



Statement in support of Trove, National Library of Australia

The Council for the Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences (CHASS) is calling upon the government to address the funding crisis threatening to affect a critical part of Australia's research data infrastructure.

Launched in 2009 by the National Library of Australia (NLA), Trove is an online discovery service and a free-access database of information from galleries, libraries, archives, and museums (GLAM) as well as other research organisations across Australia. According to its strategic directions policy 20112-15, Trove embodies NLA's core objective: *to ensure that all Australians can access, enjoy and learn from a national collection that documents Australian life and society and can access international resources of interest.* As a result of the recent imposition of the efficiency dividend across cultural institutions, the NLA has announced that it will no longer be able to aggregate content from museums and universities in Trove unless it receives full funding to do so.

"Trove is undoubtedly a key part of the information infrastructure for GLAM professionals, academics, researchers, as well as members of the general public. Contributing to the federal government's national innovation policy and the Ideas Boom will be immensely inhibited without access to Trove's free and vast database," said Professor Joseph Siracusa, CHASS President.

"We respectfully appeal to the government to address this crisis urgently and continue to support this unmatched repository of research into Australian culture and society," he added.