



1999 - Opening our collection to the world

I'm delighted to be able to report a second very successful year at the JCPML. Central to our programs throughout 1999 have been 'vision, leadership and community service', those qualities so intimately linked to the John Curtin name, and the drive to enable worldwide access to our collections and services through the Internet.

The result has been an exciting and busy year with great interest being shown in our Electronic Research Archive (ERA) and an increase in exhibition attendance (up 38%), Reading Room use (up 25%) and research enquiries (up 93%). In addition, our public lectures and schools' program have continued their popularity.

Many thanks to all our supporters who have ensured that 1999 can be celebrated as another truly memorable year.

Sue White,
JCPML Acting Director 1999

Annual Review

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Introduction

The JCPML is Australia's first prime ministerial library, developed to honour our wartime prime minister, John Curtin. The JCPML operates as part of the Library & Information Service of Curtin University of Technology and is also part of the John Curtin Centre, participating in a range of activities to advance scholarship, enhance cultural awareness and provide a gateway for the community to learn about its past.

Digitization Progress

This year the Electronic Research Archive (ERA) became a reality with its official launch on the internet in July with the digitization of 90% of the JCPML collection.

ERA has been very well received by researchers and it remains to be seen whether or not the JCPML model will be further replicated in Australia. Our research, development and implementation of the electronic research archive concept is unique in Australia and we were able to deliver a successful outcome at a critical time, when a number of cultural heritage institutions are assessing their future directions in this area.

Dispersed John Curtin-related materials held around the world are being added to ERA with the cooperation of such institutions as the National Archives of Australia, the National Library of Australia, Battye Library of West Australian History, the Douglas MacArthur Memorial Library and Archives and the Roosevelt Presidential Library.

Research

Several major projects were undertaken this year to enhance the research collection. A survey was completed of university theses which relate to John Curtin and his times; staff identified and obtained copies of photographs of Curtin and his family held in newspaper archives around Australia; oral histories significant to John Curtin were purchased and people were identified to interview during the year; relevant film and sound recordings from the ABC Archives were obtained; a donation of press clippings and other material such as Curtin's policy statements and speeches from 1940-45 was received from the Australian Consolidated Press Library; and researchers in Canberra and Perth continue to work on identifying material for inclusion in ERA.

A donation of research papers from Mrs Hazel Hawke has been significant in developing the collection area of the prime ministership as an office. These papers document Mrs Hawke's time at the Prime Minister's Lodge and include a comprehensive set of speeches that she delivered from 1983 to 1991, as well as photographs and correspondence.

As part of her strong interest and involvement with community and social issues, Mrs Hawke worked collaboratively with Curtin University of Technology to develop the Hazel Hawke Scholarship.

The JCPML Visiting Scholar for 1999 was Associate Professor David Black who commenced work on a forthcoming publication.

Education Program

Three education programs were offered aimed at years 9 to 12 and covering History and Political and Legal Studies students. Nearly 800 students from 26 secondary schools participated this year. A primary school program was trialled in December. Feedback from the students and staff was extremely encouraging. The program will be launched in 2000.

A combined initiative between the History Teachers Association of WA and Curtin University involved the JCPML in various organising committees for the development of the Sir Charles Court Young Leaders Program for year 10 history students.

Several lectures and tutorials were conducted by JCPML staff to schools at Curtin University.

This year the JCPML offered State and National prizes for the National History Challenge and also hosted the state and national judging.

Lectures

Two public lectures were undertaken this year. The JCPML Anniversary lecture on 5 July was given by Mrs Hazel Hawke. In her talk, entitled *In search of the light on the bill*, Mrs Hawke paid tribute to John Curtin.

On 4 October Ms Sallybeth Bumbrey gave a talk on US-Australian cultural relations at the opening of the *Beginnings* exhibition.

Exhibitions

Refurbishment of the JCPML's major exhibition, *John Curtin: A Man of Peace, A Time of War*, was completed in time for the February re-opening. In October the JCPML hosted its first travelling exhibition, *Beginnings: Images of Occupied Japan*. The US Consul General, Ms Sallybeth Bumbrey, officially opened the exhibition which came from the Douglas MacArthur Memorial Library and Archives.

The JCPML also developed its first online exhibition, entitled *John Curtin: Fairest and Best*, which opened on 5 July. The material in the exhibition is based on the Challenge Bank Researchers Lounge exhibition.

New Publications

The first publication in the John Curtin Prime Ministerial Library Education Resource Series was launched this year — *John Curtin and International Relations During World War II*. It is aimed at year 12 history students and a feature of the resource is the juxtaposition of different types of source documents used throughout the text: speeches are contrasted with oral histories; media reports are placed beside official communiques; Curtin's private letters can be read in conjunction with his official notes.

A special commemorative article on Prime Minister John Curtin was published in the Sydney *Daily Telegraph* in July.

Papers Presented

During the year JCPML staff gave a number of papers at various conferences including:

CAUSE in Australasia '99 Conference, *Doing it Right: People & Technology*, the Council of Federal State and Territory Archives Reference and Access Day, *Making Ourselves Visible*, the 10th ALIA National Library Technicians Conference, *Projections, Reflections*, the 10th Round Table of the National Scholarly Communications Forum titled *Archives in the National Research Infrastructure* and the National Local Studies Conference Post Haste the Millennium: Opportunities and Challenges in Local Studies.

Grants

This year the JCPML received news that two of its grant applications were successful. The Centenary of Federation – Community Projects grant will contribute towards a new exhibition to be developed during 2000. A second grant from the Public Education Endowment Trust will allow the JCPML to develop educational resources, in the form of a Treasure Box, primarily targeted at primary students in remote and country schools.

Statistics

Visitors to JCPML exhibition	1999 17,848	1998 12,952
Visitors to JCPML Reading Room	1306	1048
Research Enquiries	1704	881
Website hits	9371	N/A

Calendar of Events for 2000

March 11 History Teachers Association of Western Australia (HTAWA) Professional Development seminar.

April 17 Launch of JCPML book of public lectures.

July 5 Anniversary Lecture by Senator Natasha Stott Despoja.

July 5-7 Sir Charles Court Leadership Program in conjunction with the John Curtin Centre and HTAWA.

October 6 Opening of new JCPML exhibition

JCPML Publications

For Australia and Labor: Prime Minister John Curtin by Geoffrey Serle Cost: \$10

The Prime Minister and the Press: A Study in Intimacy by Michelle Grattan
Free on application

John Curtin and International Relations during World War II: JCPML Education Series Resource Cost: \$35