

MEDIA RELEASE



Alfred Deakin papers now available online

Personal papers and photographs of Australia's second prime minister – Alfred Deakin - are now available to the world at the click of a mouse.

The Alfred Deakin Digital Archive is a collaborative online project between Deakin University and the National Library of Australia.

The archive will be launched by the Minister for Innovation and State and Regional Development, Mr John Brumby, on Wednesday 24 September - the 100th anniversary of Alfred Deakin's appointment as Prime Minister of Australia.

Drawing on the resources of the National Library, Deakin University's library and private collections, the archive provides online access to a range of papers that belonged to Alfred Deakin including hand-written diaries, his prime ministerial papers, his papers as a federation delegate and opposition leader and his family papers that include a selection of photographs.

The digital archive is a key feature of Deakin University's Alfred Deakin Prime Ministerial Library.

Deakin University's Vice-Chancellor, Professor Sally Walker, said that the University was proud to be celebrating and promoting awareness of Alfred Deakin's contributions through such projects as the digital archive.

"The University is not just interested in paying tribute to Alfred Deakin by preserving the past. A person who made such an important contribution to the future of Australia deserves to be remembered by a dynamic, forward-looking project," Professor Walker said.

"Deakin University's education programs and research interests, to a remarkable extent, mirror the interests and the diversity of its namesake's contribution to Australian political, legal and cultural life.

"For these reasons, the University will expand the Alfred Deakin Prime Ministerial Library project to embrace an Institute named after Alfred Deakin that would reflect and advance these areas," Professor Walker said.

The Alfred Deakin Digital Archive is available online at <http://www.deakin.edu.au/alfreddeakin>.

The launch of the Alfred Deakin Digital Archive will take place on Wednesday 24 September, 6—7.30pm in Queen's Hall, Parliament House, Melbourne.

For further information contact Ms Sue McKnight, University Librarian, telephone (03) 52278505, 0417 374 976.

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