

An Australian historical criminal justice data repository

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ABSTRACT

This lightning talk will detail the work done in the recent ARDC Discovery Activity – Transformative Data Collections – named An Australian historical criminal justice data repository.

Building on work done from ARDC funded HASS DeVL data curation framework which created a single curated dataset manually published in the Australian Data Archive, this development enables automated publication of curated datasets from the Prosecution Project platform.

This addresses the great potential to transition from disparate datasets to shared data via translation of existing data to an agreed format that will enable archived data to be shared by the historical community. This is achieved by the following steps:

- The Prosecution Project platform is enabled as the core infrastructure of the project, facilitating security of the data and its output to archived datasets
- Curation of existing datasets from non-Prosecution Project sources to enable upload to the Prosecution Project platform.
- Research community (as represented by the consultant researchers and participants named below) finalised agreed datasets to be archived and shared through a Repository
- Datasets are archived in a Repository via API and a publishing workflow

The project developed an archive for open access by researchers for the following exemplary datasets:

- Prosecution Project data – digitised higher court data for 7 Australian jurisdictions from 1824-1943 (Finnane/Kaladelfos/Piper/Smaal)
- Founders & Survivors – digitised Australian Police Gazette data (3 states, c. 1855-c.1925) (Maxwell-Stewart)
- Norfolk Island Prisoners (Causer)
- NSW Court of Criminal Jurisdiction (1788-1830) (Roberts)
- Criminal Characters (Victoria, 1860-1920) (Piper)