



A message from the BSANZ Executive Committee

Dear BSANZ members,

During this time of crisis, we send our solidarity to all our members. We hope that our common passion for books and physical bibliography will keep us entertained during times of isolation! Please take good care of yourselves and each other and let us know how we can help. We encourage BSANZ members to stay in touch with one another.

BSANZ Executive Committee

CFP BSANZ 2020: The History of the Book and the Future of the World

Please note that we are monitoring the emerging situation with regards to COVID-19 and will keep you informed of any updates relating to the conference.

BSANZ is pleased to announce the 2020 conference with the theme The History of the Book and the Future of the World, to be hosted at the State Library of South Australia Monday 30 November and Tuesday 1 December. There will be a Rare Book Librarians Day event on Wednesday 2 December. <https://sites.google.com/view/bsanz-conference-2020/call-for-papers?authuser=0>

This year's conference theme seeks to acknowledge chaos in the world in many different domains and asks: what role can the study of the book, of physical and textual bibliography and the history of the written word play in cohering research and knowledge in service of solutions to some of the world's wicked problems? What work can our research do to be of use in difficult times?

The theme of the conference is deliberately broad in scope. It hopes to illustrate the various ways in which bibliographical engagement with the textual artefacts of the past can offer social, environmental and political lessons for the future.

The following list is not intended to be exhaustive, and we welcome papers on all other topics that conform with the interests of the BSANZ. Some possible broad topics include:

- Reimagining 'the book' – material carriers of cultural knowledge and memory in oral cultures;
- The role of the printed word in preserving and renewing oral languages and cultures;
- The past and future sustainability of individual books, the book industries and the study of the book given climate catastrophe and sustainability agendas;
- Early encounters with print in Australia and New Zealand and elsewhere;
- Books and 'the book' as instruments, tools, or weapons of colonial power and its undoing;

- Implicit cultural bias in bibliographic schema and library catalogues;
- Inclusive approaches to bibliographic and book history studies;
- Published translations of western texts into Indigenous languages and vice versa;
- The role of book studies in the social good, including decolonising work, climate activism and other significant challenges we face on a local and global scale;
- Books as instruments of hope;
- The relationship between book history and critical race and whiteness studies;
- New ways of understanding book history, bibliography and the future of the book;
- Book ownership and collecting in the digital age.

Expressions of interest should be sent to the chair of the organising committee, Dr Gillian Dooley: gillian.dooley@flinders.edu.au by Tuesday 30 June 2020. Notifications of acceptance will be sent out by 31 July 2020.

Please note this conference aligns with Dark Enlightenments: the XVII David Nichol Smith Seminar in Eighteenth-Century Studies in Adelaide 2-4 December 2020 (CFP deadline 1 March) <https://dnsxvii2020.wordpress.com/>

All conference presenters must be members of the BSANZ. <http://www.bsanz.org/membership/>

Keynote Speaker: Lachy Paterson

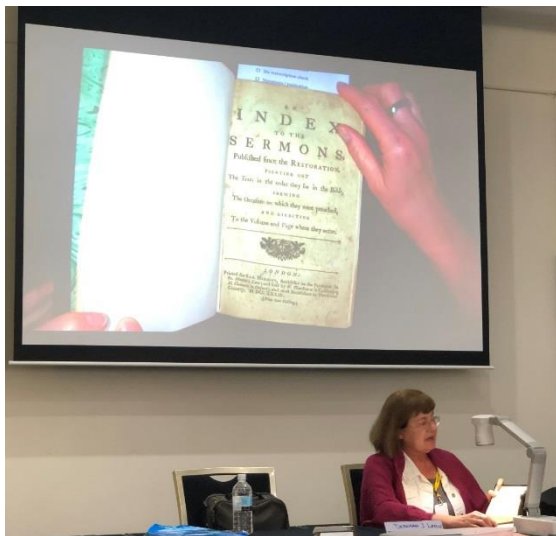


LACHY PATERSON is a professor in Te Tumu: School of Māori, Pacific and Indigenous Studies at the University of Otago where he teaches te reo Māori and Māori history. His primary research has involved *niupepa* (Māori-language newspapers) of the mid-nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, exploring the social, political, and religious discourses promulgated within these publications. His publications include a monograph on mid-nineteenth-century Māori-language newspapers, *Colonial Discourses: Niupepa Māori, 1855–1863* (Otago, 2006), *He Reo Wāhine: Māori Women’s Voices from the Nineteenth Century* (Auckland, 2017) coauthored with Angela Wanhalla, and a co-edited collection with Tony Ballantyne and Angela Wanhalla, *Indigenous Textual Cultures: Reading and Writing in the Age of Global Empire* (Duke, forthcoming).

Rare Book Cataloguing at the Australasian Rare Book Summer School

As I am writing this it seems impossible to me that the Australasian Rare Book Summer School in at the State Library of New South Wales in Sydney was only six weeks ago; with everything that has happened since then it seems like a lifetime ago now.

At the start of February, I was given the rare opportunity to study rare book cataloguing intensively for the week, something that would not have been possible without the generous support of BSANZ, who awarded me a bursary covering my tuition fees. I feel very lucky to have been able to go, because at what other point in my life am I going to get the opportunity to be able to sit around with other cataloguers talking in code for five days? Probably never, and I think our class all felt how special it was and made the most of mining our instructor for her knowledge.



Photograph: Deborah J. Leslie examines a rare book with the class. Credit: Gemma Steele

Deborah J. Leslie, Senior Cataloger at the Folger Shakespeare Library provided us with in-depth instruction and practice in each of the primary elements of the rare book catalogue record over the course of the week. The focus was on books of the hand-press era and we catalogued according to the rules of

Descriptive Cataloguing of Rare Materials (Books).

Each of us chose two books from a pre-selected range from the State Library of New South Wales' collections to catalogue, each one with its own quirky challenge, including, sophisticated and incomplete copies, complex signature statements, and instances of archaic letters and punctuation. We worked through our catalogue records one field at a time, gradually addressing all the problems we came up against and working out how to properly document the items according to the cataloguing rules.

Detective work was also required: one of the books I selected, 'The accedens of armory' by Gerard Legh (1568), had a wormhole in the gutter running right through the book except for two leaves towards the middle, which were also a slightly different size to those throughout the rest of the book. A dead giveaway that the State Library's copy has been sophisticated!



Photograph: The rare book cataloguing class of 2020. Credit: Darby Carr

I want to thank Deborah for her generosity in sharing her knowledge with us during the week. Her insights have been invaluable, and I know we have all come away as better rare book cataloguers. Deborah also encouraged us to join the DCRM-L email listserv group <<https://bit.ly/2ISDWV6>>, another invaluable network and source of knowledge for rare book cataloguers.

I also want to thoroughly congratulate the organisers for putting on such a wonderful event. The course offering was such that I wish I could have taken all four courses, and the associated events were also excellent. On top of everything I learned, summer school was also a fantastic chance to meet and socialise with others in the region interested in rare books, and if you have the chance to attend the 2021 event in Dunedin I would wholeheartedly encourage you to go.

- Gemma Steele

Rare Book Librarians Day 2019

A Rare Book Librarians Day took place in association with the BSANZ Conference: Tradition and Innovation: Readers, Books and Libraries. There was a wonderful turnout of around 30 library and special collections staff, who participated in a round-table discussion followed by tours of Museums Victoria's Rare Book Collection, the Biodiversity Heritage Library Australia Digitisation Project and the State Library of Victoria. The round-table was themed around 'Ethics in Rare Book Collections', and generated informative discussion. One of the topics addressed was the need for cultural sensitivity when managing rare material with Indigenous content. Institutions had a range of different measures in place to assist with this, including: guidelines; cultural awareness training; restricted collections; take-down notices for digitised content; and, in some instances, digital repatriation. There was agreement among the group that more coordination and discussion between collections would be beneficial. The group also considered the legacy of collecting in ways that privilege a Western worldview. While definitions of "special collections" have been challenged and expanded to include material that better represents our diverse communities, this work is still ongoing. Participants discussed some recent strategies for developing particular gaps, including

aligning collecting with anniversaries, or focusing on one area for development per year. Resourcing was noted as an issue that can inhibit targeted collection development programs, with some institutions in a better position to be proactive than others. Language skills were identified as desirable in rare book professionals by some colleagues. All in all, the topic drove some great discussion and provided broad insights across many of Australia's important rare book collections. Thanks to everyone that contributed so generously.

- Hayley Webster

Member Profile



Adria Castellucci
Librarian, Australian Museum, Sydney
BSANZ Member since May 2019

I joined BSANZ 10 months ago after hearing that the 2019 Conference theme was Tradition and Innovation: Readers, Books and Libraries. As an early career rare books librarian in a small team, it's important for me to access a network to share ideas and learn from experienced practitioners. From my perspective, the conference more than delivered – I have a multitude of new special collections librarians to avail on now!

Being a member of BSANZ also gives me the opportunity to delve into the rich and varied bibliographic research areas other members are exploring. It is helping me expand my practice as a librarian to encompass

bibliographic theory, and overall is enriching my understanding of the field.

In terms of my bibliographic research interests, I'm still just scratching the surface of what there is to know! Currently, my role at the Australian Museum is focused on digitisation, access and outreach, and cultural policy. As a practitioner, finding ways to bring our collection to new audiences is especially important to me, and conveying the significance of bibliography (and not just the pretty pictures!) is a key part of that.

News

After 18 years, former BSANZ President Donald Kerr is retiring from his role as Special Collections Librarian at University of Otago. We wish him all the best, and thank him for his commitment to BSANZ and his professional work in rare books during that time.

Due to the worldwide health crisis caused by the outbreak of COVID-19, many rare book and special collections in Australia and New Zealand are currently closed or access significantly reduced. While we may not be able to visit our favourite collections or institutions, there is thankfully a lot of material freely available online to entertain the bibliophile at home. [Trove](#) is an obvious place to start for historic newspapers, and the website also aggregates a lot of digitised content from various Australian Libraries. The [Biodiversity Heritage Library](#) (BHL) provides access to digital versions of thousands of rare natural history texts. The [Internet Archive](#) and [Europeana](#) are also good destinations for digitised rare books.

In the spirit of social distancing, I also offer you some online activities around rare books – all of which can be safely pursued at home. If you are interested in news from some of our rare books and special collections, you might consider browsing the latest issue of

[Fryer Folios](#) and [La Trobe Journal](#) online. Set aside some time to join the free online course [The History of the Book in the Early Modern Period: 1450 to 1800](#), run by Trinity College Dublin and hosted by Future Learn. (This one offers opportunities for students to interact, if you are practicing physical rather than social distancing!) Exercise your artistic bent and try colouring in some of your favourite natural history illustrations using [templates](#) from BHL. Or you might try listening to 40 years of [lectures from Rare Book School](#) (Charlottesville) while you perfect your sourdough starter. Finally, thanks to Donald Kerr, you can access a number of University of Otago's past [rare book exhibitions](#) online.

I wish you all the best health, safety and care for you and your families during this challenging time. Until next time...

- Hayley Webster

As of issue No. 112 the *Broadsheet* is edited by Hayley Webster of Museums Victoria
Please send submissions to hwebster@museum.vic.gov.au

