



## **CAVAL Archival and Research Materials Centre (CARM)**

**Melbourne, Australia**

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### **CAVAL**

The CARM Centre is a unique initiative amongst Australian academic libraries, established in 1996 to develop and maintain a shared print research archive. It was founded by CAVAL, a not-for-profit consortium of academic libraries in south-eastern Australia, based in Melbourne, Victoria. The consortium was established in 1978 to promote benefit to libraries and their clients through collaboration across a range of library functions, including cataloguing and technical services, resource sharing and print archiving and preservation. CAVAL operates at national and international scale, serving the broader Australian and New Zealand library communities.

### **CAVAL Archival and Research Materials Centre (CARM)**

CAVAL established the first of its two print repositories in 1996. Known as the CAVAL Archival and Research Materials Centre (CARM), this is a purpose-built environmentally controlled facility designed for the long-term storage and preservation of the CARM Shared Collection, a shared collection of monograph and serial research items contributed by CAVAL member libraries. When depositing items into the Shared Collection, member libraries cede ownership to CAVAL, and in return CAVAL undertakes to retain and preserve the item in perpetuity. Central ownership also enables CAVAL to re-process and interfile all materials deposited - regardless of format, original cataloguing treatment or library of origin - to achieve optimal storage density, using packing trays in a static shelving system. Through the joint commitment of the membership, the Shared Collection is also a single last copy collection, enabling libraries to de-duplicate their own print holdings if a copy is held in CARM. Member libraries determine which materials to deposit into store according to the research value of the item and each library's collection management policies.

Now over 20 years old, the Shared Collection contains over 850,000 volumes, approximately 85% of the repository's expected capacity.

CAVAL has commenced a review of the Shared Collection to consider its content and value as a research resource, the model adopted for its long-term management, and the consortium's future directions for print storage. Phase 1 of this review has been completed, and identified a number of possible development paths for the future of the Shared Collection. The review has determined that – twenty years on – there is still widespread member support for the Shared Collection, and an

interest in opening the collection to broader participation through partnerships nationally and internationally. In Phase 2 a range of collection analyses are being undertaken to understand the collection's content and uniqueness, and to position the Shared Collection in the context of national and international print preservation initiatives. A focus of this second phase is to foreground the high degree of unique Australian content in the Collection.

## **CARM2**

As available capacity in CARM began to be consumed, CAVAL constructed a second print repository in 2010. This repository was devised as shared *storage* rather than a shared *collection*, with each library taking up a discrete allocation of space for its own use. Under this model, libraries take up a long-term lease of space, continue to retain ownership and control over their collections, and house their collections in their own space and according to their own storage and retrieval requirements. Part of this repository is leased to non-member libraries to generate income for its ongoing maintenance.

CARM2 contains over 63 linear kilometres of shelving capacity, and has filled some two years ahead of schedule. As almost all currently available storage capacity has been consumed, CAVAL has constructed an additional 8 linear kilometres of shelving, and this will become available in February 2019.

CAVAL has over twenty years of experience in the design and operation of print repositories, and has developed two different storage models to address the changing needs and priorities of its membership and the library community generally for print preservation and access.

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