



CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

DEVELOP A USER-FRIENDLY SEARCH INTERFACE AND TOUCHPAD APP FOR A DIGITAL ARCHIVE OF LITERATURE IN ABORIGINAL LANGUAGES

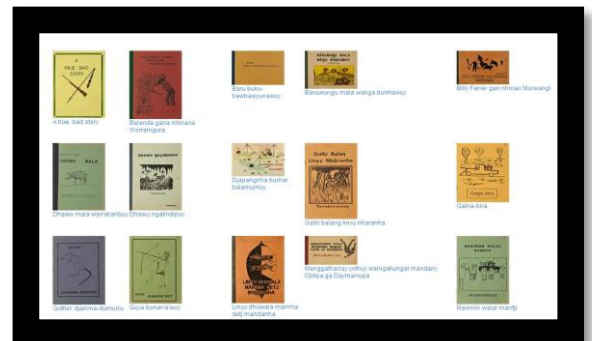
THE LIVING ARCHIVE PROJECT

During the era of bilingual education in the NT, books were produced in 25 Literature Production Centres in more than 16 languages. These materials are widely dispersed and endangered, and contain interesting and significant stories in indigenous Australian languages, often beautifully illustrated. This is an important collection and must be preserved for the future. We are creating a living archive of these endangered materials, in partnership with the communities of origin. This archive will be stored in the Charles Darwin University eSpace repository (<http://espace.cdu.edu.au/>). With permission from the language owners, materials in the archive will be accessible to Aboriginal communities, academics and the world. As some users may not have high levels of text literacy or technical ability the archive will require a user-friendly visual interface to allow searches beyond the conventional database search capabilities.

A user-friendly interface with multiple search options

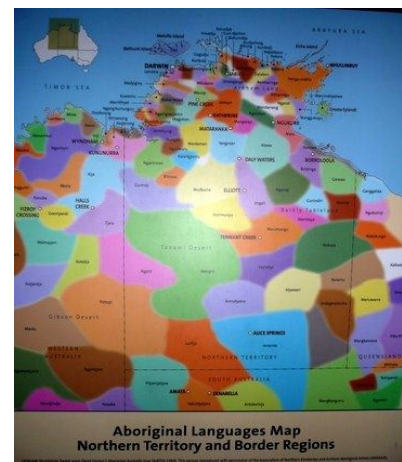
To make the interface as accessible as possible, search options should include:

- **browse by image**
 - users view thumbnails of the covers of books and roll-over to see a larger image with basic metadata and select items to view
- **search by text**
 - users start typing a word and resources are selectively filtered to retain only those with that sequence of characters in their metadata. For example typing *dja* would retain books in *Djapu* and *Djambarrpuyŋu*, as well as books by *Djäwa* and books about *djamarrkuli* or with the word *djamarrkuli* in their title.
- **search by location**
 - users click on an area on a map to retrieve all materials in that language or from that region



Design Criteria:

- The application interface needs to work across a range of web browsers and mobile devices, including smart phones and tablets.
- The application design must correctly separate interface, logic and data layers. It should be simple to extend the code to a new type of interface.



- The application logic should be modular and able to be simply extended to include additional features in the future.
- The application should include enough inline code documentation for a future developer to understand the logic of the application and extend it.
- The interface will be required to connect to and query a MySQL database. All data connections should be modular and enable the data layer to be reconfigured simply should the database be changed in the future.
- The application will run on a Linux server and make use of open source languages and open standards wherever possible to ensure flexibility in future development.
- Static configuration elements such as server addresses should be separated out into one or more configuration files and not sprinkled through the code.
- Development of the interface will be an iterative process of refining the design based on user requirements.
- The interface should include current best practise technologies such as CSS as widely as possible.
- The interface should comply with all legal requirements for accessibility.
- CDU will retain all copyright on the product. The application may be released under an open source licence as part of the Fez project <http://sourceforge.net/projects/fez/>.

Stages of development

- Stage one: applications submitted with mock-up of interface – due end April
- Stage two: successful applicants will be asked to develop a prototype using a sample of about 30 pdfs and other file formats in several different indigenous languages – due end June
- Stage three: refinements to product in response to feedback from users – end August
- Stage four: final product to be delivered by end November 2012

How to get involved

- Read more about the project at www.cdu.edu.au/laal
- **Submit applications** to livingarchive@cdu.edu.au, including samples of previous work, references from clients and an estimate of cost, **by 30 April 2012**.
- The developer should show interest in Aboriginal languages and cultures and be keen to engage in innovative design which will benefit local communities over a long period of time.
- The successful developer will be credited in the final interface and code source.

Sample of metadata:

Author(s)	Djawa Dayng'kuli Matjarra
Title	Guthin' djarrma-dumurru
Place of Publication	Milingimbi [N.T.]
Publisher	Literature Production Centre
Publication year	1979
Total pages	10
Language	Gupapuyngu
Subjects	420103 Aboriginal Languages 2004 - Linguistics
Abstract/Summary	The native rat, with its long tunnels, instituted the many long paths through which gossip is circulated. She also set up the promise system. Details the traditions of all-in fighting.
Additional Notes	Title translates as Rat gossip-monger.

