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BY JORDI BALTÀ PORTOLÉS
22 AUG 2016

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Museums Australia Victoria, the

Victorian branch of national association Museums Australia, has recently released a report entitled ***Local Government & Cultural Collections in Victoria***. The report illuminates the **important contributions to Victorian cultural life made by council collection activities**, and identifies opportunities for enhancing this work. It includes findings about council collections and displays, and draws attention to **how councils assist community collecting groups such as Historical Societies**. The report also brings to light some of the challenges faced by council staff working with cultural collections, and **recommends actions and resources to help councils make the most** of the cultural collections they care for. Among the **issues addressed** by the report are the availability of local cultural collections; display facilities; preservation; differences between metropolitan and non-metropolitan councils; availability of exhibitions and programmes; human resources; cataloguing; budgets; learning and networking opportunities; relations with community groups and volunteers; external funding opportunities; and needs identified. The

report is the first of its kind in Victoria and is the culmination of a two-year research project into Victorian local government activities with art, public art, history, and civic collections. All 79 Victorian councils participated in the project. *Local Government & Cultural Collections in Victoria* is available as a free download at

<http://www.mavic.asn.au/news/90>

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