

CAMD Case Studies – Emerging Technologies - 2015

DigiVol

[Australian Museum](#), [Museum Victoria](#)



[DigiVol](#) is the world's leading Volunteer based Digitisation program. Started in 2011, it has established its credentials as an innovative and successful example of citizen science that engages the community by inviting them in to work on digitising the collections of the Australian Museum and other collection based institutions from around the world such as the Smithsonian and Kew Gardens.

The DigiVol program is made up of two components: DigiVol Lab where around 70 volunteers a week image specimen labels and archival documents onsite at the Australian Museum; and DigiVol online where online volunteers transcribe the text from the images taken in the DigiVol lab. The DigiVol workflow has incorporated comprehensive quality assessment to ensure the resultant data quality is as good as or better than that from more traditional data capture digitisation programs.

To date more than 10 institutions from around the world including the Smithsonian, Kew Gardens, New York Botanic Gardens, Biodiversity Heritage Library through Harvard University, Hawaii University and Museum Victoria have adopted DigiVol Online to transcribe items from their collections.

By the beginning of 2015 DigiVol Lab had seen 270,000 images of collection objects captured by volunteers. DigiVol online had seen 841 volunteers capture over 1,28,700 tasks (tasks vary from small specimen labels of a few words to double page handwritten diary pages) completed.

Target audience / community: volunteers.

[Source, Meeting of Cultural Ministers, Digital Technologies Working Party Report Attachment 2 'Projects Demonstrating Excellence in Digital Innovation' June 2015]