

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

QUESTION ON NOTICE Additional Estimates 2014 - 2015

Outcome: Agency: AIATSIS

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ15-000242

Senator Carr, Kim provided in writing

AIATSIS - Digitising of documentary and audio-visual materials

Question

Please provide an update on the Institute's work in digitising the range of documentary and audio-visual materials held in non-digital form.

Answer

AIATSIS has provided the following response.

The table provides the size of AIATSIS' current collection across different media, and the amount and percentage of each that has been digitised as at April 2015.

Please note:

- the units of measurement for each medium is different
- AIATSIS' collections across all media are growing, and this growth includes significant and fragile material
- further process (such as archiving, describing, cataloguing) may still be required before digital copies of material can be accessed by researchers and/or communities
- digitised material is not and will not necessarily be made available online.
- digitised material requires regular migration to updated formats to ensure its preservation and accessibility in the long term.
- as paper is a more stable and long-lived medium, digitisation is focused on priority manuscripts, which include those that are rare, in poor condition and/or and in high demand for access.

Medium	Current collection size	Items digitised as at April 2015	Percentage of items digitised April 2015
Audio – sound recordings	38,469 hours	23,258 hours	60.5%
Photographic images	666,500 items (approx.)	202,946 items	30.5%
Film	6.25 million feet (837 titles, or 9858 reels)	248 titles or 2936 reels	30%
Film sound*	99 titles consisting of 2369 audio items	44 titles consisting of 1004 audio items	42%
Video	4000 titles (approx.)	1000 titles	25%
Unpublished manuscripts	Priority manuscripts - 46 of various sizes (approx. 188,808 pages) Total manuscripts - 13,000 (over 8 million pages)	35 priority manuscripts (64,799 pages)	34% (of pages of priority manuscripts)

*audiotape reels which are related to film