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Milkbar.com.au Memory and Place in a Digital World

Milkbar.com.au is fundamentally an oral history project about Fitzroy, an inner city suburb in Melbourne, Australia. But it is not just an oral history project in the traditional sense as it utilises historical methodologies that may be more suited for delivery through the Internet. Although socially and economically determined, the Internet is perhaps one of the first truly 'global' medium (and is certainly one of the most participatory mediums). There is a link between a local geographical based history being communicated through the Internet, and a research methodology that frames its methodology within the local/global nexus.

What makes this research different to other humanities computing projects, is that it was conceptualised from the outset with its' delivery mechanism in mind. In other words, every photo, every video interview, every question, and every paragraph of text was gathered and cognitively framed with the consideration of how it would be communicated through the Internet. Most humanities computing projects deliver pre-existing archives to the web through large scale digitisation projects, however this project not only utilises the archival potential of the Internet, but has 'artefacts' that were captured specifically for it. For lack of a better description, it is a 'contemporary history', or an exploration of a small community within Australia in the early stages of the new century to help us understand how individual and groups resist or embrace the forces of the world.