

Media Release



What lies beneath the State Library of NSW? New virtual window reveals what's hidden in the stacks!

27/4/2017

An exciting new digital project launching tonight will lift the lid on almost six million items held underground in the stacks of the State Library of NSW.

Unstacked, developed by Digital Creatives Elisa Lee and Adam Hinshaw, is the result of the State Library's inaugural DX Lab Fellowship - the first fellowship of its kind to be offered by an Australian cultural organisation.

Unstacked offers an innovative way of experiencing and engaging with the State Library's rich collection by providing a virtual window into what Library users are searching for and requesting physically and digitally 'from the stacks'.

Acting NSW State Librarian and Chief Executive, Lucy Milne said: "It's great to see our first DX Lab Fellowship delivering exciting results. *Unstacked* is an example of how this Fellowship can help bring to the surface our vast collection which includes millions of digital objects.

"By working with innovators like Elisa and Adam we're able to push the boundaries of what libraries can achieve in today's digital world."

The DX Lab Fellowship winners describe their work as "an elegant and playful visualisation of library collection items as they are being discovered in real time."

Unstacked is essentially a webpage that shows what items people are accessing from the State Library's collection over time. On any given day you might see searches ranging from Shakespeare, to the psychology of teenagers, HSC papers, subdivision plans, kisses, the history of the bean bag, or mosquito management.

The information is displayed as a kaleidoscope of images and colour which the Library plans to display in a large public space onsite for everyone to see.

"The interests of the State Library's clientele are diverse and surprising, and range from the mundane to the mysterious, frivolous to serious, botanical to architectural, historical to current. Their interests reflect the breadth and depth of the Library's collection and show it to be a valuable resource for many," said Lee and Hinshaw.

The project is uncovering an array of interesting material from the Library's collection, much of which may only have been seen previously by a handful of people.

"The Library's clientele have become accidental curators, who through their own research may inspire others to explore the collection," said Lee and Hinshaw.

The inaugural DX Lab Fellowship was supported through a gift to the State Library of NSW Foundation – a not-for-profit organisation which supports key Library fellowships, and innovative exhibitions and landmark acquisitions.

For media inquiries, interviews and images, please contact:

Golda Mitchell, Media & Communications, State Library of NSW
(02) 9273 1691, 0434 683 435, golda.mitchell@sl.nsw.gov.au



SL
NEW SOUTH WALES

MADE
WITH
PLAYED
WITH
REMADE

#DXLab