

“Fujitsu ScanSnap technology delivers high-quality results in seconds compared to conventional scanners. The high-quality scanning capabilities assist to preserve and share Indigenous Australian history and Culture.”

Monique Shipp
CEO
Bawurra Foundation



Preserving Culture, promoting reconciliation

At a glance

Country: Australia
Industry: Education
Founded: 2015
Website: bawurra.org

Challenge

Within the Bawurra digital library, volunteers partner with First Nations Elders and communities to record and preserve oral histories, songlines and language. To accompany this preservation, Bawurra Foundation digitally preserves artefacts such as maps, photos, letters and news clippings.

Solution

FUJITSU Image Scanner ScanSnap reduces the time required for volunteers and Elders to scan artefacts. For example, an A3 sized area can be scanned in less than three seconds, enabling multiple artefacts to be scanned at one time.

Benefit

- Enables the Bawurra Foundation to engage with remote Indigenous Australian communities
- Helps to create a permanent digital recording of delicate artefacts, without causing damage
- Simplifies the sharing of cultural knowledge throughout Australia's education system

Customer

Bawurra Foundation works with many Indigenous communities and Elders to preserve Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander knowledge and Culture. Bawurra Foundation acknowledges that all information preserved is in accordance with Indigenous Cultural and intellectual property protocols.

Products and Services

- FUJITSU Image Scanner ScanSnap

Protecting a unique Culture

In the late 1700s, there were an estimated 750,000 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander custodians of the land. This number is believed to have fallen to 90% by 1920.

As of 2016, 649,171 people identified as an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander in Australia's national census. Despite this positivity, it is hard to estimate how much was lost over the last 200 years.

The Bawurra Foundation works to preserve Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander knowledge and Culture by working with communities throughout Australia, to build a digital archive that is shared with schools.

Preserving oral histories is a critical part of the work of the Bawurra Foundation. For example, the knowledge preserved on the Bawurra Foundation digital library incorporates physical artefacts; photos, art, letters, maps and news clippings, such material is sacred and tells important cultural stories.

The challenge for the current case study was to be able to scan over 350 physical artefacts quickly, unobtrusively and to a high quality. The work of the Bawurra Foundation is conducted in the community, wherever people are gathered.

Scanning physical documents

The FUJITSU Image Scanner ScanSnap can scan an A3 size area in less than three seconds, enabling multiple artefacts to be scanned at one time, reducing the time volunteers and Elders spend scanning. The gentle scanning technology ensures that precious and or delicate artefacts such as photos are not damaged in the process of collection.

The portable solution allows the preserving of information to take place anywhere in the community. With the auto book correction, the scanner automatically flattens and corrects the curve distortion of prints placed underneath the scanner, making it easier to scan in outdoor areas.

Elders and volunteers scan precious artefacts together, that way preservation occurs with respect, privacy, and acknowledgement of contributors.



Generating real social change

The engagement with the Bawurra Foundation is part of the Fujitsu Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP), a commitment to help shape a tomorrow in which First Nations and non-Indigenous Australians share in an equitable, just, prosperous and rewarding future. The RAP commits Fujitsu to measurable actions that include support for Indigenous businesses, the development of cultural awareness and competency within Fujitsu, and the means to cultivate careers for First Nations' people in the IT sector.

Through continuing to develop and grow the RAP, Fujitsu aims to further generate real social change and economic opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians.

As of today, the Bawurra Foundation digital library has reached over 1,300 students in 12 remote communities within Australia. The success of the Bawurra Foundation project encourages active learning to share knowledge of First Nations' cultural values, practices and philosophies. The engagement with Fujitsu will enable the Bawurra Foundation to reach more schools and communities, to preserve Culture that can be incorporated in education across Australia.

"Fujitsu ScanSnap technology delivers high-quality results in seconds compared to conventional scanners. The high-quality scanning capabilities assist to preserve and share Indigenous Australian history and Culture, that promotes reconciliation," says Monique Shipp, CEO, Bawurra Foundation.

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