

# LAGANZ Digital Management

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At LAGANZ (Lesbian & Gay Archives of New Zealand) we collect, preserve and make available for research the records and personal papers of LGBTTFIQ people and organisations in New Zealand. In the Trust's deed we use LGBTTFIQ to mean lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, takatāpui, fa'afafine, intersex or queer and includes any same-sex attracted, transgender or intersex members of any indigenous community of the Pacific.

***We are planning over a two-to three-year programme of work to commission a digital archive with an online collection, preservation and management system.***

The Trust owns the Archives for the LGBTTFIQ communities and is run entirely by volunteers. Under the terms of a formal agreement originally established in 1992 with Alexander Turnbull Library (ATL) of the National Library of New Zealand, Wellington the Archives' physical collections (print and paper materials, audio and video tapes) are housed at ATL, and ATL supports access to these physical collections by referring enquiries to the volunteer Curator and making the Reading Room available as for other research collections in the ATL.

Two principles or concepts from Māoritanga guide and inspire us in our efforts to collect, preserve and make available the records of our LGBTTFIQ communities. They have informed our thinking and vision for utilising Rainbow Wellington Legacy Fund funding:

- Whanaungatanga - working together to support each other across all generations; a relationship through shared experiences and working together which provides people with a sense of belonging
- Whakapapa - descent from one's ancestors, the people who have come before us.

LAGANZ is at a critical crossroads in its development, and in many respects so is the broader LGBTTFIQ community. We see that reflected in the following trends and issues:

- Our key Curator volunteers have reached or are nearing retirement, no-one is in a paid role with LAGANZ; our succession planning for the vital curatorial roles is at risk
- Our agreement with Alexander Turnbull Library focuses on physical collections and does not extend to supporting us with collecting, preserving and making accessible digital (electronic) materials
- Much of what our communities create, publish and keep as records is digital, reflecting how LGBTTFIQ groups currently organise
- Many long-running community groups and businesses are winding up and their physical *and* digital materials are coming to LAGANZ; we are struggling with storing and processing the volume of material. For example, NZAF has deposited its large research collection with us due to its funding constraints, we also hold large deposits from Katavich/OUT! and Reel Queer (Out Takes)

- LAGANZ itself is a well-established LGBTTFIQ organisation, having been created as Trust in 1992 as a successor to the Lesbian and Gay Rights Resource Centre (LGRRC) formed in 1984, but is under financial pressure. Our community consultation on our agreement with ATL in 2011/12 showed that the LGBTTFIQ community value the Trust's ownership of the collections and they did not support us handing over ownership (and control) of the Archives to ATL; ATL's collecting and preservation scope would be much narrower.

It is vital that we make a strategic investment, with the LGBTTFIQ communities and various funders' support, in progressing with digitisation of collection materials, more actively collecting material created in digital form, and commissioning a Digital Archive platform. LAGANZ must adapt with our communities and continue to provide an effective archive in the digital age. A Digital Archive platform would make volunteering or paid employment with LAGANZ a much more attractive proposition for curatorial professionals and enable us to do effective succession planning.

LAGANZ received a grant from the Rainbow Wellbeing Legacy Fund in August 2020 that enables us to progress the A and B initiatives below.

### **Priority Order of Initiatives**

A1: Digitisation of 7000 Index Cards is a vital first step in our digitisation/Digital Archive journey. Digitisation of index cards was completed in September 2020.

A2: Crowd-sourced Correction by Volunteers of Index Card Data (including Transcribathons): Great opportunity to create community and volunteer engagement with the Archives and New Zealand's LGBTTFIQ history.

A3: Cloud Storage for Digital Material: Address the urgent need for secure storage of 'at risk' and new digital material.

A4: Digitisation of 200 Posters from LAGANZ's Collections: Enrich LAGANZ's collections and online presence with compelling visual digital content of historical interest.

A5: Digital Archive Preparation: Sample Digital Collections Prepared for Import into a Digital Archive. Equip LAGANZ with tools to prepare digital material for preservation (and eventual ingest into Digital Archive).

A6: Digital Archive Preparation: Advice from Experts and Vendors Expert technical advice on metadata and standards at an early stage helps us prepare effectively for commissioning the Digital Archive.

B: Storage Costs of New Large Deposits of Significant Collections Relief from the financial impact of storing new large acquisitions of collections. A "Give a Little" page has been established to raise annual funding for our storage costs.

C: Commission a Digital Archive - Online Digital Collection, Preservation and Management System with a local IT provider.

LAGANZ has established four working groups to implement these project initiatives and begin the longer-term process of commissioning and ultimately operating a digital archive. Each working group is led by a trustee or curator and comprises volunteers with skills and interests in each area. The four working groups presently are organised around: 1. digital metadata, standards and platform, 2. digital curatorial processes, 3. funding and outreach and 4. volunteer support (particularly the crowdsourcing of index cards and finding aid transcriptions).

Prospective volunteers are welcome to contact LAGANZ at [board@laganz.org.nz](mailto:board@laganz.org.nz).

Information for volunteers is also on the LAGANZ website: [www.laganz.org.nz](http://www.laganz.org.nz)