**Opening Screen**

Hi everyone,

My name is Rachel Spano and I work in Preservation Services at the State Library of Queensland.

**Click**

I have prepared this presentation in collaboration with my conservation colleague Kelly Leahey.

We both share a passion for promoting care for heritage collections not just within our institution but to our library clients and the community.

You could say an alternative title for this talk could be “getting out the Lab”.

**Click**

During this short talk I will be sharing some of the outreach activities and creative opportunities we have had over the last couple of years.

State Library of Queensland has an outward focus to encourage the development of new knowledge about Queensland's history and support care and preservation of the local, distributed collection of Queensland memory.

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The aim of our conservation outreach program is to:

* promote conservation and care of cultural materials
* Empower Queenslanders to care for their collections at home or in their community organisations.

So alongside with the care and preservation of the state collection within the library building and catalogue, we have opportunities to work with communities, local studies groups and family history collections.

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**Conservation clinics**

Over the last 10 years State Library of Queensland, in collaboration with the Queensland Museum have hosted bi -monthly conservation clinics for public patrons.

Six clinics are offered throughout the year and patrons book a 15 min session with a paper, book & photographs or objects and textiles conservator.

Alongside the conservators providing advice on how to care for collection items, the State Library can also offer advice on significance and historical value.

At the clinics we have seen some wonderful and diverse collections from sentimental family photographs, diaries and letters, to historic documents of social history. Some patrons have proudly gifted these to the state collection. We have also seen amazing souvenirs and artworks from overseas, not doing so well in the Queensland tropical conditions. It’s a privilege to be able to offer advice and hope.

**Click**

Conservation enquiry service

We have an enquiry service that operates in two ways

1. Direct enquires through our conservation email box or through

2. Reftracker - ASK Us Services, hosted by our reference librarians.

Most of our enquiries range from general question about where to get books bound, courses on bookbinding to how to digitise the family photographs. Thankfully, less often we receive disaster response questions like …. the plumbing has burst and there is water everywhere in the house, my family bible is very wet. Help !!

**Click**

We also receive enquiries from historians and academics in regards to technical analysis of collection items. When time and resources allow, we offer assistance and network with colleagues to delve deeper into our collections and help contribute to a richer understanding of our Queensland history.

**Click**

**Cyanotype workshops**

In late 2017, Kelly Leahey developed a Cyanotype workshop for a library science arts festival called Fun Palace. The aim was to offer a hands-on, experience for people to learn early photographic processes and introduce the science of making and caring for photographic collections.

It was so popular with Fun Palace attendees and library staff, that Kelly was asked to repeat the workshops throughout 2018 for Sunny Murri Christmas, the Summer Festival, Botanica Contemporary Art Outside festival and Brisbane Writer’s Festival. In total 500 participants and most of the SLQ staff attended the workshops.

**Click**

**Q ANZAC centenary white gloves**

In 2014, State Library was funded by the Queensland Government to complete are number of commemorative projects and activities as part of QANZAC Centenary 2014-2018. We were tasked to assist with the preservation of our WW1 history, engage with our communities and gather remarkable stories about the services and sacrifice of Queenslanders, memories for a new generation.

**Click**

Conservation joined a team of collection experts and librarians to visit 22 locations throughout the state and conduct a ‘Caring for your ANZAC Treasures” talk followed by a conservation clinic’.

**Click**

We had about 360 participants, saw some amazing WW1 collections. We offered advice on how they can keep these collections safe at home and tips on how to digitise photographs and handle objects safely when showing family and friends.

**Click**

The final session was held close to ANZAC Day 2018 at State Library in Brisbane. The ‘How to care for ANZAC Treasures’ presentation was live streamed for regional participants to view. If you are interested, it is available on the Library’s website

**Click**

Following the talk a Conservation Clinic was offered to guests with both State Library and Queensland Museum Conservators available to offer advice on a range of collection material types.

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In addition to the Conservation clinic tour we were also funded to complete a series of videos to complement the advice we were giving.

Videos are a great tool to engage with a younger, busier demographic of the community. They can be shared on social media, are quick to watch and packed with practical advice.

**Click**

Collaborating again with the Queensland Museum conservators, and combining the experience and expertise of our “Dream Team” we produced 10 videos that we are very proud to share and promote.

We are also very thankful for the funding and opportunity to work on film production…. It was as amazing experience ☺

**Click**

**Click and start Video with mouse**

**Click**

Our Communications and Marketing team have been very supportive in collecting statistics and managing funds available to boost our social media promotions. The statistics are growing and proving that the videos are getting out there.

By all means please help us …promote and share the videos on social media ….where and when you can.

**Click**

Now moving to social media platforms, this is a growing area for us at the library. We would like to showcase ‘behind the scenes’ activities and care for collections tips but it can be challenging to keep up and post regularly…Feeding the Beast…as they call it.

But when we do …. Please follow us, like and make positive constructive comments …..

Kelly wanted me to mention ….. SLV … and what a great example they are to follow ☺

**Click**

L**ooking forward**

Our ‘In person’ clinic appointments are lessening with preference for email Reftracker enquiries increasing

We have received a number of requests for skype / online Q&A sessions with community groups (hosted by local libraries)

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Increasing social media posts through SLQ accounts – Instagram and Facebook

Engaging community activities for science, history and conservation promotion like our cyanotype workshop. Next year we are scoping and looking at paper making etc

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**Benefits and outcomes**  - For Conservators

* Public speaking and event organising
* Develop practical problem solving and creative thinking for conservation challenges
* Effectively communicate conservation principles to the broader community
* Work with regional library and museum staff / volunteers

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* Develop experience using technology, film & multi media
* Develop hands-on activities and workshops for groups
* Opportunities to work with artists and educators to promote conservation and expand our networks

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**Benefits and outcomes**  - For the local community and distributed collections

* Informed about the importance of significant assessment
* Empowered to care for and handle collection material correctly
* Confident to store collections in safe environments and use appropriate housing materials
* Better equipped to respond to disaster situations
* Enabled to explore digitisation options and how to access services
* Proud that collection material is preserved for future generations and remains accessible to the local community.

Thankyou

Kelly Leahey, Paper conservator

Jennifer Loubser, Paper conservator

Swee Cheng Wong, AV conservator

Grant Collins, Manager Preservation Services

Queensland Museum, Conservation team

Laura Daenke – past SLQ Conservation Technician

Gajendra Rawat - past SLQ Paper Conservator

Lucilla Ronai- past QANZAC Project Conservator