

RESEARCH DIRECTIONS

Cultural Information Resources

Dr Elaine Lally from the Centre for Cultural Research together with the Blue Mountains City Council has been awarded a UWS Research Partnership Program grant to investigate how best to bring diverse community and cultural information resources together into a common digital framework.

'Without rich, accurate, comprehensive, user-friendly information about cultural, social and economic resources, councils cannot engage with the complexity of the real problems of communities, or integrate cultural factors into broader planning processes' says Dr Lally. 'This research project will greatly increase the capacity of the Council to deliver a broad range of cultural information to support growth of cultural activity and cultural industries as well as monitoring achievements within this sector.'

The project will begin with an audit of current cultural, community and heritage information resources, their information architecture, supporting technical infrastructure and the administrative arrangements for their development and maintenance. Researchers will work with the Blue Mountains City Council using digital technologies to collate, combine, and deliver local community cultural resources, not only improving community and local organisations' access to information resources but improving information access between different units within Council itself. The project will provide a model for other local councils in Western Sydney and elsewhere.

The results of the project will contribute to our understanding of how local authorities can use richer and more fluent data to deliver better cultural



development and communication for their communities. It enables local government to provide a rich, diverse, and successful cultural economy that is well integrated with its community and local industry.

Project Title: A strategic approach to cultural information resources for local and community development in the Blue Mountains local government area

Funding has been set at: \$12,500

Contact Details: e.lally@uws.edu.au,
<http://www.uws.edu.au/ccr>

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For more information on UWS Research Partnership Program, check:

<http://www.uws.edu.au/about/adminorg/devint/ors/fundingopps/internalgrants>