

## Conclusion

*Significance 2.0* is based on the experience, knowledge and ideas of many people working with collections over the last decade and more. While this book covers the theory, process and many applications of the concept of significance, it is a highly compressed summary. It is not a compendium of every application or use of significance in collection management. Each section of the book could be the subject of a separate booklet. And each domain could usefully explore the practice and applications of significance with particular types of collections. The growing literature on significance is testimony to its capacity to engage people who are passionate about collections, to explore the big picture and the fine grain of significance in action.

In the time since the first edition was published in 2001, the assessment method and criteria have undergone subtle refinements. Many more applications and uses have been explored, for single items, collections and cross-collection projects. Significance assessment and practice is a dynamic process. It will continue to develop and adapt as the circumstances and demands on collecting organisations change.

Perhaps the next decade of work with significance will see it evolve with new uses and users outside collecting organisations, in the academy and wider community. The potential is there for significance to stimulate discovery and engagement with collections. It is hoped that future directions for significance will see it keep its democratic character: flexible, open to everyone and communicating clearly about what makes collections important for Australians.