

2025-26 HIVE Summer Internship Project

Geolocating Historical Panoramas of the Western Australian Mid-West and North-West

Primary Academic Supervisor

Dr. Andre Brett

Project Background

This project seeks to build on the HIVE's established successes with geolocating and exhibiting historical panoramas. To date, the www.HistoricalPanoramas.com.au website contains more than 50 panoramas from 20 locations around Perth and Fremantle, and the HIVE Cylinder display is a dramatic canvas on which to display these panoramas. A past internship identified around 50 panoramas in the Goldfields, and another project has identified around 40 panoramas in and around Albany. Panoramas were taken throughout WA and this project seeks to expand the scope and geolocate panoramas taken in the state's Mid-West and North-West areas. The potential for using panoramas to bring to life the history of the state's North is significant. This project's purpose is to identify high-quality panoramic images and geolocate them. The Western Australian Museum and the State Library of Western Australia will both be involved in the project.

Project Description, Expected Outputs, Possible Stretch Goals

This project will seek to identify high-quality holdings of historical panoramic images from the Western Australian Mid-West and North-West, and subsequently geolocate them for use in virtual displays and potentially a future exhibition. The specific tasks are as follows: 1) Survey the catalogue of the State Library of WA and potentially other holdings for historical panoramas taken on the Western Australian Mid-West and North-West. 2) Source high-quality scans of the panoramas. 3) Work through the panoramas to identify landmarks and geolocate the panoramas to estimate where they were taken originally. This involves using Google Maps/Google Earth, Landgate Map Viewer Plus, and potentially historical maps to determine location of landmarks and use these to help identify the original taking location of each panorama. 4) Illustrate the panorama

locations and their visual extent on a map. 5) Use Google Maps or Google Earth plus Photoshop to capture a _virtual_ modern-day equivalent panorama of each panorama location. (Note: travel to the Mid-West and North-West are not part of this project). The primary outputs of the project will be (a) an inventory of historical panoramas, and (b) a map showing the estimated taking location of each panorama, including the latitude and longitude, as well as the visual extent of each panorama. A stretch goal will be to display the panoramas in a similar manner to those from Perth and Fremantle such as creating a sample virtual tour with PanoTourPro, Pano2VR, or a similar package. The project will suit a student with interests in photography, history, image editing, and/or archiving.

Links to background reading and any relevant recent work in the field

- * Historical Panoramas Perth and Fremantle:
<http://www.historicalpanoramas.com.au/>
- * State Library of WA catalogue website: www.slwa.wa.gov.au
- * Barnard, Edwin (2012) "Capturing Time: Historical Panoramas of Old Australia."
- * Marcia Schneider (2016) "Juxtaposing Historical Panoramas with the Modern Day" HIVE Internship Report.
- * Mary Blight (2024) "Geolocating Historical Panoramas of the Goldfields" HIVE Internship Report.

Example content:

- * E. L. Mitchell (1920) "Panoramic view of Geraldton taken from the jetty"
https://encore.slwa.wa.gov.au/iii/encore/record/C__Rb4525941?lang=eng
- * Western Mail (1892/1893) "Coloured supplements to the Western Mail showing panoramic views of York and Geraldton with inset pictures showing various businesses"
https://encore.slwa.wa.gov.au/iii/encore/record/C__Rb1966045
https://encore.slwa.wa.gov.au/iii/encore/record/C__Rb2046380
- * unknown (1901) "Panoramic view of Geraldton"
https://encore.slwa.wa.gov.au/iii/encore/record/C__Rb1914440
- * Series of photos taken from top of Geraldton's wireless station mast Francis Street c1913
https://ger.ent.sirsidynix.net.au/client/en_AU/GeraldtonLibrary/search/results?qu=wireless+station+mast&te=
- * Lambert, Reg A. (1979) "Paraburdoo, iron ore country"
https://encore.slwa.wa.gov.au/iii/encore/record/C__Rb2080392

* Alexander McCallum (1926) “Giant ant hills, East Kimberley”
<https://collections.wa.net.au/items/a39e0f6c-4792-41dd-877e-77521be18f6a>

* Western Australia. Government Photographer (1938) “Panorama of Roebourne”,
https://encore.slwa.wa.gov.au/iii/encore/record/C__Rb4571813?lang=eng

What type of visualisation will the student develop or produce?

Geolocated interactive panoramas for display online, on the HIVE Cylinder display, and in other appropriate settings as identified.

How will the visualisation contribute to your research outcomes?

This project will expand the scope of the HIVE's online materials and its engagement with the broader Western Australian community. It will sustain and deepen engagement both within Curtin—between the HIVE and the History discipline within MCASI—and between Curtin and the State Library and WA Museum. It will provide a valuable new source of visual material for use in undergraduate student research projects within HIST3002 Local History Project.

If the project is successful, where would you consider publishing the results?

HistoricalPanoramas.com.au and a potential exhibition via the WA Museum.

Draft Project Timeline:

Week 1

Nov 10 - Full day HIVE induction

Nov 11 - Area and Project Induction with Primary supervisor

Develop project plan with HIVE and academic team

Literature and relevant project review

Become familiar with SLWA catalogue and begin searching for appropriate photographs.

Week 2

Continue to search the SLWA catalogue for panoramic photographs and request access to high-resolution images. Choose a candidate panorama to geolocate and begin identifying landmarks in this image. Historical records (including old maps) may need to be used to identify landmarks in the chosen panorama and determine the location of these landmarks.

Week 3

Use the landmark locations to estimate the taking location of the selected panorama. Create a spreadsheet to collate information on identified panoramas, and estimated capture locations. Continue identifying landmarks and geolocating historical panoramas. Explore other potential sources of panoramic images and, if located, submit any necessary requests for high-res images and/or create scans.

Week 4

Continue identifying landmarks and geolocating historical panoramas. Stitch some high-resolution images to identify successes and/or difficulties. Use Google Maps/Google Earth to capture a virtual modern-day panorama of a chosen historical panorama location. Use Photoshop to stitch multiple screen-captures to create a present-day panorama. Also use Photoshop to experiment with matching zoom and scale of historical and present-day panoramas by matching common features. As a “thought/planning experiment”, explore the possibility of capturing modern-day panoramas photographically in the Mid-West or North-West. Consider travelling times, and whether permissions would be required to access new panoramas locations.

Week 5

Continue to geolocate and stitch together panoramas. Explore entering panoramas into Pano2VR or equivalent software.

Week 6

Continue searching, geolocating, and stitching. Experiment with displaying panoramas on the HIVE Cylinder display.

Week 7

Continue searching, geolocating, and stitching.

Week 8

Begin finalising project. Compile a selection of panoramas for presentation on the HIVE Cylinder.

Week 9

Focus on report writing and presentation preparation

Finalise panoramas.

Week 10

Focus on report writing and presentation preparation

30th Jan Final Presentation Showcase Day and final report due

Finalise presentation and report

Student Experience and Supervision:

How often will you meet with the student over the 10-week period?

Weekly, except during weeks noted below. I am available for more frequent meetings if either the student requests them or if I believe they are necessary, but I will schedule a mutually-agreed timeslot for a regular weekly meeting.

Your work desk location and the location of student desk

student location is 201:212 (HIVE Staff Office)

Student Attributes:

Please indicate any preference for student's academic discipline or field of study

This project may suit a student studying History.

What competencies are required to start this project

Beginner - 2D image and/or video software (e.g. Adobe Suite, Sony Vegas)

Do you have any other student attributes you think are important to the project?