreting an ABI record

Call number: The call number of the source (the book or serial the person is named in).

Abstract: A summary of the information about the person contained in the source.

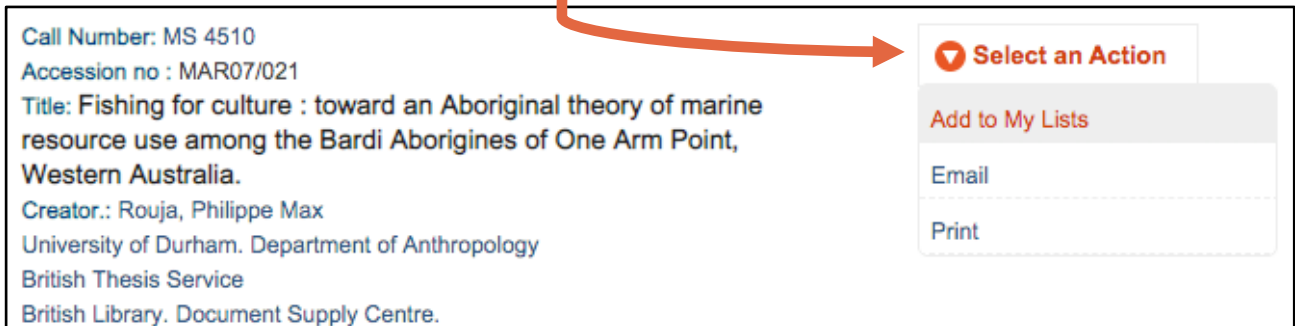
Personal Subject: The person mentioned in the source material.

Source: The name of the publication, and the page number(s) where the person is mentioned.

Creating lists

You can create a temporary list of collection items - this is useful when planning a visit to the Reading Room or making a request for copies of collection material.

From a catalogue record, click **Select an Action**, then **Add to My Lists**.



Call Number: MS 4510
Accession no : MAR07/021
Title: Fishing for culture : toward an Aboriginal theory of marine resource use among the Bardi Aborigines of One Arm Point, Western Australia.
Creator.: Rouja, Philippe Max
University of Durham. Department of Anthropology
British Thesis Service
British Library. Document Supply Centre.

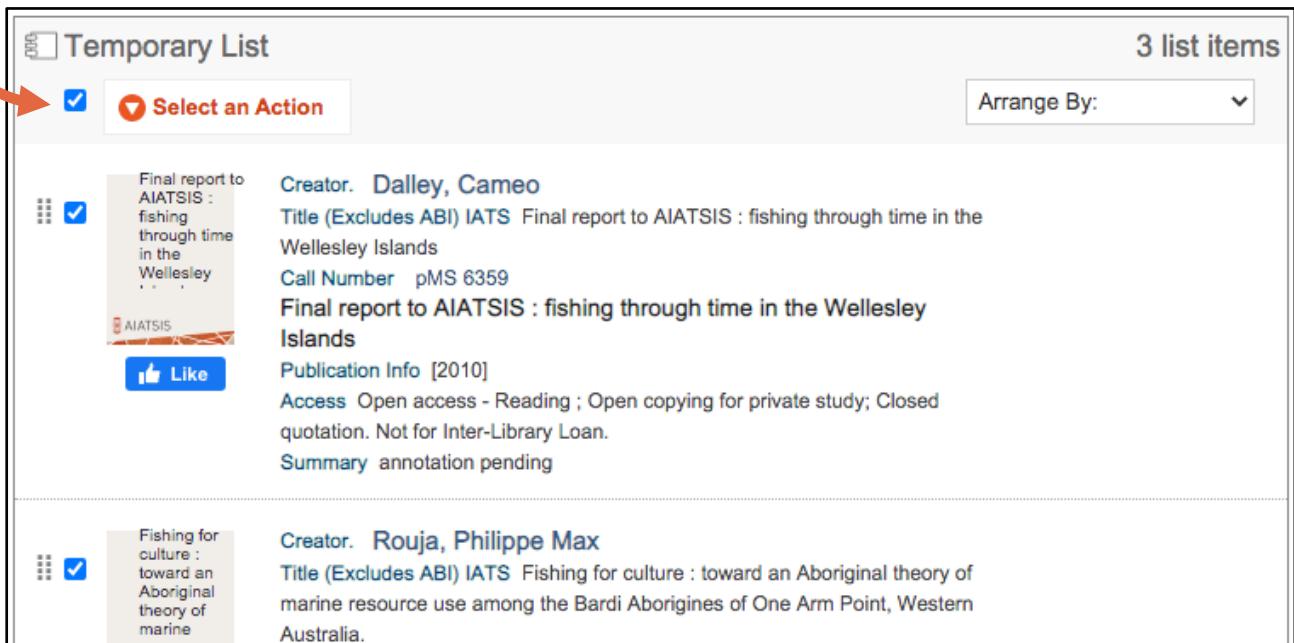
Select an Action
Add to My Lists
Email
Print

An orange arrow points from the 'Select an Action' button to the 'Add to My Lists' option in the dropdown menu.

You can also do this from a page of search results by clicking the tick-boxes to select items, then click **Select an Action**, then **Add to My Lists**.

To view your list, click **My Lists** at the top of the page.

To save your list for future use, click the top tick-box, then click **Select an Action**, then **Print** (to produce a printer-friendly version) or **Email** (to email the list to yourself).



Temporary List 3 list items

Select an Action Arrange By: ▾

Final report to AIATSIS : fishing through time in the Wellesley Islands
Creator. Dalley, Cameo
Title (Excludes ABI) IATS Final report to AIATSIS : fishing through time in the Wellesley Islands
Call Number pMS 6359
Final report to AIATSIS : fishing through time in the Wellesley Islands
Publication Info [2010]
Access Open access - Reading ; Open copying for private study; Closed quotation. Not for Inter-Library Loan.
Summary annotation pending

Fishing for culture : toward an Aboriginal theory of marine
Creator. Rouja, Philippe Max
Title (Excludes ABI) IATS Fishing for culture : toward an Aboriginal theory of marine resource use among the Bardi Aborigines of One Arm Point, Western Australia.

An orange arrow points from the top-left tick box to the 'Select an Action' button.

Please note that the “Log In” and “My Account” features are currently not available.

Requesting collection material

Collection material cannot be viewed online, but you can make a request for copies of items.

When making a request, we encourage you to send us one of the following:

- A list you have created using Mura.
- The web address (URL) of the catalogue record for each item.
- The full text of the catalogue records for each item, copy-pasted from Mura.

Please also tell us the names of the particular people, languages, places or subjects you are interested in.

More information, and our request and appointment form can be found here:

<https://aiatsis.gov.au/collection/using-collection/accessing-items-collection>

Other places to search

AUSTLANG

AUSTLANG provides information about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages which has been assembled from a number of referenced sources. It allows you to search using a map interface.

<https://collection.aiatsis.gov.au/austlang/about>

Pathways

Pathways contains terms used to describe the items in the AIATSIS Collections. It includes a thesaurus for subjects relating to Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander studies, language groups and people, and place names. Subject headings used in Mura come from this thesaurus. If you are interested in a particular subject, you may like to search Pathways first to find a subject heading of your interest and launch a Mura catalogue search from Pathways.

<http://www1.aiatsis.gov.au/subject/SubjectHelp.asp>

AIATSIS photographic collection platform

Currently only available on-site at AIATSIS, this platform allows you to search images in AIATSIS' collections by place, photographer, captions and other information. Images that are not restricted are able to be viewed. In the future, this platform may be publicly searchable, but without images.

<https://collection.aiatsis.gov.au/>

Trove

Trove helps you find and use resources relating to Australia. It brings together content from libraries, museums, archives and other organisations, including AIATSIS.

Many of the items AIATSIS holds are available in other libraries. Once you identify an item on Mura you can use Trove to check if your own local/state/university library also has it.

Trove: <https://trove.nla.gov.au/help>

If the item is a journal article or book chapter, please search Trove for the journal or book that contains the article or chapter (rather than the title of the article or chapter), and you may find it is available at a library near you.

For example, you may have found a catalogue record on Mura for a chapter:

Call Number: B P281.14/A1
Title: **Going fishing back home / Melissa Cooper**
Creator.: Cooper, Melissa
Publication Information: 1990
Abstract: Brief account of a family fishing expedition near Maningrida; reminiscence of early contact with Europeans
Place: Maningrida (Central Arnhem Land NT SD53-02)
Collection: Print - Book Analytics
Source: Aboriginal short stories; no. 32 / [edited by Bruce Pascoe] - Apollo Bay, Vic.; Pascoe Publishing , 1990; p. 39

If you search Trove for that chapter title, it may appear that only AIATSIS has this item:

Going fishing back home / Melissa Cooper
Cooper, Melissa
[Book : 1990]
Keywords: Family.; Maningrida (Central Arnhem Land SD53-02); Literature and stories - Fiction.
... **Going fishing back home / ...** Brief account of a family fishing expedition near Maningrida; reminiscence of early contact with ...
At AIATSIS Collections

Instead, search Trove for the **Source** (the title of the book that contains that chapter):



Australian short stories. [edited by Bruce Pascoe and Lyn Harwood]
Pascoe, Bruce, 1947-
[Book, Audio book : 31 versions : 1980-2018]
Keywords: Short stories, Australian.; Short stories, Australian - 20th century.; Short stories, Australian - 20th century - Periodicals.
... **Aboriginal short stories : no 32 / ... Aboriginal short stories : no. 32 / ...** Bush -- **Going fishing back home / Melissa Cooper** -- The girl who was taken away from her family / Selma ... of **Australian Short Stories** from 1982-2000 we are back with a sparkling new collection of stories. In ...
At 57 libraries