

The National Library of Australia's collection holds a diverse range of material, offering a rich interpretation of Australia's past and contemporary Indigenous culture. Our collections are in a wide range of formats, including archived websites, photographs, maps, oral histories, manuscripts, pictures and all types of publications in English and language. While most of our holdings are documentary in nature, they include materials that are Indigenous Cultural Expressions, such as the 1880 drawings by Tommy McCrae, of the Wahgunyah tribe on the River Murray, or the original hand-drawn maps and diagrams of various portions of land, boundary markers by Edward Koiki Mabo which showed the history, genealogy and land ownership of Mabo and other Torres Strait Islanders families.

Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property (ICIP) is expressed and embedded in those materials and the relationship with the community to whom the ICIP belongs creates the authenticity of the item. The National Library seeks to build consultative relationships with those indigenous communities who were the source of those materials. In the event that third parties would seek to reproduce or recreate Indigenous Cultural Expressions, the Library would seek to consult with Indigenous communities about the use of that material.

The proliferation of inauthentic or fake Indigenous Cultural Expressions devalues the meaning and content of the original materials created by particular indigenous communities and individuals. The Library supports a bill that seeks to prevent the proliferation of fake Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art and art products and recognises the Indigenous cultural intellectual rights in those products.