



The Prosecution Project

Australian historical criminal justice data dataverse

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<https://prosecutionproject.griffith.edu.au>

https://dataverse.ada.edu.au/dataverse/australian_historical_criminal_justice_data

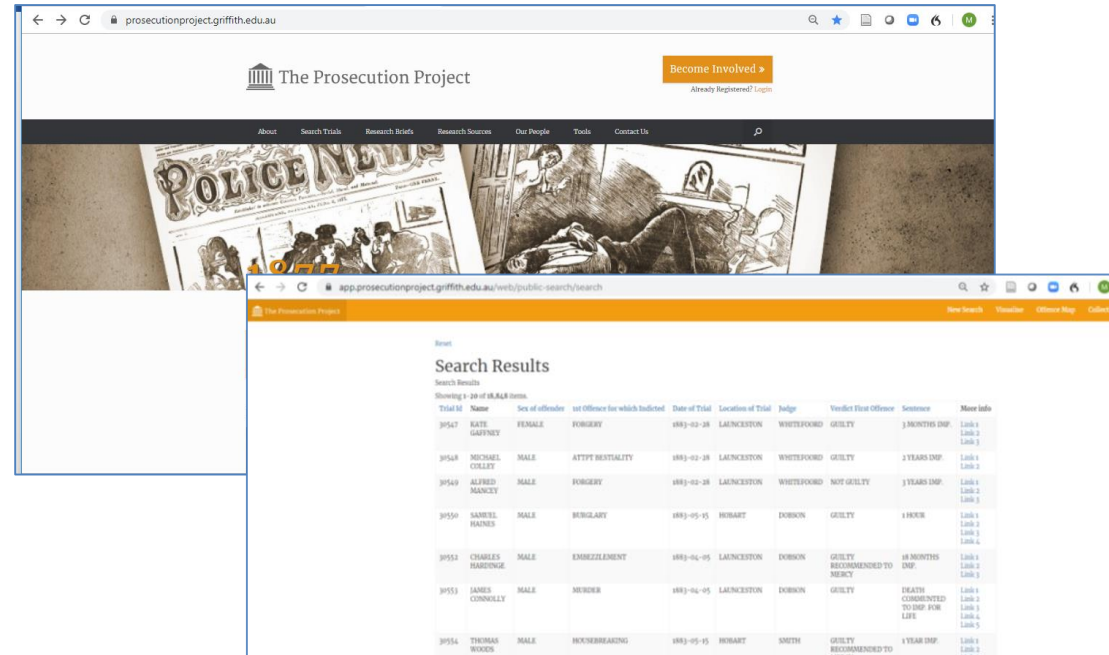
Project in a nutshell

Context

- ❑ The research community – historians of criminal justice institutions
- ❑ The research culture – individual projects; short life of data; limited sharing; no reproducibility
- ❑ The research advantage – rich archival data
- ❑ The research potential – growing the field

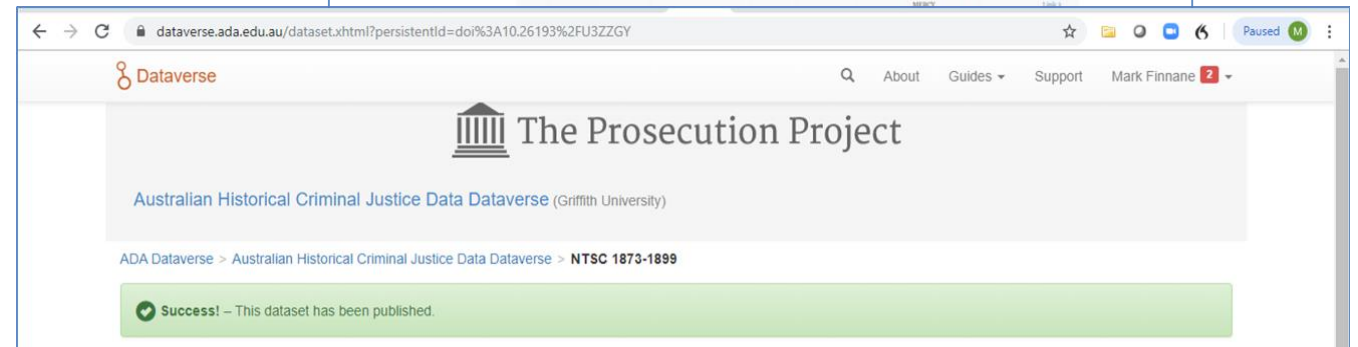
The Project

- ❑ Provide a repository for well curated datasets for future researchers
- ❑ Encourage sharing of existing data
- ❑ develop conversation and protocols in the historical research community about standards for data collection and archiving



The screenshot shows the website prosecutionproject.griffith.edu.au. The main header features the project logo and a 'Become Involved' button. Below the header is a navigation menu with links for 'About', 'Search Trials', 'Research Briefs', 'Research Sources', 'Our People', 'Tools', and 'Contact Us'. A large banner image displays a historical newspaper clipping titled 'POLICE NEWS' and a sketch of a courtroom scene. An inset window shows a search results page with the following table:

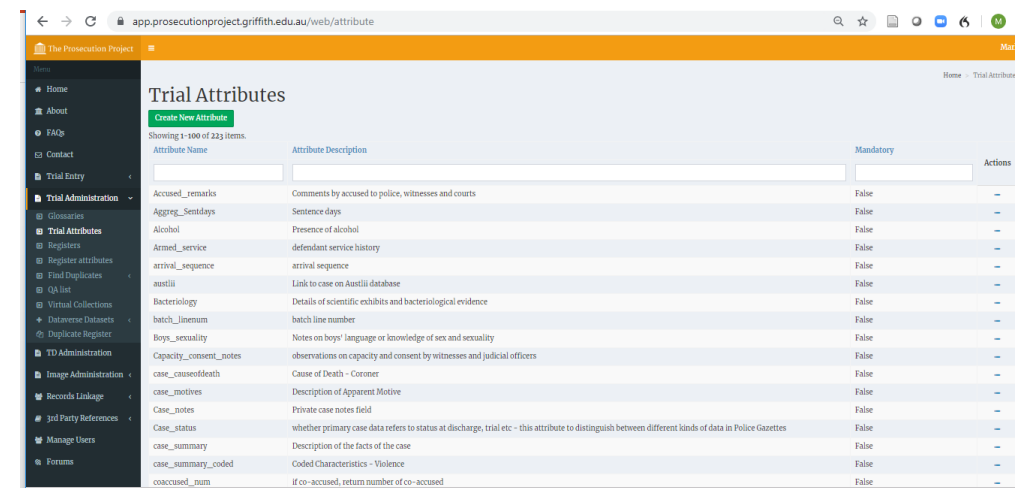
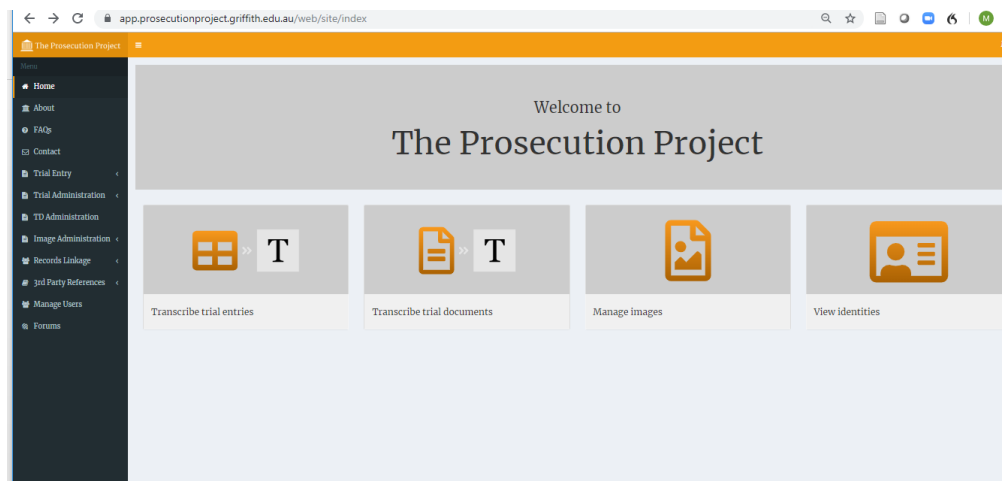
Trial ID	Name	Sex of offender	set Offence for which Indicted	Date of Trial	Location of Trial	Judge	Verdict First Offence	Sentence	More Info
39547	KATE GAFFNEY	FEMALE	FORGERY	1883-02-28	LAUNCESTON	WHITEFOORD	GUILTY	3 MONTHS IMP.	Link 1 Link 2
39548	MICHAEL COLLEY	MALE	ATTY BESTIALITY	1883-02-28	LAUNCESTON	WHITEFOORD	GUILTY	2 YEARS IMP.	Link 1 Link 2
39549	ALFRED MANCNEY	MALE	FORGERY	1883-02-28	LAUNCESTON	WHITEFOORD	NOT GUILTY	3 YEARS IMP.	Link 1 Link 2 Link 3
39550	SAMUEL HAINES	MALE	BURGLARY	1883-05-15	HOBART	DONKIN	GUILTY	18 Mths	Link 1 Link 2 Link 3 Link 4
39551	CHARLES HARDINGE	MALE	EMBEZZLEMENT	1883-04-05	LAUNCESTON	DONKIN	GUILTY	18 MONTHS IMP.	Link 1 Link 2 Link 3
39553	JAMES CONNELLY	MALE	MURDER	1883-04-05	LAUNCESTON	DONKIN	GUILTY	DEATHS COMMUTED TO IMP FOR LIFE	Link 1 Link 2 Link 3 Link 4 Link 5
39554	THOMAS WOODEN	MALE	HOUSHBREAKING	1883-05-15	HOBART	SMITH	GUILTY	1 YEAR IMP.	Link 1 Link 2 Link 3



The screenshot shows the Dataverse website dataverse.ada.edu.au. The header includes the Dataverse logo and navigation links for 'About', 'Guides', 'Support', and 'Mark Finnane'. The main content area features the project logo and the text 'Australian Historical Criminal Justice Data Dataverse (Griffith University)'. Below this, the breadcrumb trail reads 'ADA Dataverse > Australian Historical Criminal Justice Data Dataverse > NTSC 1873-1899'. A green success message at the bottom states: 'Success! – This dataset has been published.'

Key issues

- ❑ Metadata – need for more consistent approach to our own data
- ❑ Data dictionary – each variable/attribute needs careful description
- ❑ Data curation – very large datasets require continual cleaning
- ❑ Sensitive data – archive restrictions limit the chronological coverage of data than can be released




The screenshot shows the 'Trial Attributes' page in the The Prosecution Project website. The browser address bar displays 'app.prosecutionproject.griffith.edu.au/web/attribute'. The page has a dark sidebar with navigation links: Home, About, FAQs, Contact, Trial Entry, Trial Administration, Glossaries, Registers, Register attributes, Trial Duplicates, QA list, Virtual Collections, Dataverse Datasets, Duplicate Register, TD Administration, Image Administration, Records Linkage, 3rd Party References, Manage Users, and Forums. The main content area is titled 'Trial Attributes' and includes a 'Create New Attribute' button. Below the title, it says 'Showing 1 - 100 of 223 items'. The page displays a table of attributes with columns for Attribute Name, Attribute Description, Mandatory, and Actions.

Attribute Name	Attribute Description	Mandatory	Actions
Accused_remarks	Comments by accused to police, witnesses and courts	False	--
Aggreg_Sentdays	Sentence days	False	--
Alcohol	Presence of alcohol	False	--
Armed_service	defendant service history	False	--
arrival_sequence	arrival sequence	False	--
auslii	Link to case on Auslii database	False	--
Bacteriology	Details of scientific exhibits and bacteriological evidence	False	--
batch_linenum	batch line number	False	--
Boys_sexuality	Notes on boys' language or knowledge of sex and sexuality	False	--
Capacity_consent_notes	observations on capacity and consent by witnesses and judicial officers	False	--
case_causeofdeath	Cause of Death - Coroner	False	--
case_motives	Description of Apparent Motive	False	--
Case_notes	Private case notes field	False	--
Case_status	whether primary case data refers to status at discharge, trial etc - this attribute to distinguish between different kinds of data in Police Gazettes	False	--
case_summary	Description of the facts of the case	False	--
case_summary_coded	Coded Characteristics - Violence	False	--
coaccused_num	if co-accused, return number of co-accused	False	--


Lessons learned

- ❑ Data archiving requires more systematic approach than the historical research community is generally used to
- ❑ Communication of processes and discussion of standards will be a continuing task
- ❑ There is growing demand for provision of this kind of data, especially from new PhD scholars
- ❑ Project planning needs to invest more intellectual and financial resources in managing archiving to FAIR benchmark



← → ↻ dataverse.ada.edu.au/dataset.xhtml?persistentId=doi%3A10.26193%2FU3ZZGY ☆ 📁 🔄 📧 ⌵ Paused M ⋮

 Dataverse 🔍 About Guides ▾ Support Mark Finnane 2 ▾

 The Prosecution Project

[Australian Historical Criminal Justice Data Dataverse](#) (Griffith University)

[ADA Dataverse](#) > [Australian Historical Criminal Justice Data Dataverse](#) > **NTSC 1873-1899**

✔ **Success!** – This dataset has been published.

 Metrics 0 Downloads    Edit ▾

NTSC 1873-1899

Finnane, Mark, 2019, "NTSC 1873-1899", doi:10.26193/U3ZZGY, ADA Dataverse, V1, UNF:6:7omKv16+P6STCaUxP5QBQw==  Cite Dataset ▾

[Learn about Data Citation Standards](#)

acknowledgments

Griffith University –

- Jeroen van den Muyzenberg
- Michael McGuinness
- Nick Rossow

Australian Data Archive –

- Steve McEachern
- Marina McGale

ARDC -

- Andrew White

The Prosecution Project -

our researchers and volunteers
(<https://prosecutionproject.griffith.edu.au/>)

The historical research community
including external data providers -

Hamish Maxwell-Stewart (UTas)
David Roberts (UNE)
Tim Causer (UCL)

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https://dataverse.ada.edu.au/dataverse/australian_historical_criminal_justice_data