



The Power of Shared

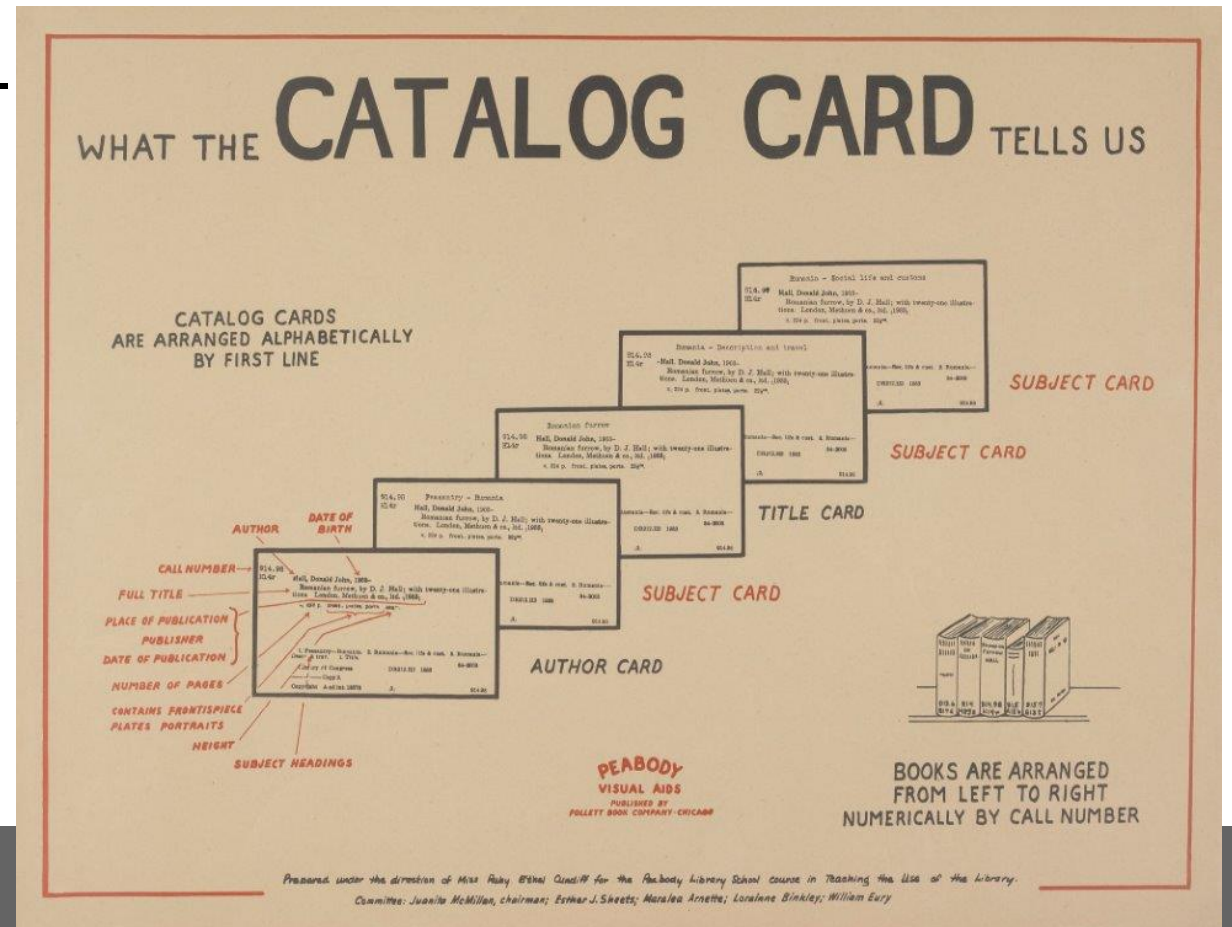
Thursday 11th July 2024, 10.55 am
VALA Concurrent Session



**Jaime McCowan,
CEO, CAVAL**

Shared networks for shared cataloguing

Shared networks and library cooperatives in the 1970's were created by the need to reduce costs, mainly through shared cataloguing initiatives.



Conditions driving cooperation

- Economy
- Technology
- Timing
- People
- Appetite for Collaboration



The digital age of cataloguing

The transition to online catalogues allowed for greater efficiency, accessibility, and functionality in library cataloguing and retrieval processes.

To achieve this, a set of digital machine-readable standards were established to describe items in computerised terms.

Lamis Sukkar, Shelf Ready Lead at CAVAL

The golden age of library cooperation

- 1974 - OCLC: President Fred Kilgour's visit to Australia
- 1975 - LASIE: The Libraries Automation Group 'LAG' became 'LASIE' pioneered by the LASIE Ladies
- 1975 - Technilib: established under Victorian Local Government Act in 1975
- 1978 – VALA: Victorian association for library automation constituted
- 1978 - CLANN & CAVAL established: for the purpose of Shared Cataloguing

The Cohen report

TECHNICAL DEVELOPMENTS

The Shared Cataloguing Project:

The Cohen report in 1976 had highlighted the need for a shared cataloguing project among the CAVAL members, given a good indication that it was a feasible project, and enabled the first step to be taken by recommending a suitable administrative machinery for defining it.

Shared cataloguing networks

- Reduced costs
- Economies of scale
- Redirected workloads
- Reduced duplication of effort
- Access to new technology

The Australian Bibliographic Network

ABN has been successful beyond the expectations of almost everyone associated with its establishment. It has succeeded not merely as a national shared cataloguing network but as a focus of inter-library cooperation and a source of technical and (hopefully) political strength for the library community.

Hans Groenewegen

The survivors

- CAVAL

- Resource sharing
- Training and consultancy
- Technical support
- Cooperative storage
- COOLCAT
- Contract cataloguing

- CLANN/UNILINC

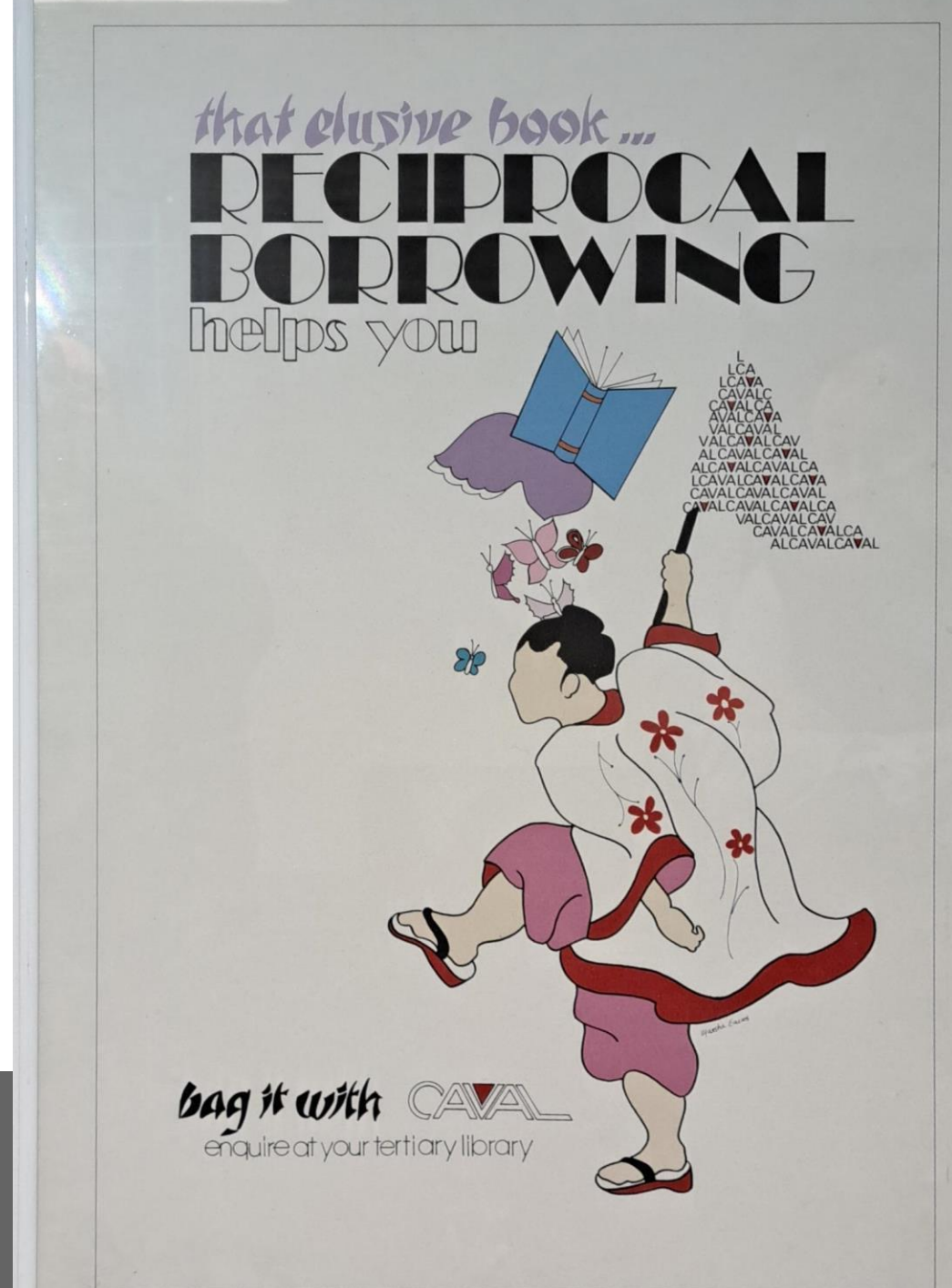
- The shared system
- Resource sharing
- Diversified customer base
- Contract cataloguing

- Technilib

- Victorian Public Library focus
- Contract cataloguing

Sharing our collections

- Reciprocal borrowing and Inter-Library Loan
- 1993 CAVAL Statistics
 - 27,627 enrolments
 - 294,628 loans



The shared collection

Given that libraries in all sectors have massive needs for storage, it makes sense to

- not compete for funds,
- share what funds are available,
- make joint representations for funds,
- share what storage is available, if practicable.

+

Timeline



Today

2023 - Live with FOLIO
2024+ Focus on Shared Infrastructure

Global Financial Crisis

2008 - CARM2
2018 - Review of Shared Collection

Radical Changes in Higher Ed

1994 - Shared Collection formed (CARM 1)
1996 - Technilib ceased
CLANN to UNILINC
1999 - ABN transfers to Kinetica
2005 - SLV leaves CAVAL
Kinetica becomes Libraries Australia

Stagflation

1978- 1982 Shared Cataloguing
1981 - 1st VALA Conference
1982 - ABN

Golden Age of Cooperation

1987 - 1988
ABN
Shared cataloguing networks
Resource sharing

Competition

- Competition between institutions
- Commercial competition for shared services



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Reconsidering shared services

“Hope for future shared services and systems?”

- CARM2 Ownership Model
- UNILINC closes
- End of COOLCAT
- Decline of contract cataloguing



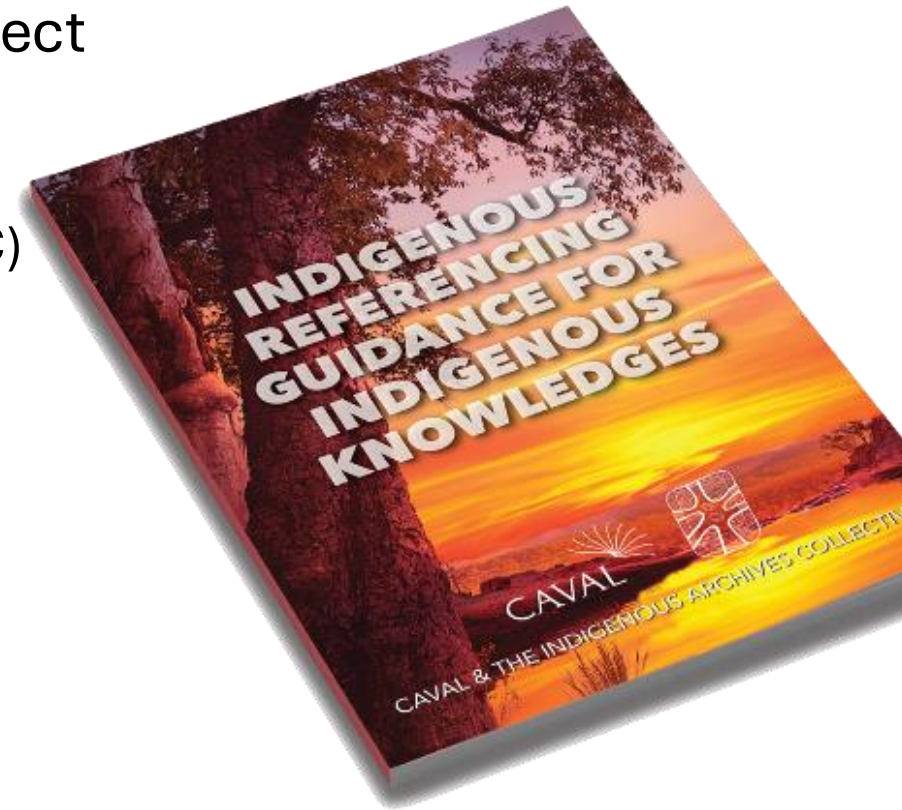
CARM shared collection review

- Updated funding model
- New systems
- New CAVAL Member Agreement



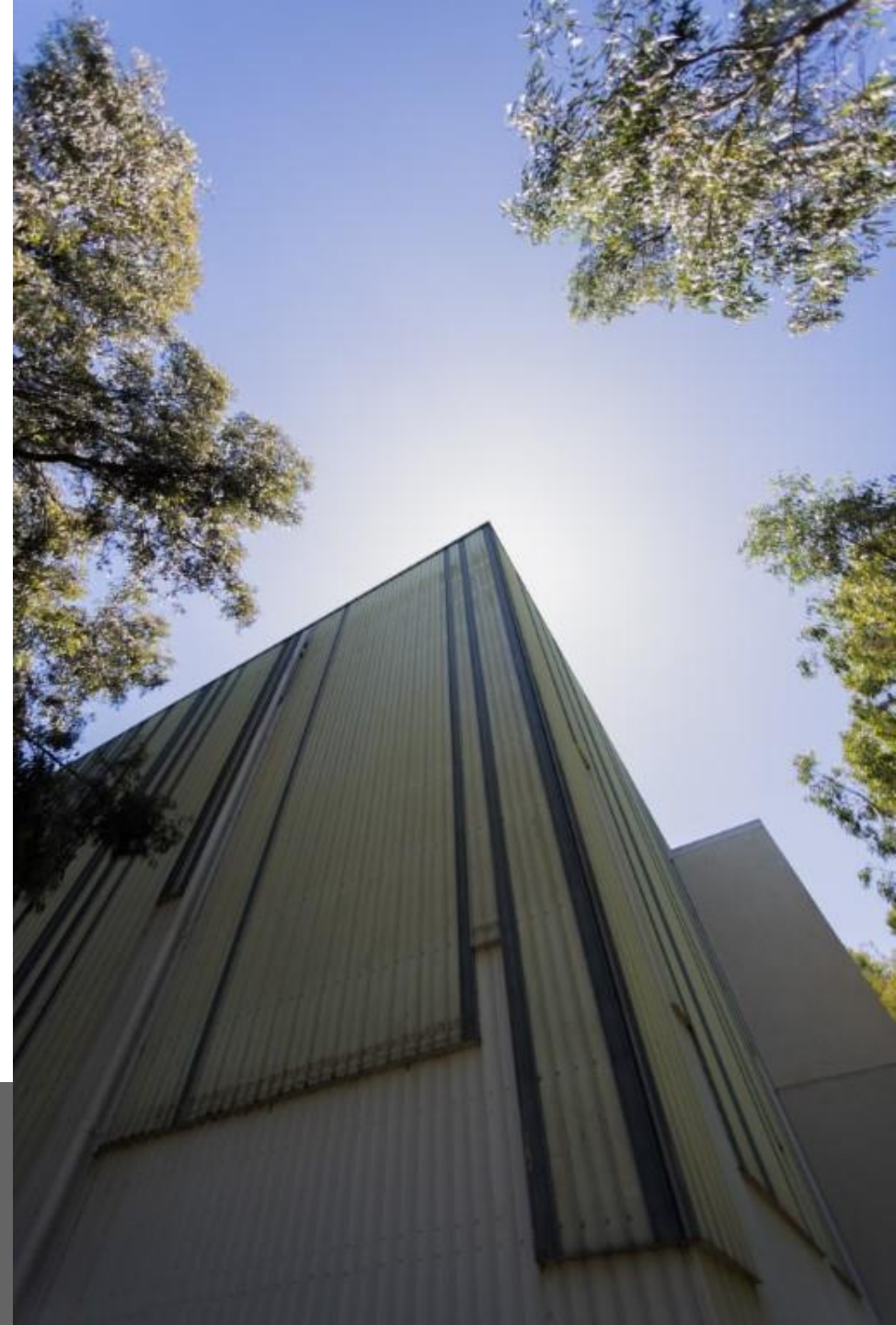
Recent shared initiatives

- First Nations Collection Description Guidelines project
 - Guidelines for First Nations description authored by Tui Raven
- Referencing ToolKit
 - Toolkit developed by the Indigenous Archive Collective (IAC)
- New RDA
 - NSLA, AIATSIS, ALIA, ACORD, CAUL and CAVAL
- Trove ReShare
 - National Library, Index Data
- Kummargii Yulendji (Rising Knowledge) Symposium
 - 12 September 2021
 - Informit
- Capability building with skills assessment platforms
 - Skilltype



Reiterating Shared Services

- Cataloguing and Automation
- Shared Collection and Collective Collections
- Collaboration for Digital Preservation



Has anything changed?

- Shared services still reduce costs
 - provide economies of scale
 - provide access to technology
 - can reduce staff requirements
- Conditions driving cooperation still apply
 - Economy
 - Technology
 - Timing
 - People
 - Appetite for Collaboration

Are we ready for the
next wave?



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