ARC Linkage Project
Indigenous Knowledge and Resource Management in Northern Australia

Audit of Indigenous Knowledge Databases in Northern Australia

Draft

7 April 2004

Compiled by Gary Scott

School of Australian Indigenous Knowledge Systems
Charles Darwin University, Darwin.

Background

General Description of the Project

The overall aim of the ARC Linkage Project is to investigate the use of computers for the ongoing work of bringing up new generations of young Aboriginal people with traditional knowledge.

This work can be understood to involve three major projects:

1. returning to indigenous owners access to information about the environment which has been collected by ecologists, botanists and other scientists
2. making it easy for the owners to find the information using computers
3. identifying and developing best strategies for indigenous people to create, store, find and use new digital resources

Description of the Indigenous Knowledge Database Audit Subproject

The overall task of this subproject is to audit existing digitised data in Indigenous Knowledge (IK) collections in Northern Australia, including the ways in which they are stored, potential access and hardware/software configurations. There are three general questions to consider:

- What is the full range of digital data representing Aboriginal knowledge in Northern Australia?
- How useful might the data be in the traditional education of young people?
- What approaches are recommended to achieve this for specific contexts?

The audit involved phone interviews with specialists from a range of indigenous and non-indigenous organisations working with digitised IK. It catalogued their experiences working on database projects with indigenous people. It also recorded some of their reflections and opinions of what constitutes good policy and practice in this field.

Specific Issues Considered

- how was the data collected? i.e. who gave the knowledge/data?
- the type of data collected
- metadata standards
    - how were these decided upon?
    - how many languages are acknowledged?
    - are visual images and audio included?
- geographical coverage of data
- original purpose of the database
- intended and current audience and use of the data
- could it be used in other contexts?
    - what software/hardware is being used and is it easily transferable?
- who programmed the database?
- policies for returning the data back to communities
- availability for local communities
    - how to access (servers, internet, CD-Roms, LAN etc.)
    - who has access (including issues of intellectual property)?
- funding sources
- how useful are the data and databases to Aboriginal people?

Outcomes of Audit Subproject

- Construction of a questionnaire and a spreadsheet detailing interview responses
- Presentation of interim findings to the IKRMNA Technical Scoping Workshop at Charles Darwin University on 16 March and to a Public Forum on 18 March 2004.
- Final Summary Report of findings

Summary of Audit Results

Over the course of March 2004, I contacted 41 organisations by either phone or email and collected information from another 7 organisations from their websites. Other organisations I tried to contact for a while without success were: Gundjehmi Aboriginal Corporation, Menzies School of Health, Torres Strait Regional Authority and Cape York Partnerships. The Northern Australian Indigenous Land and Sea Management Alliance (NAILSMA), meanwhile, referred me to Balkanu.

Twenty seven of the organisations I managed to get information from held one or more IK databases of some description. Just over half of these (14) were Indigenous organisations, the remainder being mainly Territory and Commonwealth Government bodies, 6 of which were Government-funded Museums or Archives.

There were 38 IK databases in total. However, not all databases were up and running yet. Ten were still under construction. Seven were available through websites, whilst 5 were available on CD-Roms. The rest (16) were stored on computer hard drives.

These databases held (or would hold in future) the following data:

Ethnobotanical - 12
Ethnozoological - 7
Linguistic - 9
Genealogical - 3
General Environmental - 8
Other (incl. local history & art) - 17

Reflecting the place-focused nature of Indigenous knowledge and social organisation, the majority of the IK databases were mostly restricted to localised data. It was only Territory and Commonwealth Government bodies (including Museums and Archives) and the two main NT Land Councils that held Territory/State or national-scale data.

As for ease of access for Aboriginal people, around half of the existing databases on hard drives were available in Indigenous communities in Community Council Libraries, Resource Centres or through other Indigenous organisations. That still left a significant number residing elsewhere, though in almost all cases data was made available to the indigenous knowledge owners upon request.

In terms of privacy considerations, 14 of the databases had at least some data open to the public (including the 7 on the internet), whilst 9 were confidential. The other 15 were restricted access but data could be made available upon request or with the permission of the indigenous knowledge owners. The Galiwin'ku Knowledge Centre has set up a database where there are different levels of access regulated by a

password system. Secret or 'super secret' knowledge is restricted to certain traditionally sanctioned Aboriginal people.

It was somewhat disappointing to come across only 2 organisations that said they had clear policies on returning data to the Aboriginal owners – the Kimberley Language Resource Centre and the Maritime Musuem of Australia. Many others said that returning data in some form, whether as a report, book or CD-Rom, is usually done anyway, or that it is their intention to return data. With most of the Indigenous organisations interviewed the data is already located in the Indigenous communities, with the exception of the Northern and Central Land Councils. I would therefore conclude that a great deal of IK data is already accessible to Aboriginal owners, if they know where it is stored and know whom to ask.

It is clear that the most common users of the databases are the staff of the various organisations. Indigenous people outside of their own indigenous organisations will use databases in circumstances where access is relatively easy, as with the Ara Irititja project in Pitjantjatjara country.

There is a range of software used for the databases. Some software is designed to cope with specialised information, as, for instance, linguistic data where Shoebox or Nisis software can be used, or with Photo storage software (Picture Perfect). The following list shows the different software used and the number of times I came across it:

MS Excel (2); MS Word (2); MS Access (4); ASCII (2); Photoshop; Dreamweaver; Final Cut; Cleaner5; Pagemaker; Filemaker Pro (3); ArcView (5); ArcInfo (2); ArcExplorer; Shoebox; ACE (2); Oracle (4); Picture Perfect; Family Tree; Minark (2); MapInfo; Neptune; Nisis; Lotus Notes; Ara Irititja

There is obviously no one favoured IK database software, which is primarily a reflection of the range of tasks that databases perform. But it probably also reflects the fact that digitised IK is a relatively recent field of endeavour in Northern Australia, with many organisations trying out different software or striking out on their own without much inter-organisational communication. On that last point it is heartening to see that recent IK database projects have been genuinely collaborative in approach.

Many organisations expressed a desire for a database that could integrate all kinds of digitised information including audio, text, video, photos and maps. Oracle is an all-purpose database used by a number of NT Government agencies, which can also be integrated with Geographical Information Systems (GIS). However, it is very expensive to install. At the other end of the cost spectrum is MS Access, which is more likely to be already available in many Indigenous communities but is less able to integrate different data forms. ArcView, ArcInfo, ArcExplorer and MapInfo are all GIS software packages.

Finally, the audit has identified a number of organisations that IKRMNA could potentially work with over the next 2-3 years (see the 'Overall Assessment' boxes in the following tables). It has also identified a number of software and database designers who might be contacted for further assistance on technical issues. There is an increasing number of IK projects and ever-greater amounts of digitised data in existence in Northern Australia. These datasets, when combined with appropriate

interfaces and search mechanisms, are potentially a valuable resource for the ongoing traditional education of young Aboriginal people. For ultimately these projects will stand or fall on how useful the databases prove to be for the Indigenous owners of that knowledge.

Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority

About the Organisation	The Authority is a twelve-member board established under the Northern Territory Aboriginal Sacred Sites Act. This Act is NT legislation pursuant to special powers given to the Territory under Commonwealth legislation to protect sacred sites in the NT. Five male and five female Aboriginal custodians of sites nominated by the Northern Territory Aboriginal Land Councils, together with two Government appointees, constitute the Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority. The AAPA keeps a register of sacred site and issues authority certificates (from website http://www.nt.gov.au/aapa/index.html).
Person contacted	Cirina di Pierro (89814700); cirina.dipierro@nt.gov.au
Overview	Aboriginal Sacred Sites of the NT database. Includes locations of registered and recorded sites, anthropological and administrative data.
Rights Management - IP and Negotiation	Traditional Owners and the AAPA Board give permission for data to be collected. TO's can come and access data whenever they want to. Data can be exported to communities in any form if requested. CDs of Aboriginal song recordings were produced and distributed to participant communities last year.
Content	Site information includes: location, boundaries, custodians, stories connected with the site. This dataset is continual and dynamic and will never be complete. Data is gathered through consultation with relevant Aboriginal site custodians. The Authority Board reviews data about registered sites before being placed on the public Register. Data on recorded sites is to a lesser standard of accuracy and completion. Data covers all of the Northern Territory.
Data Structure	Some data using old maps can be inaccurate but now differential GPS is very accurate. Input mechanisms include maps, photos, audio, movies and text.
Users	Public may view site location and extent, and other data on the Register of sacred sites. The Authority maintains records of inspections of this Register. This data may be copied and other data may be viewed with the permission of the Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority. Aboriginal TOs occasionally request information. Data could be put onto the internet and TO's could use a password to gain access. Data can be returned to communities but the AAPA has not received any requests as yet.
Technical and Design	All information is maintained in an Oracle database. A GIS system is connected to this. Licencing of Oracle is very expensive. A new version would be approx $100000. The database requires a couple of big servers to run. Users can search any field and make detailed queries.
General Comments	Could be made more visual for use by Aboriginal people i.e. click on maps and zoom to location (as in Titles Information System on former Department of Mines and Energy website http://www.dme.nt.gov.au/). The internet is the most accessible and there is no need for expensive software.
Overall Assessment	Potential for data to be returned to communities especially as a web-based interface. Oracle is moving more towards becoming web-based.

Aboriginal Environments Research Centre

About the Organisation	The Aboriginal Environments Research Centre (AERC) is a largely, self-supporting resource and research centre based in the School of Geography, Planning and Architecture at the University of Queensland (Australia). Website www.aboriginalenvironments.com"

Person contacted	All information taken from website
Overview	The AERC keeps an archive focussing on the cultures and environments of Indigenous peoples. The AERC is creating a web-accessible database of relevant bibliographic references and related images. Some photos and documents will be available online. It will provide ready access to research material for those involved in study and the making of architecture with Indigenous people throughout Australia. Intended to be self-supporting through subscriptions.

Aboriginal Resource Development Services

About the Organisation	"Aboriginal Resource and Development Services Inc. (ARDS) is an Aboriginal organisation incorporated under the Northern Territory Associations Act, and the community development arm of the Northern Regional Council of Congress (NRCC). The NRCC is the Aboriginal and Islander Presbytery of the Northern Synod of the Uniting Church in Australia. The policy of ARDS is to work in two basic areas. 1. practice community education as a major part of its development strategy. 2. to provide cultural awareness workshops and information so that non-Aboriginal people who come to the region can be better equipped to work alongside Aboriginal people" (from website http://www.ards.com.au/).
Person contacted	Howard Amery (89844174); howard@ards.com.au
Overview	ARDS has a Yolngu dictionary and a Health database. The Dictionary is based on Beulah Low's 4000 word list. Data has been collected through workshops with Yolngu and ongoing discussions with informants. The intended aim is to help Yolngu deal with practical matters requiring knowledge of English and Balanda culture. ARDS wants to put the Yolngu dictionary on the internet eventually.
Rights Management - IP and Negotiation	Yolngu Traditional Owners have given permission for data to be collected. Restricted and semi-restricted information belongs to clan groups. ARDS takes the position that words from everyday discourse are in the public domain.
Content	Yolngu words. Workshops are held to extend the word list. Flora and fauna names are collected where relevant to a clan group's traditional law. Health data puts English medical language into a Yolngu context. Different Yolngu dialects are used. The database can mark terms according to moiety & regional dialect.
Data Structure	For the Dictionary - Yolngu name; English name Text is the primary data type. Graphic and audio files could be attached if desired.
Users	Databases are still under development. ARDS and TO's have access at the moment. The databases could be used in other contexts (for non-restricted knowledge)
Technical and Design	Shoebox (from US - company is SIL). Developed for linguistic work. Currently doing the job well for ARDS. See http://www.sil.org/computing/shoebox/Overview.html . Shoebox can generate unlimited multiple views of data from a common file and comprehensive searching, filtering, sorting. Need to solve the font problem if putting dictionary on the internet as the database cannot take Yolngu fonts. Shoebox may not be compatible with the server.
General Comments	'Shoebox database takes a while to get your head around conceptually'.
Overall Assessment	Sounds promising with regards to recording field observations, especially for linguistic and anthropological related databases. Possibly scope for IKRMNA to assist with font problem.

Ara Irititja

About the Organisation	Ara Irititja is managed by the Social History Unit of the Pitjantjatjara Council in collaboration with Anangu Pitjantjatjara. It is supported by: South Australian Museum • Telstra Foundation • Visions of Australia • Anangu Education Services • Dept of Further Education, Employment, Science & Training • ATSIC • Dept of Communications, Information Technology & The Arts • Networking the Nation • Museum Victoria • Australian Institute of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Studies • State Library of South Australia • National Library of Australia – Community Heritage Grants • Australia Foundation for Culture and the Humanities • Yaitya Warra Wodli Language Centre • Green Hills Foundation • Australian Indigenous Cultural Network (www.irititja.com)."
Person contacted	All information taken from website.
Overview	Ara Irititja identifies, copies and electronically records historical materials about Anangu (Pitjantjatjara/Yankunytjatjara people). Ara Irititja is a project of the Pitjantjatjara Council and commenced in 1994. The purpose is to record and store Anangu knowledge for Anangu. Oral history recording is an integral part of the project. Priority is given to recording, transcribing and translating the stories of elderly Anangu living on the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Lands. The Ara Irititja database already holds over 35,000 records. This includes many thousands of still photographs, art and craft works, traditional objects, diaries, journals, manuscripts and hundreds of hours of movies and sound recordings. The archival storage of these materials in digital format facilitates the development of educational materials, multimedia, CD-ROM and other innovative electronic productions
Rights Management - IP and Negotiation	Innovative software protects and/or restricts access to private, sensitive and offensive materials. Non-Anangu can access data with the permission of the Project Manager. A set of more formalised procedures are currently being established. Non-Anangu are expected to pay for the data - see http://www.irititja.com/html/access.html
Content	Donated photos, archives of tape recordings, movies and more recent recordings of old people telling stories on country
Data Structure	A dynamic database was preferred. When viewing records, Anangu can add, expand, or correct data and historical details
Users	Access is from mobile workstations – the 'Niri Niri' — a unique mobile workstation that houses a computer, a data projector, a printer and an uninterruptible power supply unit. By August 2003, 11 workstations had been delivered to Anangu communities in remote parts of South Australia, Northern Territory and Western Australia.
Technical and Design	Software was developed specifically for the Ara Irititja Project by Pitjantjatjara Council in collaboration with Smart Works Pty Ltd. Peppimenarti in the Daly River Land Trust area has already purchased the software. It combines symbols and text for the different input mechanisms (e.g. Photos, movies). See the online overview of the archive on the Ara Irititja website http://www.irititja.com/". Users can search by peoples' names.
Overall Assessment	Very impressive IK database which is likely to be used by more and more Indigenous communities

Association of Northern Kimberley and Arnhem Aboriginal Artists

About the Organisation	ANKAAA is the peak advocacy and support agency for aboriginal artists and art centres located in the regions of: Arnhem Land, Darwin/Katherine, Kimberley & the Tiwi Islands. Website http://www.ankaaa.org.au/

Person contacted	Stephanie Hawkins, Manager (89816134)
Overview	No IK databases, just a reference library. But Art Centres would have IK databases, especially those with Regional Museums such as at Maningrida, Yirrkala, Balgo and Melville Island. They mostly use Artist Management Systems (Access-based) that will have a story attached to the item of art (needed to produce Certificates of Authenticity). ANKAAA is currently involved with the development of a new database system (still Access-based)

Australian Institute for Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS)

About the Organisation	"AIATSIS is an independent Commonwealth Government statutory authority devoted to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander studies. It is Australia's premier institution for information about the cultures and lifestyles of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. AIATSIS is governed by a Council of nine members, four elected by the Institute's membership and five members, who must be Aboriginal persons or Torres Strait Islanders appointed by the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs' (From Website http://www.aiatsis.gov.au/corp/index.htm).
Person contacted	All information from website
Overview	Aboriginal Studies Electronic Data Archive (ASEDA). ASEDA has materials including dictionaries, grammars, teaching materials, and represents about 300 languages. ASEDA offers a free service of secure storage, maintenance, and distribution of electronic texts relating to these languages.
Rights Management - IP and Negotiation	The Archive is available to language community members and to researchers in the field of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies Availability of items is subject to depositors' access conditions.
Data Structure	The items in this catalogue are indexed by region, language name, item title, and item code.

Balkanu - Cape York Development Corporation

About the Organisation	Balkanu is a community and business development organisation set up by the Aboriginal people of Cape York. It works in a collaborative style with traditional owners and other organsations. It is based in Cairns
Person contacted	Nick Smith (07 40519089); nick.smith@balkanu.com.au;
Overview	**Ethno-ecology database for the Kaanju people** (still under construction). See www.kaanjugaachi.com.au. Chuulangun Aboriginal Corporation is currently working on an Ethno-ecology project with the assistance of Balkanu Cape York Development Corporation, in particular, with ethno-botanist Nick Smith. Database will end up on the website of the Chuulangun Aboriginal Corporation. Funding came from Tropical Savannas CRC (NAILSMA).
Rights Management - IP and Negotiation	Kaanju people gave permission for data to be collected. Data is already back with communities at the Chuulangun Aboriginal Corporation.
Content	The GIS system has primarily been used for land management planning, including weed and feral animal control and sustainable economic development.
Data Structure	Input mechanisms are based on a GIS system, video and text, but currently this is fragmented and temporary
Technical and Design	Filemaker Pro
General Comments	Looking for a database where the input mechanisms are more easily integrated.
Overall Assessment	Currently in development. May be a good one for the IKRMNA project to work with.

About the Organisation	See above.
Person contacted	Nick Smith (07 40519089); nick.smith@balkanu.com.au;
Overview	**Kuku Taipan Project - Conserving plant knowledge and sustainable plant use.** See http://www.balkanu.com.au/projects/landresearch/2001updates.htm. This project involved the establishment of a partnership between Kuku Thaypan people, Balkanu Cape York Development Corporation and the Ang-gnarra Aboriginal Corporation. Efforts have been concentrated on developing an ethnobotanical database, which will identify the plants and animals of the region that have been used for food, medicine, tools and other cultural purposes. Funding has come from the National Heritage Trust.
Content	Since late April 2001 Kuku Thaypan traditional owners, Ang-gnarra Rangers and Nick Smith have undertaken many field trips to the country around Laura. Developing the database involves creating checklists to identify plants by their Latin names, cataloguing photographs and producing flash cards and videos.
Overall Assessment	More information would be required before the amount of input from IKRMNA could be determined.

About the Organisation	See above
Person contacted	Nick Smith (07 40519089); nick.smith@balkanu.com.au
Overview	**Kuku Yalanji Project "Junjuy Junjuy Yalanji-nga" - Indigenous knowledge of biodiversity".** http://www.balkanu.com.au/projects/landresearch/2001updates.htm. From May to July 2001 Kuku Yalanji elders worked on this project with Adelaide Baird and Nick Smith (Balkanu). During this time they set out to develop a process by which the traditional plant and animal knowledge of the elders will be transferred and conserved. Part of this process included the production of a multimedia CD Rom that provides an example of how the aims of the project can be achieved. The CD Rom is now available to the community for their use.
General Comments	Balkanu plans to further this project and in particular aims to target skills development in young Kuku Yalanji people. These skills will involve recording and analysing the classification, use and management of plants and animals species. Further funding is being sought from Environment Australia to continue this project.
Overall Assessment	A possible collaborative project for IKRMNA

About the Organisation	See above
Person contacted	Sarah Edwards, Royal Botanic Gardens Kew UK; (44 207 753 5982 - w); (+44 1494 837 468 - m); sarahed33@hotmail.com
Overview	**Wik and Kugu Project - Conserving Indigenous plant and animal knowledge for our future generations**. **Aurukun Ethnobiology database**. http://www.balkanu.com.au/projects/landresearch/2001updates.htm. Wik, Wik Way and Kugu traditional owners have developed a partnership with Balkanu and the Aurukun Shire Council to collect, record and pass on information about their local plants and animals. The database integrates traditional Wik,Wik-Way & Kugu knowledge with 'western' scientific data, but gives parity to both knowledge systems
Rights Management - IP and Negotiation	Data collection is directed by local Wik and Kugu people. All cultural information has the information source & flags to indicate if the information is 'sensitive' or 'women's business'. Anything that was 'secret' etc. was not even recorded, to avoid compromising local people in any way.

Content	Ethno-zoological and ethnopharmaceutical information is being collected - bush medicines, materials, plant dyes, bush foods. To date it has over 200 Wik taxa and more than 1000 scientific taxa
Data Structure	Scientific information includes nomenclature, taxonomic descriptions, chemical/nutritional/toxicity data & references
Users	A few workshops were held with local councillors, Elders & Justice Group members to ensure that everyone was happy with who should have access & control of the data. It was decided that the database would be held by the Land & Sea Management Centre of Aurukun Shire Council (who commissioned the project) & they were happy that it should also be used in the school, with MOUs signed with the School Principal to ensure that no illegal copying etc. takes place. It was also decided in a community meeting that the local health clinic could have access to the database, so that health professionals would know about alternative therapies people may be using & be able to make informed assessment of potential health benefits or problems (e.g. drug interactions)
Technical and Design	Database uses MS Access/VB/SQL software.
Overall Assessment	Might be useful to have additional information about the database if it is decided MS Access is to be used in the IKRMNA project

Bawinanga Aboriginal Corporation

About the Organisation	The Bawinanga Aboriginal Corporation (BAC) is based in Maningrida in the Northern Territory and was established in 1970 as an outstation resource centre. BAC established a formal land management program in the early 1990's (from http://www.atns.net.au/biogs/A000677b.htm).
Person contacted	David Bond (89795945)
Overview	Databases spread throughout the organisation (arts, museum, community rangers) in order to meet the needs of the BAC.
Rights Management - IP and Negotiation	Aboriginal TO's give permission for knowledge to be collected
Users	Bawinanga staff
Technical and Design	Pagemaker is used as software. Arts database is on a Mac, community ranger database on PC
Overall Assessment	Will need more information if IKRMNA is to consider working with Bawinanga

Bureau of Meteorology

About the Organisation	Commonwealth Government's meteorological organisation. http://www.bom.gov.au/
Person contacted	All information from website http://www.bom.gov.au/iwk/. Website co-ordinator (03 9669 4524); iwk@bom.gov.au
Overview	Indigenous Weather Knowledge Project - http://www.bom.gov.au/iwk/. The website is the result of a joint effort involving the Indigenous communities, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission (ATSIC), the Bureau of Meteorology, and Monash University's Centre for Australian Indigenous Studies (CAIS) and School of Geography and Environmental Science. The project recognises the knowledge of weather and climate developed over countless generations by Australia's Indigenous communities.
Rights Management - IP and Negotiation	Indigenous communities have given specific permission for their information to be included on the Indigenous Weather Knowledge Website. Copyright for this material variously resides with the participating Indigenous communities, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission (ATSIC), the Bureau of Meteorology, and Monash University's Centre for Australian Indigenous Studies (CAIS) and School of Geography and Environmental Science.

Content	Information on Jawoyn, Wardaman, Yanyuwa and Walabunnba seasonal knowledge. Some from already published sources.

Central Land Council

About the Organisation	The CLC is a Commonwealth statutory body operating under the Aboriginal Land Rights (NT) Act 1976 and is funded through the Aboriginal Benefits Reserve. It is an elected Aboriginal body which represents all Aboriginal people in the southern part of the Northern Territory. It is also a native title representative body (From http://www.clc.org.au/).
Person contacted	Jenny Atkins (89505009); jatkins@clc.org.au
Overview	No formalised IEK databases as yet. Data has been collected for IEK reports for some Aboriginal groups e.g. two Land Trust areas west of Tennant Creek six years ago. Also current IEK project around Yuendumu. IEK studies are used for planning purposes by CLC and TO's and to record the knowledge of the old people. Current funding comes from Environment Australia.
Rights Management - IP and Negotiation	Aboriginal TOs give permission for the studies. Any policy for returning data to communities would be tied up with IP issues.
Content	plant and animal uses, fire management
Data Structure	text and photos (not scanned as yet)
Users	TOs have hard copy reports and can request information from CLC
Overall Assessment	Possibility exists for returning the IEK information to TOs in a digitised format. Yuendumu study report format still under consideration.

Centre for Tropical Wetlands Management

About the Organisation	The Centre for Tropical Wetlands Management (CTWM) was established by the Northern Territory University in 1996 to promote wise use of tropical wetlands through cooperation in research, education and training in relation to wetlands in northern Australia. The Centre is based at Charles Darwin University and brings together collaborators from the University, Territory and Federal Government departments and non government organisations to form a comprehensive network of wetlands users, researchers, managers and educators (From website http://www.cdu.edu.au/ctwm/index.html)
Person contacted	Keith McGuiness (89466709); keith.mcguiness@cdu.edu.au
Overview	I was told that individual researchers may have data and sent out an email to seven people suggested by Keith McGuiness (received three negative answers by email and one by phone and had no response from the rest).

CRC for Aboriginal Health

About the Organisation	The CRCAH is a 'virtual' organization bringing together in collaboration research users, research providers, policy makers and service delivery agencies (including CDU, Danila Dilba, AIATSIS, Commonwealth and NT agencies). Website http://www.crcah.org.au/index.cfm
Person contacted	All information from website
Overview	No relevant IK databases

CSIRO

About the Organisation	"CSIRO is Australia's Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation. Sectors of research are Agribusiness; Energy and Transport; Environment and Natural Resources; Information, Communication and Services; Manufacturing; Mineral Resources; Health. Darwin has the

	Tropical Ecosystems Research Centre. Website is http://www.csiro.au
Person contacted	Sue Jackson - Darwin office (89448415); sue.jackson@csiro.au. Also briefly spoke to Ben Hoffman about his East Arnhem Land research on ants (no specific IK component)
Overview	Not very likely that there are any IK databases

Deakin University - Yanyuwa website project

About the Organisation	Deakin University has campuses in Geelong, Melbourne and Warrnambool. The Arts Faculty The Faculty has concentrated expertise in its research priority area of Citizenship and Globalisation.
Person contacted	All information is taken from the website http://www.arts.deakin.edu.au/yanyuwa/default.htm. Contact person is Frances Devlin Glass frang@deakin.edu.au
Overview	The website has been constructed in close collaboration with Yanyuwa people, and at their request, by Deakin University, John Bradley and Elizabeth Mackinlay (University of Queensland), Richard Baker (Australian National University) and others, with the assistance of a CUTSD grant from the federal Department of Education, Training and Youth Affairs, Australia. It acts as a mini-museum and cultural archive for the Yanyuwa people and as a forum to educate the wider public.
Rights Management - IP and Negotiation	The website belongs to the Yanyuwa Community around Boroloola NT. Restricted information does not go on the website.
Content	Contents include Country; People; Resources; Everyday Life; Performance; History. Much of the material has been gathered by anthropologists. Includes some Yanyuwa language (songs in Yanyuwa - audio).
Data Structure	Input mechanisms include text, video, film, photos & audio
Users	Public access through internet. There is also a CD-Rom.
Technical and Design	Website linked to Deakin University website. Designed by Adrienne Campbell, Learning Services, Deakin University
Overall Assessment	Could be a good template for other Indigenous websites. Need to check IP issues.

Department of the Environment and Heritage - Parks Australia

About the Organisation	The Department of Environment and Heritage is a Commonwealth Government agency. Kakadu National Park is managed through a joint management arrangement between the Aboriginal traditional owners and the Director of National Parks. The Director manages Commonwealth national parks through Parks Australia, which is a part of the Department of the Environment and Heritage (From http://www.deh.gov.au/parks/kakadu/index.html
Person contacted	Zig Madycki & Rob McKinnon, Kakadu National Park HQ (89381100)
Overview	**Collection of cultural information in Kakadu National Park**. Databases include an archaeolgical, historical, and rock art site register, language and ethnobiological data. Parks staff or anthropological consultants collected data in varying levels of collaboration with Aboriginal people. Databases are for use by Parks staff to help in the joint management of Kakadu. Some Indigenous Knowledge information is on the Kakadu National Park website. http://www.deh.gov.au/parks/kakadu/artculture/index.html.
Rights Management - IP and Negotiation	TO's generally gave permission for data to be collected, but with some data there are no access protocols in existence. Currently writing to clan groups to find out what they want done with the data.

Content	language; ethnobotanical; ethnozoological; rock art site information; archaeological and historical. For website - General information on the seasonal calendar, clans and kinship, ceremonial and dreaming sites
Data Structure	Some material collected in Aboriginal languages (e.g. on rock art sites); some in Creole; most in English
Users	Parks Australia staff; public for internet site
Technical and Design	Older material had been stored on a Paradox database or on Excel spreadsheets but Canberra encouraged a switch to Access. ArcView GIS is now being used for sites register. Electronic language dictionary is a word document. Most language data is only in hard copy.
General Comments	Kakadu National Park staff are hoping that material can be integrated into one large database (as in Parks NSW)
Overall Assessment	Potential for collaboration with IKRMNA, especially on access protocols

About the Organisation	See above
Person contacted	Lynette Liddle, Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park Headquarters (89562299; lynette.liddle@deh.gov.au); Paul Black, Natural and Cultural Resources Section (89561120; paul.black@deh.gov.au)
Overview	**Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park database**. Fauna survey completed with Uluru – Kata Tjuta TOs (Anangu) 10 years ago which led to an Environment Australia report. Database is updated every 4 years and includes ethnozoological data when the consultants have time. Database is with the consultant (Steve McAlpine – based in NSW) and does not reach Parks Australia or Anangu. The consultant sends a report. Flora surveys have also been completed. Access to Ara Irititja for Parks Australia staff is apparently restricted by TOs.
Overall Assessment	Perhaps it is worth contacting the consultant to find out whether the data is available for repatriation and also to see what form it takes. Maybe it could be included in Ara Irititja.

Desert Knowledge

About the Organisation	Desert Knowledge Australia is establishing networks of people to undertake the research, product development and marketing needed for thriving desert knowledge economies. Formed in 2000, Desert Knowledge Australia is a consortium of desert Australian industry, Aboriginal organisations, government and non-government parties. It began in Alice Springs with significant support from the Northern Territory Government (From Website http://www.desertknowledge.com.au/).
Person contacted	Mark Stafford-Smith (89507162; mark.staffordsmith@csiro.au)
Overview	No IK databases at the moment but are looking at setting up some over the next year. Will hold a workshop in a few months time to discuss software and privacy issues. A key issue will be a metadatabase.

Dhimurru Land Management Aboriginal Corporation

About the Organisation	"Dhimurru is an incorporated Aboriginal organisation established by Yolngu land-owners in Northeast Arnhem Land, Australia. The aim of Dhimurru is to address natural and cultural management priorities identified by it's members (from website http://www.dhimurru.com.au/newsite/about.html)."

Person contacted	Steve Roeger (89873992); steve@dhimurru.com.au
Overview	Some ethnobotanical data on the Dhimurru website http://members.iinet.net.au/~dhimurru/plants.htm . A CD-Rom of Nanydjaka heritage values report has also been produced. Dhimurru is currently conducting an ethnozoological study in Melville Bay to feed into Alcan's environmental management plan at the alumina refinery. Dhimurru will also use the information to identify commercial opportunities. Funding is from Alcan.
Rights Management - IP and Negotiation	Information from the ethnozoological database is confidential unless Dhimurru decides to distribute more broadly, but there are no plans to. Dhimurru has marketing rights to the database.
Content	Plant use information comes from *Rirrtjingu Ethnobotony: Aboriginal Plant Use from Yirrkala, Arnhem Land Australia*" which covers the Manydjarrarrnga-Nanydjaka area. The ethnozoological project is in its early stages – the first 25 records are being finalised.
Data Structure	Website data includes Genus; Species; TENP; RE; Yolngu name. Photographs of a few plants are included. Images are from *Top End Native Plants* by John Brock. Ethnozoological database will consist of photographs, video, text, maps
Users	Public access to the ethnobotanical data is through the internet on Dhimurru website. Alcan and Dhimurru have access to the ethnozoological database.
Technical and Design	A purpose-built Filemaker Pro package is being constructed for the ethnozoological study by David Head - based in Darwin/Palmerston.
Overall Assessment	IKRMNA possibly to collaborate with Dhimurru through the Yothu Yindi Foundation

Galiwin'ku Knowledge Centre

About the Organisation	Based at Galiwin'ku, Elcho Island, this is the first Knowledge Centre to get up and running in the NT. It is wholly owned by the Galiwin'ku Council Inc. A committee of management oversees the day to day operation, however all staff are ultimately responsible to the Council.
Person contacted	Tom Redstone (89855282)
Overview	The database contains a whole range of Indigenous knowledge divided into three layers - public, private and super-secret. The aim is to store and make available knowledge for Yolngu people in the region. Funding came from the NT Government.
Rights Management - IP and Negotiation	Yolngu TO's have given permission for data to be collected and determine access protocols.
Content	Ethnobiological data (courtesy of biologist Ian Morris), genealogical data, paintings, local history etc. Most data is about Elcho Island, but other information from Milingimbi and Ramingining. Various Yolngu dialects are acknowledged in the database.
Data Structure	Data type includes audio, text, some video, photos
Users	Database is accessible At the Knowledge Centre. Users need to have a User ID so that people can only access permitted information. Access rights to information is determined according to skin groups and moiety etc. Public data can be accessed by anyone.
Technical and Design	Graeme Sawyer from Entity1 in Darwin constructed the database. One initial idea was that a radio network based in Elcho Island would enable people to access the database anywhere they had a computer.
Overall Assessment	A useful model for other IK databases in Aboriginal communities. IKRMNA to organise MoU with the Knowledge Centre.

Greening Australia

About the Organisation	Greening Australia is an apolitical, not-for-profit membership-based organisation dedicated to managing and repairing native vegetation. Our guiding principles are based on economic, social, and ecological considerations' (from Website http://www.greeningaustralia.org.au/). They operate in all States and Territories.
Person contacted	Lesley Alford (by email), Community Projects Manager (8981 1344) lesley.alford@nt.greeningaustralia.org.au
Overview	No specific IK databases. They have comprehensive project histories on all their work over the past 10 years - but its practical hands on stuff. They have had some contact with communities working with plants of ethnobotanical significance. Photos are kept on a digitised database.
Rights Management - IP and Negotiation	Photo permission form is used if using in the public arena. Project reports are always returned to communities (in digitised form if requested), but no organisational policy exists. Often photos are sent on a CD.
Overall Assessment	IKRMNA could work with Greening Australia to return photos of plants if Aboriginal people request this information.

Institute for Aboriginal Development

About the Organisation	The Institute for Aboriginal Development Incorporated (IAD), based in Alice Springs, is an independent Aboriginal community-controlled language resource centre and adult education centre serving the people of Central Australia. General IAD activities include: education programs which range from literacy and numeracy to vocational and higher education level courses; an Aboriginal language and culture centre specialising in language cross-culture and cultural maintenance programs, as well as providing interpreter services and language research; a publishing arm, IAD Press, which produces material on the Aboriginal people, language and culture of Central Australia (From Website http://www.iad.edu.au/).
Person contacted	Josie Douglas (89511311) at IAD Press.
Overview	Indigenous Languages in Central Australia and ethnobiological databases. Language information is collected by linguists from Aboriginal people in Central Australia
Rights Management - IP and Negotiation	databases have restricted access
Content	word lists, plant names and uses
Users	IAD staff use actual database. Data returned in book form to Aboriginal communities
Technical and Design	Nisis software for language database
General Comments	Comment made that 'lack of IT infrastructure means that digital data is not as useful in communities'.
Overall Assessment	IKRMNA may require further information about the Nisis database for language-related work.

IWAIDJA DOBES project

About the Organisation	Iwaidja DOBES is a collaboration between the Department of Linguistics and Applied Linguistics at the University of Melbourne and Universität Köln in Germany. The project is part of a series of projects on endangered languages funded by the Volkswagen Foundation, which provides financial support to academic institutions in Germany, as well as other countries (see http://www.volkswagen-stiftung.de/english.html).

Person contacted	Information taken from website http://www.volkswagen-stiftung.de/foerderung/foerderinitiativen/bewilligungslisten/proldoku_d.htm. A contact person is Nicholas Evans (03 8344 8988); n.evans@linguistics.unimelb.edu.au
Overview	This project will document, in as full a cultural context as is possible, the Iwaidja language of the Cobourg Peninsula, Northern Territory. In addition to linguists, the research team will include specialists in ethnomusicology, material culture/archaeology, and social anthropology, and will result in a comprehensive, searchable and browsable sound and video documentation, with Iwaidja transcriptions and subtitles alongside English translations, a Iwaidja dictionary of around 5,000 words, detailed phonetic analysis, and briefer materials on other languages of phonetic analysis, and briefer materials on other languages of the area.

Jawoyn Association

About the Organisation	"The Jawoyn Association is a body corporate which represents the interests of Jawoyn and other people who have associations with Jawoyn country in the Katherine region of the Northern Territory. The Association represents and promotes the views and aspirations of traditional landowners in relation to the management, protection, control, and development of Jawoyn traditional lands" (from http://www.atns.net.au/biogs/A000916b.htm).
Person contacted	Jo Morley (89711100)
Overview	Jawoyn Association has a Land Management Information System for the purpose of managing Jawoyn land. It does not contain any specific IK. Indigenous knowledge content is held elsewhere in Jawoyn files (not necessarily digitised). For instance a Plant Identikit booklet contains information on Jawoyn uses.
General Comments	Jawoyn Association is looking for a simplistic database, probably MS Access because most communities will be working from MS Office
Overall Assessment	IKRMNA could perhaps extend project to Jawoyn in latter stages of the project if Jawoyn Assoc. is interested.

Key Centre for Tropical Wildlife Management

About the Organisation	The Key centre was formally created in January 1999 and is funded under Australian Research Council Centres Program until 2005 from when it will be integrated into the School of the Environment within the Institute of Advance Study at Charles Darwin University. Its vision is to manage wildlife through the development and application of wildlife and landscape science. It serves a diversity of stakeholders, but particularly indigenous people, by providing the intellectual underpinning for sustainable exploitation of wildlife, conservation of biodiversity and management of habitats'. (From Website http://www.wildlife.ntu.edu.au/)
Person contacted	Peter Whitehead (89466703) suggested I talk to Tony Griffiths (89466527; tony.griffiths@cdu.edu.au).
Overview	The Centre holds no databases themselves. Individual researchers have collected data in collaboration with Aboriginal people to go in reports. For instance Tony Griffiths has been collecting ethnographic information on the harvesting of mud mussels. It is not stored on a database as yet, but is in boxes and files. Will be lodged with AIATSIS, the funding body. Interviews are also being done with Aboriginal artists on carving wood production. Information is stored on mini-disc.

Kimberley Land Council

About the Organisation	The Kimberley Land Council is the Native Title Representative Body for the Kimberley region. It also has a land and sea management unit.
Person contacted	Hugh Wallace-Smith (08 91915260); hugh.wallace.smith@klc.org.au: Tom Vigilante (08 9193 1118); landsea@comswest.net.au
Overview	Currently trying to get ethnographic material on a database, but hampered by excessive workload associated with native title claims and lack of government funding from the Commonwealth Government. Most of the ethnographic work has been done around Broome and Kununurra

Kimberley Language Resource Centre

About the Organisation	The KLRC was founded in Broome in 1985 and moved to Halls Creek in1990. It is an Indigenous-controlled body charged with assisting in the running of local community language programs in their regions, including language documentation, education and training, materials and multimedia production, and interpreting/translation. It has been funded mainly through ATSIC programs (see http://www.deh.gov.au/soe/techpapers/languages/indicator9b.html).
Person contacted	Edgar Price (08 91686005); klrchc@bigpond.com
Overview	A database is under construction for the last couple of years which indexes audio tapes. Technical issues now largely solved. The purpose is to enable better access for KLRC staff so that they can more easily find material. Eventually the database could provide access for Aboriginal people at the KLRC office. KLRC would also like to develop an interactive website in the future. There is no current funding for the project, but there is a little left over from a three year-old ATSIC grant.
Rights Management - IP and Negotiation	Aboriginal TOs have given permission for the language data to be collected. KLRC has clear policies on ownership of the knowledge, which is in the hands of Aboriginal TOs.
Content	oral tapes recording language, stories etc. Data is from the Kimberley region with quite a lot of Walmajarri material.
Data Structure	Data categories will include speaker, subjects, language, placename
Users	Data yet to be inputted, database will be accessible at KLRC.
Technical and Design	Access software. Will be searchable under language names, subject etc
General Comments	Aiming for an interactive site on the internet. Audio tapes should be transcribed. Comment made that 'databases should be applicable to the organisation, not conform to some ideal'.
Overall Assessment	Potential for IKRMNA to work on interactive website or on making database accessible to TOs (data needs to be entered into database first)

Larrakia Nation Aboriginal Corporation

About the Organisation	"The Larrakia Nation Aboriginal Corporation (LNAC) was established in 1997. This was a proactive step, by key Larrakia people, in forming an umbrella organisation for members of the larger Larrakia family groups. In January 2001, LNAC represented seven Larrakia family groups. We are considered the peak representative body for any issues regarding Larrakia people (from http://www.larrakia.com/thewebsite/larrkiainfo.html)."

Person contacted	Donna Jackson (89275599; ranger1@larrakia.com)
Overview	Donna Jackson has been involved in ethnobiological surveys in conjunction with the former Conservation Commission NT (now Parks & Wildlife) in the Keep River and Upper Katherine River areas. This data is mostly held by Glenn Wightman at the Herbarium and in hard copy format with TO's. Some work has also been done on Larrakia country with Lorraine Williams.
Rights Management - IP and Negotiation	Considered to be a top priority. Concern was expressed that in previous discussions with Northern Territory University IP issues were a stumbling block as the University wanted copyright.
General Comments	Larrakia Nation is very keen to set up an IK database and also to include items like heritage photos. Problem has been funding and lack of practical research on database design.
Overall Assessment	Keep Larrakia Nation informed about the IKRMNA project, particularly on IP and database design issues

Local Government Association of the NT

About the Organisation	The Local Government Association of the Northern Territory (LGANT) was first incorporated in 1992 as the single peak body representing Local Government in the Northern Territory. Membership of LGANT is voluntary and is open to all local governing bodies who have been approved by the Commonwealth and Northern Territory Governments for the receipt of Commonwealth Financial Assistance Grants (From Website - http://www.lgant.nt.gov.au/).
Person contacted	Louise Fuller (89362893). Contact for the Archives Project is Perry Morrison
Overview	LGANT is involved with The East Arnhem: Images of Yolngu project, which seeks to locate, capture and make accessible historical images of the East Arnhem communities of Milingimbi, Ramingining, Maningrida, Galiwin'ku and Yirrkala. The project will identify all elements of collection of historical images and develop a model for future community based and accessible electronic storage and collation management of these resources. It is expected that these images will be stored locally. Funding is from the NT Libraries and Information Services Developmental Grant Fund.
Content	Local historical images
Users	local Yolngu
Technical and Design	Picture Perfect is used in all communities and the database is generally kept on Community Council Library computers
Overall Assessment	Definitely worth IKRMNA finding out more about this project.

Maritime Australia Museum (Saltwater Collection)

About the Organisation	A Commonwealth Government-funded Museum with numerous corporate sponsors. Website is http://www.anmm.gov.au/.
Person contacted	John Waite (02 9298 3777).
Overview	Support material for the Saltwater Collection art exhibition (including ethnobiological information) and digitised images. Also have audio tapes of Bardi people (Kimberley) talking about dancing cloaks - Alma Collection. The Saltwater Collection database is in association with Yolngu and the Centre for Cross Cultural Research, ANU (key person is Howard Morphy). Database is primarily for the use of the Maritime Museum.
Rights Management - IP and Negotiation	Yolngu gave permission for stories about the art work to be collected. Original agreement requires copies of photos, DVDs, CD-Roms to be sent to Yirrkala School. Access to some information and paintings has restricted access and require TO permission.

Content	ethnobiological; stories associated with paintings from East Arnhem Land - Yolngu sea country
Data Structure	Data categories include clan names; skin names; title of painting; media etc. Input mechanisms include digitised photos and text.
Users	Requests for access can be made to the Maritime Museum; at Yirrkala School. A high level of literacy and technical competence is required to use the database at Maritime Museum; not sure about at Yirrkala
Technical and Design	Neptune software. Is going to be upgraded.
Overall Assessment	Database is for Maritime Museum use mostly; need to check on Yirrkala school storage facilities.

Museum and Art Gallery of the NT

About the Organisation	The MAGNT collections place the region's art, history and culture, and natural history in an Australian and international context through research, interpretation and collection development (see Website http://www.dcdsca.nt.gov.au/dcdsca/intranet.nsf/pages/MuseumArtGallery). It is funded through the NT Department of Community Development, Sport and Cultural Affairs.
Person contacted	Christine Talbot-Buckley, the Registrar of Collections (ph 89998241); Pina Guiliani for the Rock Art database (89998227; pina.giuliani@nt.gov.au)
Overview	Aboriginal Art Award, Main Collection and Rock Art databases. Aboriginal TO's have been asking that stored information be digitised. Databases are currently for internal use. Goal is to make databases more publicly accessible. All except the Rock Art database have been developed in-house
Rights Management - IP and Negotiation	Artists themselves provide information for the Art Awards works and Traditional Owners for rock art data. Other art and artefacts were collected from a variety of sources. No clear policy to return data but that is the longer-term intention.
Content	Information about the artist and their work. Geographical coverage is the Northern Territory (Australia-wide for the Art Awards).
Data Structure	Rock art database will have photos as well as text.
Users	Staff, but others can have access upon request and with advance notice. Rock art database will have restricted fields
Technical and Design	Software used is Filemaker Pro. Main Collection and Art Awards databases were constructed internally. Rock art database being programmed by external consultant David Head (still under construction).
General Comments	Long term goal is to make the main collection database more accessible to the public, but this is a long process and there are no resources to do this at the moment. Would also need to decide in conjunction with Aboriginal owners which information could be made public. Would be good if all information could be put on one database rather than having these separate ones.
Overall Assessment	Definite scope for TOs to request data from the Museum. IKRMNA will need to put requests in writing if we want further details.

National Archives of Australia

About the Organisation	The National Archives is a Commonwealth agency that cares for valuable Commonwealth government records and makes them available for present and future generations to use (From http://www.naa.gov.au/).

Person contacted	Phyllis Williams (Darwin office) (89850322); phyllis.williams@naa.gov.au
Overview	The National Archives has an internet search engine of 10% of its records http://www.naa.gov.au/the_collection/recordsearch.html. There is also a Photo search engine which allows you to search and browse the titles of almost 500,000 photographs from the National Archives collection and to view 80,000 images online http://naa12.naa.gov.au/scripts/PhotoSearchStartup.asp

North Australia Research Unit

About the Organisation	The NARU premises in Darwin was established in 1973 to provide a base for research on North Australia for Australian National University and other academics and researchers.
Person contacted	Ph. 89220066
Overview	Can find hard copy publications via a catalogue search on the ANU Library website. NARU website lists their currently available publications

Northern Land Council

About the Organisation	The NLC was established in 1973 to represent traditional Aboriginal owners in the Top End. It now acts according to the provisions of the Aboriginal Land Rights (NT) Act 1976, supporting land claims and negotiating with mining companies on the behalf of traditional owners. It is also a native title representative body and increasingly plays a key role in land and sea management. Website is www.nlc.org.au
Person contacted	Paul Josif, Manager Land and Sea Country Unit, (8920 5168; paul.josif@nlc.org.au); Also tried to get through to Peter Cooke (89205109) about W. Arnhem Land project.
Overview	Land Claims books which are digitised – comprises work done by the NLC to prepare for land claims hearings
Rights Management - IP and Negotiation	Would be a decision up to the Land Council
Users	Some items can be found in the NLC Library, which requires users to search the library catalogue
Technical and Design	MS Word documents
Overall Assessment	Probably of limited use for IKRMNA

Northern Territory Archives Service

About the Organisation	The Northern Territory Archives Service (NTAS) was established by the Northern Territory Government in 1983 as the archival authority of the Northern Territory Government. It is responsible for the preservation and management of Territory records, both government and non-government. The NTAS fulfils the dual role of providing administrative services to Government and cultural services to the community (From website http://www.nt.gov.au/dcis/nta/).
Person contacted	Kathy Flynt (89247347)
Overview	NT Archives has a contents listing for oral history tapes and transcripts. Police Journals, mission records, letters, photos and other unpublished records are not indexed
Rights Management - IP and Negotiation	The majority of oral history records at the NT Archives are open for research, but some require permission from knowledge owner

NT Department of Community Development, Sport & Cultural Affairs

About the Organisation	Responsibilities include housing, local government, regional development, sport, recreation, arts, museums and libraries and a significant role within all NT Regions through regional offices in four locations (From Website http://www.dcdsca.nt.gov.au/). Has oversight of the NT Library Information Service and the Museum and Art Gallery of the NT.
Person contacted	Jacinta Stanford, Information Manager (89998936). Left message. David Coles was also suggested (89998402) with regards to the Community Information Access System. All info below taken from the NT Spatial Data Directory http://www.ntlis.nt.gov.au/servlet/NTSDD
Overview	**DAM Archaeological Sites Register**; This dataset includes 5115 registered prehistoric and historic archaeological sites in the NT. Sites have been recorded by professional archaeologists and rock art recorders, but also by unqualified recorders. Sites are continually being documented as a result of research or impact assessment. When new site locations are made known to the DAM, they are registered by the Curator of Archaeology, as time permits (currently a backlog) **DAM Archaeological Reports:** This dataset includes 230 registered archaeological reports, including impact assessment reports, research reports and dissertations. Reports have been written by professional archaeologists and rock art recorders, but also by unqualified recorders. **Community Information Access System** - The system is used to share information within the department about its interactions with communities as well as to record critical information about governance in the community. Whilst the system is still being extended to fill government needs it does not function as an Indigenous Knowledge repository but does contain a significant amount of information regarding individual communities within the NT.
Rights Management - IP and Negotiation	Sites Register - Access is restricted and information can only be released through application to the Assistant Director of History and Culture or Curator of Archaeology of the Department of Arts and Museums. Site locations only made available for legitimate research, impact assessment or management purposes. Reports - EIS reports may be distributed. Reports which are not the intellectual property of the DAM may be distributed if permission is obtained from the owner (eg the company that carried out a PER, or the researcher who wrote a dissertation).
Technical and Design	Sites Register - 5115 sites in Minark (DOS-based) flat file database; 4733 of these sites also in MapInfo. Present intention is development of relational database using FileMaker Reports - Flat file database on Minark archaeological software. Present intention is development of relational database using FileMaker.
Overall Assessment	Could be worth finding out more about the sites register and reports

NT Department of Health & Community Services

About the Organisation	The NT Department of Health and Community Services exists to provide services that work together for the health and well-being of NT communities: The new Office of Aboriginal Health gives a strategic focus to improving the health status of Aboriginal men, women and children (From Website http://www.health.nt.gov.au/).
Person contacted	Gloria Bailey (89992400)
Overview	There is no electronic Aboriginal medicine database within the Department.

NT Department of Infrastructure, Planning & Environment

About the Organisation	'The NT Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Environment was created in November 2001 from the following Agencies: Department of Transport and Works; Department of Lands, Planning and Environment; and Parks and Wildlife Commission of the Northern Territory...The Department was created to enable the NT Government to provide opportunities to better coordinate planning and development of the Territory's economic infrastructure, while balancing this with the need to protect and conserve natural environment and heritage values and to achieve efficiencies in delivering services to Government' (From Website http://www.ipe.nt.gov.au/).
Person contacted	Birgit Hallenstein (8924 4028; birgit.hallenstein@nt.gov.au); Archaeological databases are administered by Steve Sutton (89244142; steve.sutton@nt.gov.au) or Robyn Gregory, Senior Heritage Officer in Alice Springs (89519247). Most information below is from the NT Spatial Data Directory http://www.ntlis.nt.gov.au/servlet/NTSDD
Overview	**Aboriginal Cultural Sites database**: Data owned by the Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority. **NT Oil Spill Responses Atlas**: The OSRA is a database of significant natural resources and human activities within the Northern Territory coastal zone. Data comes from a variety of sources. **Archaeological Resources Database (see below):** A database of sites recorded in the NT: includes location and description details. Sites are protected by Heritage Conservation Act. **National Estate Cultural Sites of the NT**: This dataset contains polygon areas representing significant national estate historical sites in the coastal areas of the Northern Territory. Commonwealth owned dataset. **NT Heritage Register:** Database of all nominations to the Northern Territory heritage register. Includes status of these nominations.
Rights Management - IP and Negotiation	The data is generally available for distribution within the Northern Territory. Charges may apply for both hard and digital copy. For digital information, a digital data agreement may be required.
Content	IK content is fairly minimal apart from the Aboriginal Cultural Sites (refer to AAPA) and possibly Archaeological sites databases.
Data Structure	various
Users	DIPE staff, but data can be made available upon request
Technical and Design	Site record databases are currently stored in Oracle. Uses ArcInfo7 & ArcView3 GIS software. Access; ASCII is also used by the Department
Overall Assessment	Databases held by DIPE may be of limited value to the IKRMNA project apart from perhaps the archaeological database.

About the Organisation	See above
Person Contacted	Robyn Gregory, Senior Heritage Officer, DIPE, Alice Springs (89519247)
Overview	The **Archaeological Resources Database** covers sites protected under s29 and 39 of the Act (ie prescribed archaeological places as per the Heritage Conservation Act) together with some historical archaeological sites. It has been developed on various platforms and programs over the years in accordance with Departmental requirements and now exists as an Access database. Initially the database was developed by the Museum and Art Gallery of the NT. The database is accessed by staff in response to queries from the public and private sectors regarding the location of sites that are protected under the Act.
Rights Management – IP and Negotiation	Data is provided to those with a legitimate interest. Note that some data (collected in the early years) is sensitive and is not released. This type of data (ie sacred sites) is held by another agency (AAPA) and those seeking

	this information are directed to that agency.
Content	Database contains data required for administrative purposes such as location, type of site, contents and other information pertaining to land units etc that is useful for generating predictive models of site location. Data has been collected from a range of sources throughout the NT with varying accuracy including members of the public reporting sites, consultants, staff etc.
Data Structures	Metadata requirements determined by legislation, staff consensus and to meet internal Departmental objectives.
Users	Textual input mechanism.
Technical and Design	MS Access software
Overall Assessment	Could be useful for the Larrakia and other sub-projects, but need to see if and how this differs from the Department of Community Development's Archaeological Sites Register which is available in MapInfo format.

About the Organisation	See above
Person contacted	For the Water Resources CD-Roms contact Daryl Chin (89993603; daryl.chin@nt.gov.au).
Overview	**Water Resources CD-Roms**, maps and information (includes Aboriginal knowledge report in a pdf format). CD-Roms produced for West Arnhem Land, East Arnhem Land, Katherine / South West Arnhem Land, Tiwi Islands and Wadeye / Nauiyu. Used by DIPE for planning and by Aboriginal organisations for water and land management. Public can also gain access to the reports and CD-Roms. Funding was provided by NHT; DIPE; ATSIC; NLC provided liaison services.
Rights Management - IP and Negotiation	Homeland Resources Centres; local Aboriginal organisations and TOs gave permission for data to be collected. The question of who should maintain the Yolngu placename data is not sorted out. DIPE is not updating it.
Content	Indigenous place names and Aboriginal knowledge about water resources. The intention was to make water resources maps more meaningful and accessible to Aboriginal people. Aboriginal placenames are included where possible; there is some Aboriginal language explanatory text on maps
Data Structure	Input mechanisms include text, video, photos, interactive maps (i.e. click on map to view videos, photos and text)
Users	Maps and CD-Roms are publicly available
Technical and Design	MicroStation Design File and ESRI (ArcView shapefiles) make up the GIS. Viewing requires ArcExplorer. Photos have been scanned and digitised; interactive maps; textual links; no search mechanism on CD-Roms
Overall Assessment	Placename information could be useful for current and future Knowledge Centre databases or for a Garma Cultural Studies Institute database.

NT Library Information Service

About the Organisation	The Northern Territory Library and Information Service (NTLIS) contributes to the development of the Northern Territory community by providing all Territorians with access to information, literature and their documentary heritage (See website - http://www.dcdsca.nt.gov.au/dcdsca/intranet.nsf/pages/LibraryServices). It is an NT Government agency inside the NT Department of Community Development, Sport and Cultural Affairs.

Person contacted	David Murtagh (89220793)
Overview	Territory Images (a photo archive) can be accessed through the Picture Australia website www.pictureaustralia.org or the NT Library website www.ntlib.nt.gov.au. There are not really any others, but library web interface could perhaps be used to help communities access data in future. NTLIS has been involved in the setting up of Knowledge Centres in three NT communities - Wadeye, Galiwin'ku and Amatjara (Ti Tree).
Overall Assessment	Territory Images could perhaps be sent to Knowledge Centres – file would be less than the size of a DVD

NT Parks & Wildlife

About the Organisation	The organisation is part of the NT Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Environment. It was established in November 2001 and is responsible for conserving the Territory's fauna and flora, planning and developing the Territory's system of terrestrial and marine parks and reserves, along with other lands (from Website http://www.nt.gov.au/ipe/pwcnt/).
Person contacted	Glenn Wightman (89994153)
Overview	Ethnobotanical database - to keep a record for the Herbarium of the type of plants found in the Northern Territory and for what purpose they are used
Rights Management - IP and Negotiation	Aboriginal owners, in cases where the Herbarium is directly involved, have given permission for data to be collected and ask the Herbarium to store information. Any reports or books are sent to the Aboriginal communities. Other data is from already published sources.
Content	The database includes 9600 language names from 110 published sources. Approx 30% of plants on database are accorded Aboriginal names. All Aboriginal names are from published sources. The data covers all of the NT but there are areas not covered such as Tiwi Islands, MalakMalak country, Iwaidja country. There are no descriptions of plant uses in Aboriginal Languages.
Data Structure	Metadata includes: plant names, use, publication name, plant distribution based on bioregion, habitat. There are no images or audio included.
Users	Data is available upon request. A high level of literacy and scientific competency is required to use the database as it is mainly designed to be used by scientists. There is only user licence at the moment and the database is on one laptop only.
Technical and Design	ALICE (now ACE). Licence is expensive and has to be acquired from the Botanic Gardens in London. The database handles scientific names well and is designed to be put on the web.
General Comments	The Herbarium is wondering whether to switch over to mainstream database but doesn't have time to work on it right now; Typos would need to be fixed and recent material (post-1997) added.
Overall Assessment	Possibly useful for the IKRMNA project if work can be done on finding more appropriate software and hence making the data more user-friendly to Indigenous people

Ord-Bonaparte Program (Kimberley Land Council, Land & Water Australia, CSIRO)

About the Organisation	The Ord-Bonaparte Program is a research and development partnership between government, researchers, industry and the wider East Kimberley community. It aims to build on existing knowledge and activities in developing effective tools, methods, processes and strategies to underpin policy planning and management for sustainable use of the region's natural resources. Lead agency - Land & Water Australia

	Funding partners- WA Departments of Agriculture, Conservation and Land Management, and Waters and Rivers Commission; Kimberley Land Council; Shire of Wyndham - East Kimberley; CSIRO; Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries Australia; Australian Institute of Marine Science; Australian National University and the CRC for Tropical Savannas (from Land and Water Australia Website www.lwa.gov.au/programs.asp?section=9&title=arenas&program=18&id=28).
Person contacted	Kylie Pursche (08 91682298); kylie.pursche@klc.org.au. GIS consultant Greg Mules in Brisbane (0438708361)
Overview	Ethno-ecological database for the Kidja and Jaru people (as part of the Aboriginal Planning and Management for Country Sub-Program). The project was completed at the end of 2003. The purpose was to help Aboriginal people plan for and manage their country. Glenn Wightman worked with Kidja and Jaru elders on their country - approximately Turkey Creek to Halls Creek in the East Kimberley. Funding came from CSIRO and Land and Water Australia.
Rights Management - IP and Negotiation	Permission for the project came from Kidja and Jaru TOs. It is the intention of the project to return data. At present it is only in report form (at Language Centres) and as posters. TOs would like a book and maybe video / CD-Rom, but funding has not eventuated
Content	Kidja and Jaru plant (and animal?) names and use. Ecological and language information currently on the separate databases used by the consultants.
Data Structure	text, photos, audio, maps could be integrated into one database
Users	Not in a very useable form at the moment. Data is currently on consultants' own databases (e.g. ACE for Glenn Wightman presumably). Want to put on an Access database to be integrated with GIS
Technical and Design	Greg Mules (based in Brisbane) developed the GIS
General Comments	Would like to see the integration of disparate databases into a centralised GIS and also do more individual and group biographies this year (cultural mapping). The project has laid a good foundation through the process of setting up the project (influenced by Aboriginal Mapping Network guidebooks from Canada - see http://www.nativemaps.org). But lack of funding is hampering delivery of information to Kidja and Jaru people in a useable format.
Overall Assessment	Contact Greg Mules to see whether the GIS format is suitable for IKRMNA requirements

Strehlow Research Centre

About the Organisation	The Strehlow Research Centre provides for research and other activities aimed at furthering knowledge and understanding of Aboriginal traditions. Established in 1991, it serves as a repository for cultural material relating to the Aboriginal people of Central Australia. The late Professor TGH Strehlow accumulated material of both a secular and sacred nature, between 1932 and 1978. The Centre provides appropriate housing, care, control and management of what is now known as the Strehlow Collection (From website www.dcdsca.nt.gov.au/dcdsca/intranet.nsf/pages/StrehlowResearchCentre).
Person contacted	Graeme Shaughnessy (89511104); graeme.shaughnessy@nt.gov.au. Some information taken from website.
Overview	The Strehlow Collection. The Collection is indexed, but cross-referencing is underdeveloped. The database enables researchers to have access to the collection. But there is a need to determine which TO's artefacts belong to, which is difficult if cross-referencing is incomplete. NT Government has provided funding.
Rights Management - IP and Negotiation	Aboriginal TOs and the Strehlow family have given permission for the development of the Collection. The Centre would like to make the database

	more accessible to Traditional Owners.
Content	The Strehlow Collection includes: 1 200 men's sacred ceremonial objects (tjurunga) and their documentation (which includes four-and-a-half thousand Aboriginal song verses and their stories); 26 hours (or 16 kilometres) of 16mm movie film of over 800 ceremonial acts (now on DVD); 150 hours of sound recordings of stories and songs; 8 000 still photographs and colour slides of scenes, ceremonies and Aboriginal people; 44 Field Diaries, 5 Office Diaries, 3 'London' Diaries and 9 Personal Diaries; 150 genealogies (family trees); Aboriginal site maps; Professor Strehlow's professional and personal correspondence (approximately 10 000 letters); Dictionary material — from turn-of-the-century wordlists and vocabularies, to more recent compilations; Drafts of published and unpublished writings; Newspapers and cuttings; German manuscript material"
Data Structure	Text input
Users	Staff and researchers (with restrictions applied to the latter where TO permission required)
Technical and Design	Lotus Notes ('terrible to use' and expensive as pay according to space used)
General Comments	Would like more information on the best database to use
Overall Assessment	Possible that IKRMNA could work with the Research Centre to make the database more accessible to Traditional Owners.

Supervising Scientist

About the Organisation	The Supervising Scientist is part of the Department of the Environment and Heritage. It undertakes environmental research and reviews the environmental performance of uranium mines in the Alligator Rivers Region in the Northern Territory (http://www.deh.gov.au/ssd/index.html).
Person contacted	Bruce Ryan (89201143)
Overview	Identification of traditional Aboriginal foods for radiological assessment - not really a database associated with it but two reports came out. The project was undertaken with the assistance of local Aboriginal organisations and individuals, in particular the Kakadu Family Resource Centre and the Bawinanga Aboriginal Corporation. The project consisted of three parts (i) the identification, collection and cataloguing of traditional Aboriginal foods that are consumed in the Alligator Rivers Region (ARR), (ii) recognition of the preparation techniques used with traditional foods and (iii) conduct a radiological assessment on the foods.

Tangentyere Landcare

About the Organisation	Tangentyere Council was established to assist Aboriginal people, who had been living for a great many years in areas on the outskirts of Alice Springs, to gain some form of legal ownership in order that they could obtain services in the form of water, electricity and housing on the parcels of land. It now receives funding from a variety of agencies, both Commonwealth and Territory, to assist in the performance of its duties towards its client group, the Town Camp residents. The types of program being funded include health, education, local government, housing and administration. The main funding body is ATSIC, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission (From website http://www.tangentyere.org.au/).
Person contacted	Meg Mooney (89533120).
Overview	About 12-20 books (in large page format) produced for local Aboriginal communities. Includes IEK. Information not kept on a database though

Tiwi Land Council

About the Organisation	Establishment of the Tiwi Land Council followed representation by the Tiwi for recognition of their distinct geographic and cultural identity. These representations were a consequence of the Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976. The organisation is involved in land and natural resource management. Website is http://www.users.bigpond.com/tiwilc/).
Person contacted	Rohan Fisher from Cycad Media - 89856143
Overview	Tiwi Land Information Story CD-Rom. This is an innovative educational tool for the Tiwi Island primary schools. It received funding from the National Heritage Trust
Rights Management - IP and Negotiation	Tiwi people gave permission for CD to be produced
Content	This interactive CD-ROM includes over 45 minutes of video narrated by Ted Egan describing a range of contemporary resource management issues on the Tiwi Islands. It is presented using a unique combination of 3D satellite image animation and aerial video to create an exciting visual experience. It also includes: -Natural Resource maps. -Traditional dances. -Reports and posters. -Interactive/animated climate and weather information. -Traditional stories. Some of the contents were pre-existing, mainly from Govt agency land reports & maps. John Hicks and Kate Hadden (TLC) wrote stories for the video. Photos etc. were gathered from TLC archives; information was also taken from *Tiwi Plants and Animals* book (2001). CD-Rom will also include a Tiwi language version
Data Structure	
Users	It will sit on the Tiwi school computer network systems (LATIS) in both Tiwi and English language versions. English language version is already used a little in Tiwi Islands' schools. It is available to the public, but not widely distributed as yet.
Technical and Design	CD-Rom was produced by Rohan Fisher from Cycad Media
General Comments	Perhaps the same thing could be produced in a different format – DVD or high resolution video
Overall Assessment	Project is almost complete so there is not much opportunity for IKRMNA to work on it. But the CD-Rom could be a useful template.

About the Organisation	See above
Person contacted	Darwin office – 89814898
Overview	Geneological database. Generally used to help Tiwi Island people prove their identity when dealing with Government agencies
Rights Management - IP and Negotiation	Data is returned to Tiwi people upon request, usually in the form of a print out
Data Structure	Kinship, births, deaths
Technical and Design	A Family Tree CD. Easy to use.
Overall Assessment	Database used for specific purposes by TLC. No potential to return to communities as already accessible.

Torres Strait Islander Authority

About the Organisation	The TSRA aims to improve the lifestyle and well-being of Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people living in the region through the implementation of programs that address their poor socio-economic and health status. The TSRA consists of an elected arm and an administrative arm. The elected arm is comprised of twenty elected representatives who are Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people living in the Torres Strait region (From website http://www.tsra.gov.au).

Person contacted	Leilani Bin-Juda (1800 079 093; leilani.binjuda@tsra.gov.au), Arts Development and Cultural Officer. Tried ringing then emailed but had recieved no reply by the time this report was finalised.
Overview	Heard that the TSRA is trying to repatriate data and items from Museums etc.

Tropical Savannas CRC

About the Organisation	The Tropical Savannas CRC (based at Charles Darwin University) helps make land management research more useful to the various land managers and agencies across the tropical savannas—and in this way helps ensure sustainable conservation and use of the tropical savannas' (from Website http://savanna.ntu.edu.au/). Researchers are drawn from 16 partner agencies and are spread out over Northern Australia.
Person contacted	Peter Jacklyn (89466285)
Overview	Savanna Search database and Savanna Explorer on the Tropical Savannas CRC website. On Savanna Search - published material catalogue. Includes 99 records under keyword 'Aboriginal' and 58 under keyword 'Indigenous'. Savanna Explorer contains webpages on Aboriginal fire management (including in Central Arnhem Land). Geographical coverage is Northern Australian tropical savannas from the Kimberley to Cape York/NE Queensland

Wadeye Knowledge Centre

About the Organisation	Based at Wadeye in the Daly River / Port Keats Land Trust.
Person contacted	Maree Klesch (89782294) was at the IKRMNA workshop, 16 March 2004
Overview	No one database exists as yet but lots of information has been collected. The project has been in collaboration with Batchelor Institute and aims to store knowledge for the benefit of the local Aboriginal community. The three-year grant from ATSIC has almost run out.
Rights Management - IP and Negotiation	Most decisions are made at a clan level. Batchelor Institute has an IP policy which has been adopted. The Knowledge Centre is now preparing its own based on this.
Content	Information collected includes an oral history collection in English and in five Aboriginal languages. Photos, music are stored on hard drive. Other stored information includes mappings of country, placenames, bushfoods and recordings of ceremonies and songs. The primary reason for the project is the concern that this knowledge would disappear. The database will help Aboriginal people keep culture strong.
Data Structure	Data type includes text, audio, photos, video, maps
Users	Current users are local Aboriginal people and staff of the Knowledge Centre. Data is accessible via staff. Some knowledge is restricted and requires permission of clan owners. No ceremonial business is kept in the libraries, but some highly restricted material is kept in the archives.
Technical and Design	At the moment data is entered into Excel Spreadsheets in five languages and English using a number system. Data can then be exported easily to perhaps Filemaker Pro or maybe DSTC software. Macs are the primary platform but some PC's also used.
General Comments	The Knowledge Centre is still assessing database options and relying on more funding becoming available. Currently training community members in data collection and database entry skills.
Overall Assessment	IKRMNA to stay in contact

WWF

About the Organisation	WWF Australia, the conservation organisation formerly known as World Wildlife Fund and World Wide Fund For Nature, has been working globally since 1961, and locally since 1978. They are a part of the WWF International Network - the world's largest independent conservation organisation. They have people at work in the north, south-east and west of Australia, and in the Asia-Pacific (from Website www.wwf.org.au)
Person contacted	Linda Cuttriss - Darwin office (89417554); lcuttriss@wwf.org.au
Overview	No IK databases but are involved as a partner in a Balkanu-led project. 'Not our place to hold Indigenous Knowledge'.

Yothu Yindi Foundation

About the Organisation	The Yothu Yindi Foundation was set up in 1990 by elders from five of the Yolngu clans: the Gumatj, Rirratjingu, Djapu, Galpu and Wanguri. The annual Garma Festival is the centrepiece for the Foundation's vision. One of the key objectives of the Yothu Yindi Foundation is to support and further the maintenance, development, teaching and enterprise potential of Yolngu cultural life. The Foundation is also working with Australian universities to develop the Garma Cultural Studies Institute at the Gulkula site to facilitate a further sharing of traditional Yolngu and contemporary Western knowledge. (from website http://www.garma.telstra.com/yy_foundation.htm).
Person contacted	Trevor van Weeren (tvw@bigpond.com) who has done database work for YYF. Website for YYF is http://www.garma.telstra.com/yy_foundation.htm
Overview	No databases but IK is stored in various forms on Garma Festival website www.garma.telstra.com
Rights Management - IP and Negotiation	YYF management gave permission for data to be collected and put on website
Content	Data is collected through documenting the Garma Festival, which celebrates the Yolngu knowledge of North East Arnhem Land
Data Structure	Web site developer uploads to Garma website
Users	Access is public through the Internet so users require Internet skills and an understandng of the Garma navigation system. The IK contained on the website could form a database in the future.
Technical and Design	Text editing (microsoft word); web editing (dreamweaver); Image editing (photoshop); video editing (final cut, cleaner 5)
General Comments	Constantly evolving and hopefully improving
Overall Assessment	YYF is a partner in the IKRMNA project so there is great potential to document IK from the Garma Festival on a database.