

## 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.

<b>Medium</b>	<b>Current collection size</b>	<b>Items digitised as at April 2015</b>	<b>Percentage of items digitised April 2015</b>
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Unpublished manuscripts	Priority manuscripts - 46 of various sizes (approx. 188,808 pages) Total manuscripts - 13,000 (over 8 million pages)	35 priority manuscripts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