

Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 2023

STATE LIBRARY LAUNCHES DIGITAL REAL TIME STORIES, TOLD BY YOU

The State Library of South Australia has launched an innovative digital platform, *Unstacked*, which is informed by real-time browsing and encourages curiosity and unexpected exploration of the library's vast collection.

Every time someone accesses an item online from the collection, no matter where they are, it appears in *Unstacked* and comes alive not only for that person but for everyone in a real-time visualisation curated by patrons.

With an average of 2,400 searches per day of the State Library's catalogue, the digital exhibition is constantly evolving, reflecting trends in news, history and current affairs and inspiring users to look deeper into the library's collection.

State Library of South Australia Director, Geoff Stremper said *Unstacked* is an entertaining and engaging experience that gives anyone a rich visual insight into the breadth and depth of the collection.

"*Unstacked* represents the stories that make us, told by our users, and has created a completely unique and everchanging visual representation of our content, curated not by intention, but through spontaneity", he said.

"It allows us to anonymously see what items are being searched for in the library's catalogue at any given time and inspires others to unearth stories and share their own stories. It is essentially a window into the library's collection through the eyes of those who use it."

Unstacked co-creator, Elisa Lee said the State Library of South Australia has an extremely active catalogue, with hundreds of users and thousands of collection item views any given day.

"The beauty about *Unstacked* is that it's curated by the people using the library catalogue and reveals how the State Library's collection is being used – it's fascinating to see the diversity of both patron's interests and the collection in this constantly evolving exhibition," she said.

State Library of South Australia Coordinator Collection Development, Anthony Laube said *Unstacked* showcases not only how people are using the collection, but also the treasures it contains, from the weird to the wonderful.

"We have people using the collection for a range of purposes, from recreation to professional research. Users often explore their family history, looking for historical pictures of their home or suburb, and frequently researching significant moments in time.

"We see lots of users search for specific dates as they were reported in *The Advertiser*, such as the man on the moon front page, or the Queen's Coronation. One of the quirkiest requests I've come across is a user who wanted to know if the department store John Martins was selling a wooden framed camel seat," he said.

Unstacked is available for everyone to view at unstacked.slsa.sa.gov.au

– ENDS –

MEDIA ENQUIRIES:

Laura Peters
CALLIE
0404976299
laura@callie.com.au

About the State Library of South Australia

The State Library of South Australia is the largest public research library in the state and among the most iconic cultural institutions in South Australia.

As custodians of stories, the State Library of South Australia welcomes over half a million visitors a year and plays a significant role in collecting, preserving and making accessible the State's history for current and future generations to enjoy, experience and learn from.

Open 7 days a week, the State Library of South Australia provides 24/7 access that connects people to resources including research and information services. It also hosts events, exhibitions, and curated programs to enrich access to its collections.

The State Library of South Australia is home to the historic Mortlock Wing which is consistently voted among the most beautiful libraries in the world.