

Australian Newspaper Plan position statement on newspaper repatriation

Under the Australian Newspaper Plan (ANPlan), responsibility for the collection, preservation and access of an Australian newspaper rests with the state or territory library of origin, and, in the case of national newspapers¹, rests with the National Library.

The repatriation of newspapers to the state/territory (or national) library of origin, is one way in which ANPlan libraries can meet these objectives. Newspaper repatriation, therefore, is a strategy supported by ANPlan. However, it is acknowledged that under certain circumstances, repatriation of titles may not be possible or desirable. For example:

- transfer may not be legally possible;
- transfer may represent a potential preservation risk;
- transfer may break up the integrity of a collection.

Newspaper repatriation is most strongly indicated when a library of origin is preparing to reformat a title to preservation standards. If repatriation is not possible for this purpose, ANPlan libraries are encouraged to work together to find a way to meet the preservation requirements of the title under consideration. For instance, to ensure that the 'best copy' is reformatted or gaps can be filled, libraries could consider lending their newspapers for reformatting.

The above considerations apply also to the review of custody arrangements and repatriation of master microfilm.

In either of the above situations (i.e. permanent repatriation or temporary loan), it is desirable that the receiving library provide the donor library with a surrogate copy of the material (e.g. service copy of microfilm, access to digital file) if possible.

¹*The Australian, The Australian Financial Review, The National Times, Nation Review, Independent Monthly.*