

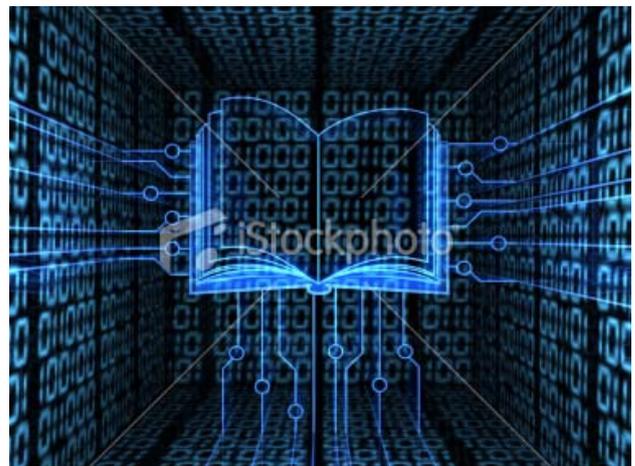
# RESEARCH DIRECTIONS

## Digital, Diverse and Discoverable

**Associate Professor Hart Cohen and Dr Rachel Morley of the School of Humanities and Communication Arts with Dr Juan Francisco Salazar of the Institute for Culture and Society are investigating the development of the Strehlow collection as it undergoes digitisation and dissemination to its related Indigenous communities. This project is funded by the Australian Research Council through their Linkage Project grant scheme and by the Strehlow Research Centre and Northern Territory Library.**

'The Strehlow collection in the Northern Territory contains data, objects and manuscripts focused on the Arrernte people of Central Australia, says Associate Professor Cohen, 'This collection was gathered over a lifetime of research by T.G.H. Strehlow and his father, Carl Strehlow and spans a period from the 1890s to the 1980s. What makes this collection unique is that it contains interconnected data, including collective biographies and genealogies that could help enhance the collective cultural identities of Indigenous people. This project explores the value of the Strehlow collection as it undergoes digitisation and use by its Indigenous constituents. This project fosters community engagement with the stories embedded in the collection and furthers community use of their cultural materials. We're asking what new knowledge and archival practices emerge when technologies such as digitisation combine with the interests of specific Indigenous communities?'

Consultations with Indigenous community representatives and other stakeholders will guide the process and provide feedback at every stage of the project. Archival materials will be digitised and analysed to help develop a community knowledge resource the Northern Territories' *Community Stories* database. Focus will be placed on voicing out the rich heritage of local stories in Ntaria. Digital storytelling/photo stories workshops



will be held to create community led content, which may then be linked to the archival content intended to populate the *Community Stories* database.

The digitisation of archives of the Strehlow collection aims to provide capacity to support the continuity of Indigenous cultural practices, particularly where knowledge has been lost or distance is a barrier to knowledge transmission. With an emphasis on the local employment of community research assistants, the outcomes of this project will ensure that those following in the footsteps of their traditional cultural owners can become the future custodians of their digital cultural heritage.

**Project Title:** Digital Archives, Data Diversity and Discoverability: The Strehlow Collection as Knowledge Resource for Remote Indigenous Communities.

**Funding has been set at:** \$108,000

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