



Digital Heritage Exploration

Problem statement

The Department of Science, Information Technology and Innovation (DSITI) requires a web-based dynamic multi-media platform to showcase thematically curated archival records. This will allow Queenslanders to discover, engage and add their own stories about the heritage of Queensland and what it means to be a Queenslanders.

Overview of the problem

Queensland State Archives (QSA) has 2.4 million, or 64 kilometres, of Queensland's most important and interesting documents. However, QSA's website and supporting social media channels deliver a fragmented experience of this content and QSA is unable to present related documents, images and, in some cases films, in a coherent dynamic manner.

We are seeking to provide a rich and engaging experience that showcases the stories in the archives and enables access to the history of Queensland to the citizens of the state and beyond.

Opportunity for applicants

The Testing Within Government (TWiG) Program aims to help Small to Medium Enterprises (SMEs) to improve the positioning of their products for government and large enterprise markets by working collaboratively with Queensland Government on a range of problems.

Applicants are invited to propose ICT solutions to these problems, and if selected, receive funding to test their product in collaboration with Queensland Government.

Being selected as part of the program will offer the opportunity to develop knowledge, skills and experience improving the potential to access broader commercial opportunities in Queensland, Australia and abroad.

At the end of the program, the applicants will have an opportunity to showcase their products and their TWiG program experience to a wide group of government representatives, which could lead to a procurement activity in Queensland Government.

Why is it important

QSA provides access to the most significant public records of Queensland. The state's archives is a largely paper-based and stored in repositories at a facility in Runcorn. Many people find getting to Runcorn difficult let alone those who live in rural and regional Queensland.

While we are able to provide online access to a small percentage of the records (as well as an online image library) we are unable to provide a platform where a variety of records relating to a topic can be curated to present a storytelling experience for customers.

The solution needs to continue to grow over time as the stories grow so we need an easy means to upload content to a service and it needs to be accessible across a range of devices.

The solution could have wider applications beyond QSA to other collecting institutions and indeed any organisation with a desire to present their records in a storytelling platform.

Problem context

The customer



Queenslanders, digital humanities scholars, teachers and school students, anyone looking for interesting stories or collated information about Queensland's colourful and rich past.

How the problem is currently being solved

Multiple channels are used to deliver content including the QSA website (corporate overview), the ArchivesSearch catalogue (research), Facebook (engagement), Flickr (images) and Wordpress (blogs). These channels have their own narrow purpose and functionality.

Technical constraints

- Offered as a service
- Accessible on-line on a range of devices/platforms
- Accessible in areas of low bandwidth (e.g. in rural and regional areas)

Benefits sought

- A deeper engagement with and richer experience of Queensland's archives
- A greater appreciation of Queensland's history and heritage
- A wider awareness of Queensland State Archives and our services
- Access Queensland's heritage stories in one central location