Appendix D – Project Nomination Form

The teams choose projects based on this short description. There is no guarantee that your project will be taken: make it sound as interesting and as educational as possible.

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**Project Title:** Convict Records on the Move

**Client retains Intellectual Property:** No

**Confidentiality Agreement required:** No

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**Project Description:**

Australia’s convict records, which are included in UNESCO’s Memory of the World Register\(^1\), are extraordinary! Each State has its own set of individual records – each was, originally, a separate colony. Tasmania’s records contain information about 76,000 individual convicts at amazing levels of detail, e.g. physical details (facial structure, facial hair; bone structure, etc.), medical history, family relationships, business achievements, and many other fascinating details.

This material is a rich source for researchers of all kinds: genealogists investigating their own family ancestors; historians researching Tasmania’s past; medical researchers – for example:

> *Did you know Tasmanian convicts lived significantly longer than their immediate families back home in England and Ireland? Why? Was it the climate? Was it their (surprisingly) well-balanced meals? We don’t know the answer yet, but researchers are working hard to find out ...*

Although these records are available online from LINC Tasmania, they're not easy to access for the ‘average’ researcher. As a result, they’re not used nearly as much as they could be 😕

This project is designed to make it easy for anyone wanting to access this rich source of convict information from their smart phone. Students involved in this project will create a mobile app which includes (but is not necessarily limited to): database access and management; data formatting; and smart phone front-end (across the full range of major smart phone operating systems).

Convict Records on the Move is supported by LINC Tasmania (the custodians of the convict records) and the University of Tasmania’s ‘Founders & Survivors’ project [www.foundersandsurvivors.org](http://www.foundersandsurvivors.org). Project supervisors include:

- Jenny Jerome, A/Manager Access, Tasmanian Archives & Heritage Office (TAHO)
- Dr Dianne Snowden, Project Manager Founders & Survivors Project, University of Tasmania
- Paula Swatman, Adjunct Professor of I.S., School of CIS, University of Tasmania

Because these records are already available online, the majority of the work for the project can be done from UTAS. One field visit to LINC Tasmania – to meet the people involved in the project – will take place early in semester. After that, visits will be possible as and when needed, but will not be required.

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**Project Technical Information:**
To be discussed with students

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**Contact Information:**
Client Name (person who will be student contact): Prof. Paula Swatman
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Address (where students will visit, not PO Box): predominantly on-campus, with visits to Tasmanian Archives and Heritage Office (TAHO)