

Department of Communication  
and Journalism



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6 June 2019

Mr David Tune AO PSM  
Independent Reviewer  
c/o Tune Review Secretariat  
National Archives of Australia  
Queen Victoria Terrace  
Parkes ACT 2600  
Australia

review@naa.gov.au

Dear Mr. Tune,

My name is Michael J. Socolow, and I'm an Associate Professor in the Department of Communication and Journalism at the University of Maine [USA]. I'm a media historian and the author of *Six Minutes in Berlin: Broadcast Spectacle and Rowing Gold at the Nazi Olympics*. I am currently a Fulbright Research Scholar at the University of Canberra, where I'm hosted in the News and Media Research Centre. My Fulbright research project concerns the nexus of sport broadcasting, nationalism, and Australian radio broadcasting in the 1920s and 1930s.

The comments I am submitting for this review reflect only my own experience with the National Archives of Australia, and do not reflect or represent the opinions of the University of Maine, the University of Canberra, or the Australian-American Fulbright Commission.

Since arriving in Australia in January, 2019, I have researched in the National Archives of Australia offices in Canberra, Sydney, and Melbourne. My research has consisted mostly (but not exclusively) of examining the records of the Australian Broadcasting Commission. I have found the employees of the National Archives to be helpful, knowledgeable, and courteous. I remain grateful for the effective and timely assistance I've received in registering to use the archives, requesting materials, and receiving answers to my inquiries.

My only comment regarding your review concerns the hours of operation. To be limited to working with archival materials to the hours of 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., three days a week, is a challenge. Because I am in Australia on a Fulbright, and could arrange my schedule to visit the archives over several weeks, I was able to accommodate the limited hours. However, other international scholars visiting Australia on more limited schedules will undoubtedly face significant challenges accommodating these hours of operation. To facilitate the research that will allow scholars to tell Australia's story, I would suggest that a more accommodating or flexible schedule – with more hours of operation for researchers to access archival materials – be considered. The current limitation of hours hinders the ability of researchers in general, but

international researchers specifically, to complete their work in a timely or efficient fashion. Although I doubt it is possible to establish with any certainty how the limited hours of operation impact the production and publication of cultural and historical knowledge, I suspect that scholars considering transnational, comparative studies will factor in the efficiency of travelling to Australia when deciding whether to include this nation in their research.

I hope your review will consider the needs of international researchers when evaluating the hours of public access for the National Archives of Australia. By providing more hours for access, the National Archives will fulfill its mission in facilitating and encouraging both Australian and international scholars in their research.

Thank you for your consideration of this submission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michael J. Socolow".

Michael J. Socolow  
Associate Professor  
University of Maine [USA]

2019 Fulbright Research Scholar  
University of Canberra