Project in a nutshell

Context

- The research community – historians of criminal justice institutions
- The research culture – individual projects; short life of data; limited sharing; no reproducibility
- The research advantage – rich archival data
- The research potential – growing the field

The Project

- Provide a repository for well curated datasets for future researchers
- Encourage sharing of existing data
- develop conversation and protocols in the historical research community about standards for data collection and archiving
Prosecution project This project will produce a rich understanding of how crime has been prosecuted in Australia. It will also tell us much about Australian history – how people lived, how they behaved, how they dealt with conflict and tragedy, how legal and political institutions responded to crime and its consequences.
This Dataverse contains customised subsets of data produced from the Prosecution Project at Griffith University. The Prosecution Project makes available transcriptioned court records sourced from around Australia. These include Supreme Courts, Police Gazettes and Convict Registers which are commonly located in the countries' State Archives (also known as Public Record Offices in some states and territories). For access to the full dataset from the Prosecution Project, please see their website: https://prosecutionproject.griffith.edu.au/
Key issues

- Metadata – need for more consistent approach to our own data
- Data dictionary – each variable/attribute needs careful description
- Data curation – very large datasets require continual cleaning
- Sensitive data – archive restrictions limit the chronological coverage of data that can be released
Lessons learned

- Data archiving requires more systematic approach than the historical research community is generally used to
- Communication of processes and discussion of standards will be a continuing task
- There is growing demand for provision of this kind of data, especially from new PhD scholars
- Project planning needs to invest more intellectual and financial resources in managing archiving to FAIR benchmark
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