AIATSIS

Digital Strategy
2021–2030

AIATSIS acknowledges the traditional custodians of Country throughout Australia and their continuing connection to land, waters, culture and community. We pay our respects to elders past and present.

The AIATSIS vision is of a world in which Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander knowledges and cultures are recognised, respected, celebrated and valued.

The Australian Institute of Aboriglial and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS) was established more than 50 years ago as Australia's premier resource for information about the cultures and societies of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Our mission

Tell the story of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australia.

Create opportunities for people to encounter, engage with and be transformed by that story.

Support and facilitate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural resurgence.

Shape our national narrative.

Our strategic priorities are to:

- Build and preserve a national collection and make it accessible.

- Promote better understanding of Indigenous peoples, cultures and heritage.

- Lead and influence on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander research, ethics and protocols and collections.

- Partner and collaborate with our communities, partners and governments.

- Advise on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and heritage.

Foreword

The AIATSIS Digital Strategy will guide how the Institute leverages opportunities that advances in technology and information present. It aims to guide investment in systems and digital capability to ensure continuing care and culturally safe management of the AIATSIS Collection and in the delivery of our five functions, which are to:

1. Build and preserve a national collection, and make it accessible.

2. Promote better understanding of Indigenous peoples' cultures and heritage.

3. Lead and influence on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander research, ethics, protocols and collections.

4. Partner and collaborate with our communities, partners and governments.

5. Advise on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and heritage.

This strategy will deliver fit for purpose and secure ICT services which enable program outcomes through an enterprise and risk based approach to planning, prioritising and delivery. We aim to modernise our supporting digital environment and keep pace with evolving best practise, systems and standards.

This Digital Strategy presents a view of investment and action over a long term period, to 2030, which will deliver new capabilities across ICT domains of:

- Systems
- Supporting technology
- Digital services and skills
- Data and information
- Cyber security

The commitments made through this Digital Strategy will prepare AIATSIS for an expanding role in providing services via digital channels, drive greater efficiency and innovation, and sustain capability to deliver high quality research and collection management well into the future.

Craig Ritchie
Chief Executive Officer
Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies

A plan for the future

In order to deliver the AIATSIS mission and enable its strategic priorities, a substantial digital modernisation program is required to implement supporting ICT infrastructure and consolidate and replace redundant technologies. This will provide secure and sustainable storage and ongoing digital capability to manage AIATSIS information, data and digital assets beyond 2030.
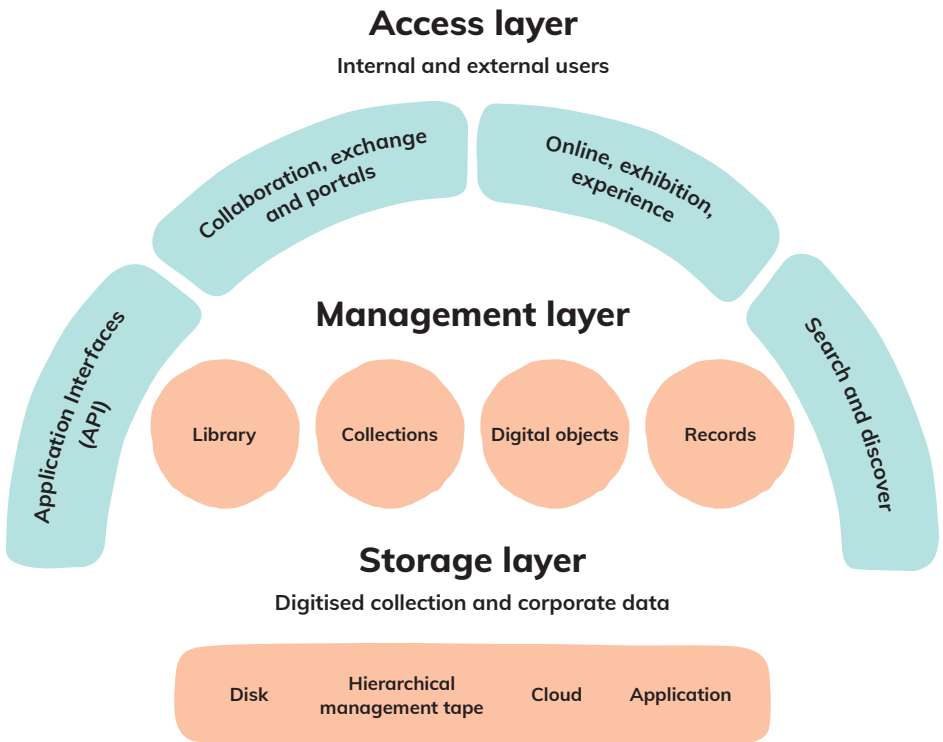

Josie from Waiben (Thursday Island) in the Torres Strait, one of the young authors of *Our Land, Our Stories.*
Photo: AIATSIS

Guiding principles

This strategy has been developed and will be implemented under the following guiding principles and protocols:

- Indigenous Data Governance and Sovereignty.

- The *AIATSIS Code of Ethics for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Research*.

- CARE (Collective benefit, Authority to control, Responsibility, Ethics) and FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Reusable) data principles.

AIATSIS Digital Ecosystem

Access layer

Internal and external users

Collaboration, exchange and portals

Online, exhibition, experience

Management layer

Application Interfaces (API)

Library

Collections

Digital objects

Records

Search and discover

Storage layer

Digitised collection and corporate data

Disk	Hierarchical management tape	Cloud	Application

Digital modernisation program

The AIATSIS digital ecosystem of the future requires investment in our data and infrastructure, our systems and our digital products and channels. Over this strategy period, projects will deliver missing management systems, data migration and remediation, storage upgrades and new products and channels to extend our reach and enhance engagement with community and our stakeholders.

When our work is complete, AIATSIS will enjoy the capability to rapidly innovate, engage meaningfully via digital channels and partner with the sector to deliver on our strategic objectives.

Strategic priorities

- To **build the technology landscape** required to support AIATSIS digital outcomes to 2030 and beyond.

- To **consolidate and remediate** legacy and redundant technology.

- To **support our users**, our stakeholders and partners with quality ICT products, services and skills.

- To **secure and maintain our environment**, our data and systems to support preservation and accessibility of the collection.

Scope

The AIATSIS Digital Strategy covers all relevant ICT domains to guide improving systems, supporting technology, information and data, cyber security and resiliency, ICT services and digital capability uplift.

Commencing in 2021, the AIATSIS Digital Modernisation program will deliver change over three horizons (2024, 2027 and 2030) by modernising our storage and cloud architecture, implementing missing management systems and delivering innovation and enhanced digital experiences through online platforms.

Full program plans will document priorities across the period based on risk, need and return on investment.

Programs will focus attention on collections transformation initiatives, AIATSIS online initiatives and ICT capability improvement activities.

Family fishing using a cast net on Mer (Murray Island) in the Torres Strait. Photo: AIATSIS

Benefits for our stakeholders

- **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, families and communities** are central to the services we provide and deliver. Our goal is to enable easier and faster access to our services and the collection.

- **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, families and communities, partnering agencies, cultural institutions, academia and researchers** will have greater access to our research and collection, enhanced collaboration and more opportunities to work with us.

- **Our staff** will enjoy easy to use and extensive digital capabilities, work with high quality and trusted datasets and interoperable systems which can integrate with our partners and providers' systems. AIATSIS staff will rely on Digital Services as a trusted ICT partner in delivering effective program outcomes.

- **Our information, data and digital assets** will benefit from a long term plan to increase interoperability, re-use, quality and security through greater investment and focus.

Guests at the opening of AIATSIS International Year of Indigenous Languages exhibition *Our Language: Keeping Us Strong.* Photo: AIATSIS

Alignment to mission

Tell the story of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australia

By expanding appropriate interaction with a safe, accessible and ever growing collection and audience.

Create opportunities for people to encounter, engage with and be transformed by that story

Through digital platforms to support an expanded role for AIATSIS and to create meaningful experiences, engagement and partnership opportunities.

Support and facilitate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural resurgence

Through sustainability, preservation and security of the Collection and enhanced research outputs to allow greater innovation and cultural resurgence opportunities.

Shape our national narrative

Through creating research and knowledge exchange opportunities which promote appropriate sharing and shaping of that narrative.

Left: Gangalidda Garawa traditional owner Mangubadijarri Yanner and Manchester Museum Director Esme Ward at a handover ceremony of cultural heritage materials at Australia House, London. Right: Wakka Wakka man Fred Cobbo, one of the participants in the *Paper and Talk* workshop at AIATSIS in 2019.

Alignment to corporate plan

Corporate strategic priorities	Digital strategic priorities
Build and preserve a national collection and make it accessible	**Build a technology foundation** Collection management, metadata and digital asset management, collection search platform, storage, websites and portals. **Consolidate and remediate** Rationalise duplicate and redundant systems, quality assure and migrate data into long term preservation environments. **Secure and maintain our environment** Modern data architecture, cloud and local storage, access policy and an enhanced collection search platform.
Promote better understanding of Indigenous peoples, cultures and heritage	**Build a technology foundation** Knowledge exchange platform, education portal, return of cultural heritage portal and a more accessible collection. **Support our users** Our staff and stakeholders are enabled by enhanced digital capabilities and uplifted skills.

Lead and influence on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander research, ethics and protocols and collections	**Build a technology foundation** Knowledge exchange platform, education portal, return of cultural heritage portal, an enhanced collection search platform and adherence to Indigenous data principles.
Partner and collaborate with our communities, partners and governments	**Build a technology foundation** Knowledge exchange platform, education portal, return of cultural heritage portal and an enhanced AIATSIS website.
Advise on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and heritage	**Support our users** Our staff and stakeholders are enabled with digital capabilities and tools to provide timely and accurate advice.

Measuring our success

The success of our strategy and programs will be measured regularly by our executive and through feedback from our users, stakeholders and partners. Risks, benefits and outcomes will be documented within each program plan and managed actively over the period.

Our decisions will remain guided by our strategic priorities and users. The strategy and program will be refreshed at regular intervals on the path to 2030.

AIATSIS