Gary Higgins  
Minister for Arts and Museums  

The Northern Territory Library – in the digital age  

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The Northern Territory Library is continuing to embrace the technological age with the launch of a brand new interface and its ongoing digitisation program.

Arts and Museums Minister Gary Higgins has had a first-hand look at the library’s digitisation program which is helping preserve Territory history as well as open it up to the online world.

“This ongoing active digitisation program is incredibly important for the Northern Territory,” Minister Higgins said.

“The Northern Territory Library has some amazing resources – books, newspapers, photos, letters, manuscripts etc – which all help to tell the story of the Northern Territory.

“Increasingly, these documents are being digitised and made available online via the Territory Stories website, creating opportunities for sharing, using and exposing some of the amazing historic and contemporary stories of the NT.”

Mr Higgins said the new user interface for Territory Stories will make it easier to find and access historic NT materials. It includes the capacity to find items relating to a particular location by browsing a map of the NT.

The Library recently digitised one of the oldest Territory-published documents held in the collection, the Northern Territory Times Almanac & Directory, printed originally in 1886. The rare and valuable yearbook was written and compiled by early Territory entrepreneur and politician Vaiben Louis Solomon. The edition is the earliest in the Library’s holdings and later editions will also be digitised.

“Online access to this information is valuable to researchers, genealogists and history students as well as giving Territorians an intriguing glimpse into what life was like here nearly 130 years ago,” Mr Higgins said.

“The Northern Territory Library also helps residents of remote NT communities to digitise their important documents and heritage items through its Community Stories project – a specialised database to collect, preserve and make appropriately available the cultural heritage of Indigenous Territorians.”
Digitised newspaper articles are also available online through the National Library of Australia’s online service *Trove*.

**Fun Facts**

- The Northern Territory Library has the most complete collection of current and historic Northern Territory newspapers available in the world.
- In 2013/14, historic digitised NT newspaper pages were viewed over 175,000 times.
- The National Library of Australia has recently digitised its 15-millionth newspaper page.

PHOTO - Minister Higgins with Northern Territory Library digital repository and capture unit manager Beverley Lee and a copy of the North Australian newspaper from 1885.

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[Minister Higgins with Bev Lee](#)