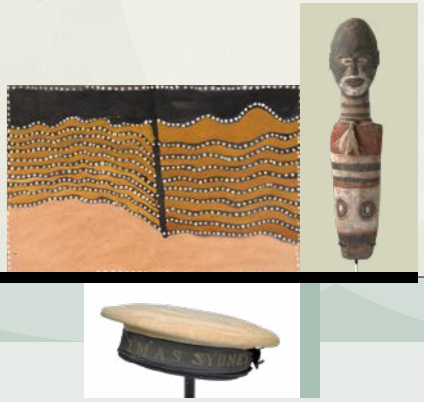
Australian Government

Significance

A guide to assessing cultural collections, third edition



Summary of significance assessment process and criteria

Stage 1: Research and information gathering

- Document, describe and analyse the item or collection, including its condition.
- Consult with relevant parties.
- Conduct research into the history, context and provenance of the item or collection.
- Compare with similar items or collections.
- Collate all relevant information, including references and supporting evidence.

Stage 2: Assessment against the criteria

- Assess the item or collection against the primary assessment criteria. Determine whether its significance fits in one or more of the following categories:
  - Cultural, social, or spiritual
  - Historical
  - Aesthetic, artistic, creative, or technical
  - Scientific or research.
- Determine the relative level of significance of the item or collection by assessing it against the following comparative assessment criteria:
  - Provenance
  - Rarity
  - Representativeness
  - Condition or completeness
  - Interpretive capacity.
- Record the outcomes of your assessment.

Stage 3: Articulation of significance

- Develop a statement of significance.
- Document findings in a significance assessment report, where appropriate.

Stage 4: Monitoring and evaluation

- Conduct additional research and consider any new information to determine whether a new significance assessment should be conducted. Repeat the above steps as needed.

Image credits: **1**. *Ribbon Rock Country*, Jack Britten, 2002, natural (Kimberley) ochres and binder on canvas, 45 x 70 cm. Red Rock Collection, Western Australian Museum. **2**. *Djan'djari figure*, created by Fred Embrey (c.1880–1939), Kabi Kabi people, Queensland, Australia, 1930s, carved softwood with natural pigments, emu feathers bound with bush string and resin, 65.5 x 14 x 14 cm. Collection: Queensland Art Gallery | Gallery of Modern Art. Purchased 2020 with funds from the Mather Foundation through the Queensland Art Gallery | Gallery of Modern Art Foundation. **3**. *Sailor cap*, navy blue and white sailor's hat, no brim, with the words 'HMAS Sydney.' Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery (S2011.19).

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