



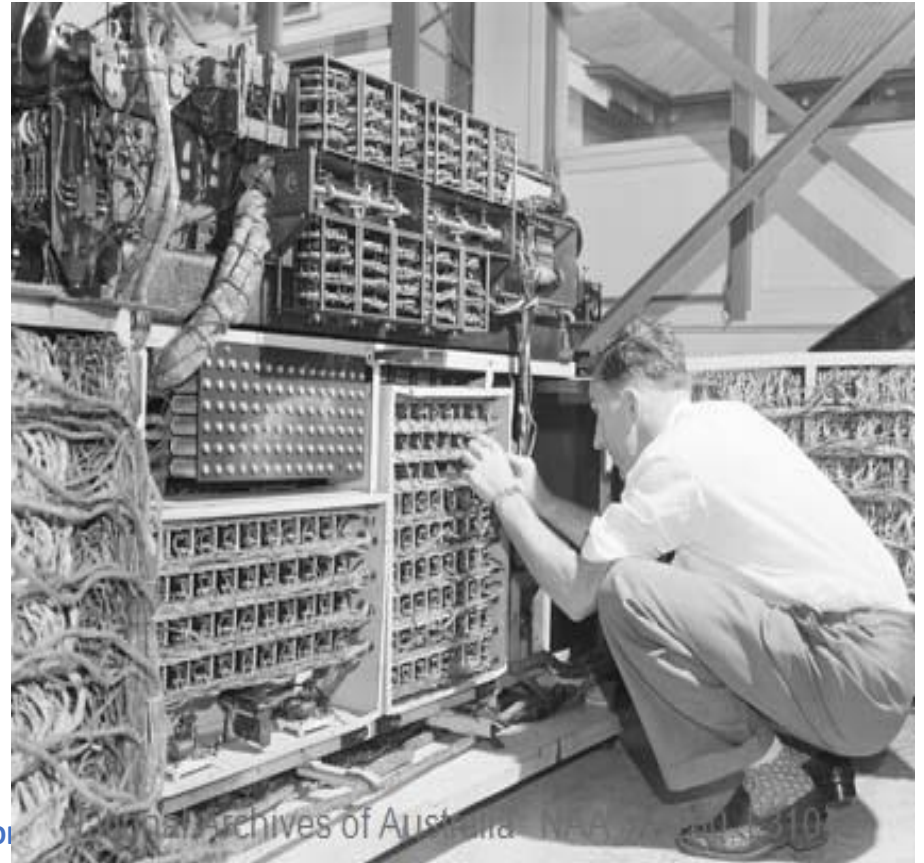
NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF AUSTRALIA

Appraisal and collection development in government archives

DPC Watch party

September 2024

OFFICIAL



Official Archives of Australia NAAWA 10

National Archives of Australia

- The archive of the Commonwealth government
- Under the *Archives Act 1983*, the National Archives
 - selects and preserves most significant records and make them accessible to the community
 - determines information management standards for Australian Government agencies
 - ensures the Australian Government creates and keeps records of its decisions and actions to demonstrate accountability
 - authorises destruction of information assets with no ongoing value to government or community



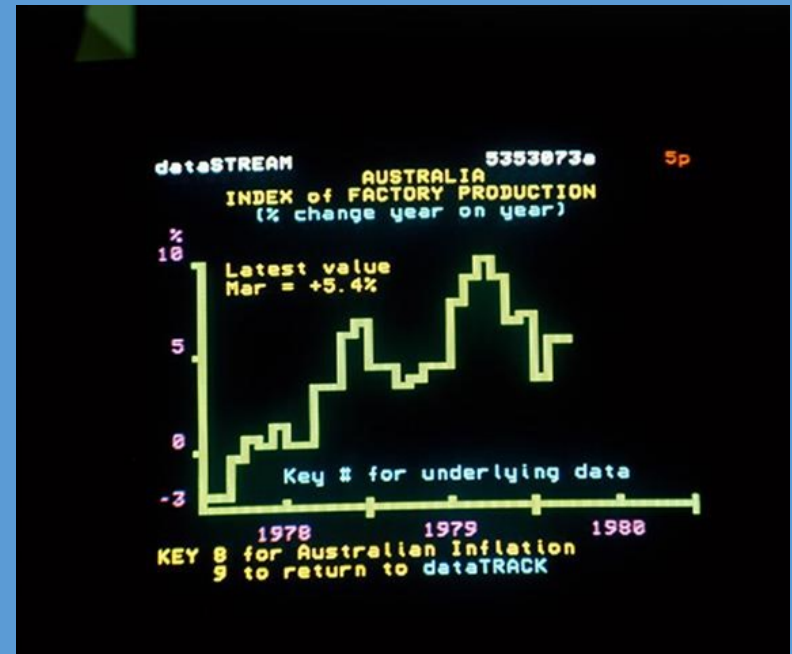
Appraisal and Disposal in Government

- Archives Act 1983
- Records Authorities
 - Agency-specific records authorities
 - General records authorities
- Sentencing
 - Transfer to NAA
 - Retain in agency
 - destroy



NAA Collection

- An accumulation of transfers over time
- Commonwealth government records sent to National Archives
- Personal records under a Deed of Gift or other instrument



Screen of a computer, Telstra, Queensland, 1980, NAA, J2364, 6619/1

Digital Collection

Preservica

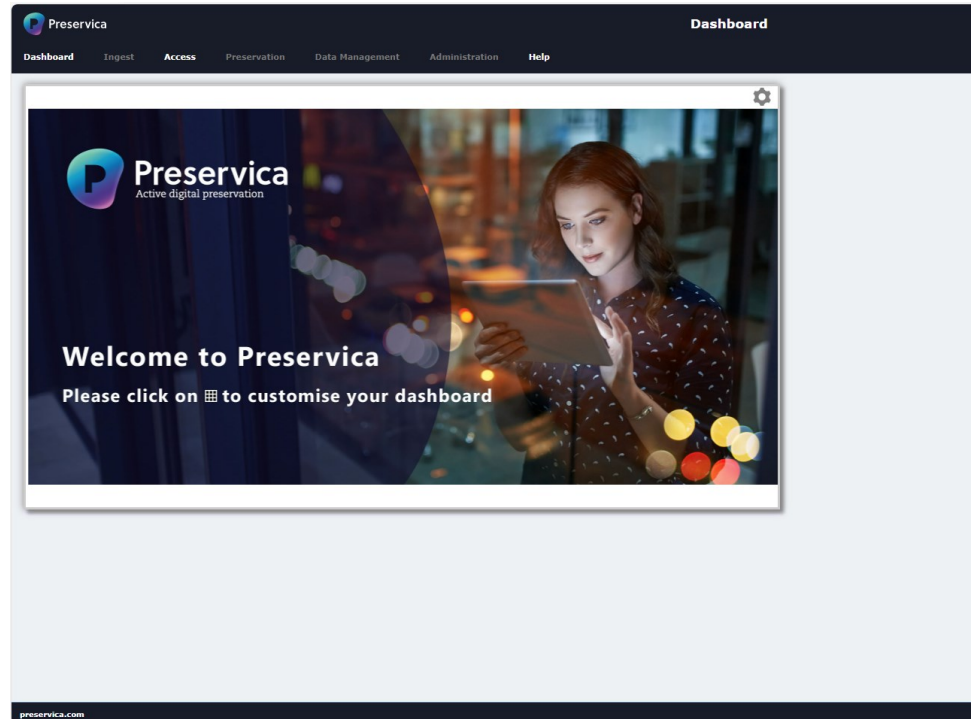
- 40m high resolution TIFFs
- 12m files from born-digital transfers
- 52m files = 1.8PB

Mediaflex

- Audiovisual (JPEG 2000, WAV)
- 448,438 files = 2.7PB

Transfers

- Not receiving regular transfers of digital records



Extent of problem

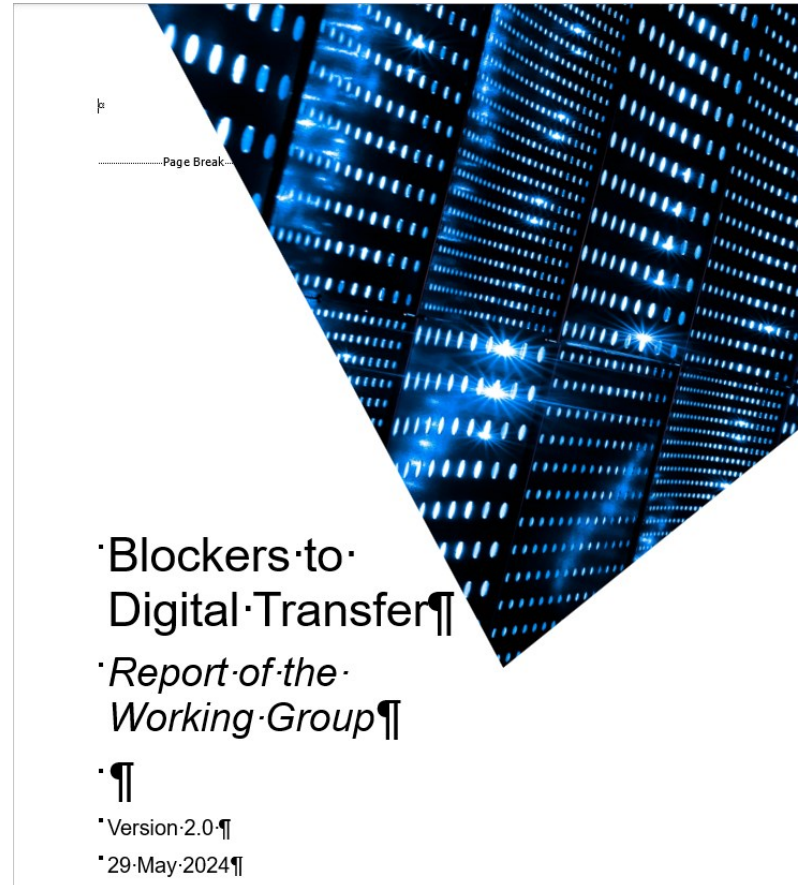
- Records are created and managed digitally by agencies
- Check up survey indicated over 342pb information in agencies
- Approx. 2.5pb is RNA but most requires sentencing
- Agencies also managing 1,700km paper
- Approx. 334km is RNA but most requires sentencing



Computers used for 1966 census by the Federal Bureau of Census (now ABS), 1966, NAA, S1200, L55345

Blockers to Digital Transfers

- Resources – only 15% of agencies had resources required for sentencing and transfer
- Drivers – no incentive to transfer
- Preparedness – most had not identified RNA records in their systems
- Functionality – 92% confident that the archive could *preserve* records, but only 33% confident that the archive could *manage* their records, i.e. that they could be discovered and accessed



Recommendations

- Archives provide more assistance to agencies are developing R
- Simple processes with guided training
- Archives should target at-risk
- Advocacy at high levels of
- More information about p



Questions?





Australian Government

National Archives of Australia

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