# Conservation Workflow Project

Exploring best-practice conservation workflow management systems for large organisations

**THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE**

20 August 2021 – Progress update 1
Grimwade Conservation Services

## Project overview

This research project aims to develop a best-practice solution to the management of conservation workflow in large organisations with collections of cultural materials.

At present, processes for managing conservation workflow in organisations are largely manual and not integrated with digital collection management systems. Nationally and internationally, there is a substantial research gap in terms of benchmarking solutions to this problem. Drawing on data from interviews with key stakeholders, conservation workflow management systems at different organisations will be reviewed. The findings will have relevance to collections at the University of Melbourne, as well as the wider conservation industry and collecting organisations.

## Methodology

In the first stage of the research, interviews are being conducted with 15 stakeholders across Australia and internationally. Representing a wide range of experiences, they include those responsible for archive, library, museum, gallery and university collections and databases. The interviews cover a range of topics relating to conservation workflow management, process mapping to identify and communicate conservation needs, system investment and IT solutions, and governance.

The second stage will focus on longer qualitative case study interviews with stakeholders identified in the first phase. Discussions with IT and database specialists will also be held. Approval from the Office of Research Ethics and Integrity has been obtained for this project.

## Research team at Grimwade Conservation Services

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## Key progress updates

August 2021: Overview

September 2021: Methodology

October 2021: Research ethics

November 2021: Data and analytic pathways

December 2021: Preliminary results and findings